

## Sebastopol City Council Meeting September 15, 2015 – Synopsis and Commentary

Council Member Gurney was absent

**Public Comment (aka Open Mike):** No one spoke!

### Consent Calendar:

- **PG&E** has proposed to convert 595 of its streetlights to LEDs. PG&E will recoup its investment over a three-year period, after which the City will benefit from energy savings. **Council Member Jacob** calculated the savings could be as high as **\$54,000 per year**. But he pulled this item for discussion because the Ladder Day [Luddites](#) were concerned about the health hazards of LED lighting, including, but not limited to, **EMF, color and flicker**. Evidently they are okay with the EMF and flicker in the current yellowish HPS street lighting that, like virtually every other plugged-in electrical device in the United States, oscillate at 60 times a second. And they are also okay with the current [Cobra Head](#) light fixtures that spew light out around it; whereas the proposed [Shoe Box](#) light fixtures put most of their light down on the surface where it belongs. **Council Member Glass**, who made it clear that she thought **PG&E was up to no good**, agreed with the rest of the Council to not accept this proposal until they get a presentation on its dangers from PG&E and some other “independent source.” Oi! [Let's go low tech on this.](#)
- There was a second reading of an amendment to the sewer ordinance that will bring the city into compliance. *(Passed without discussion 4:0)*
- The Laguna Foundation and the City will team up to apply for a \$488,000 grant from the state to make improvements to the Laguna Preserve. Included are new plantings, trails, and signs. *(Passed without discussion 4:0)*
- The second reading of the formula business ban went down in flames as **Council Member Eder** continued to worry about **formula stores worming** into our downtown core. He and **Council Member Glass and Mayor Slayter** all saw a looming danger of a “formula gym” and/or Apple store rotting our ever-amorphous “downtown core.” (No, not that kind of apple store, the *other* kind of Apple store.) Since Council Member Gurney was absent, **Jacob** suggested, and all agreed, to table this until the full Council could pick at it some more.
- The General Plan schedule was updated. The planned schedule is as follows:
  - **November 19** is an open house to review policies.
  - **December 9** is a GPAC meeting to review comments and make changes.
  - **January 12, February 9, and March 8** will all be joint Council and GPAC meetings to review policies and work out differences. Those should be lively meetings. *(Passed without discussion 4:0)*

### Presentations:

- Complete Streets presented its [quarterly update](#) to the Council. It went on for 30 minutes.

### Regular Agenda Items:

- The **Russian River Watershed Association** asked the Council to support their efforts to minimize the amount of unused prescription drugs that end up in our environment. This did **not** go on for 30 minutes but did make us aware that since 2008 the drug disposal program has collected **90,000 pounds of unused prescription drugs**. The association hopes to shift the financial burden of disposal from the shoulders of local agencies to the drug industry, much in the same way Canada has done for the last 20 years. That program is thought to **cost about a**

**penny a prescription.** That sounds cheap enough and better than drugs ending up in our water. The sewer facilities have no way of dealing with the drugs and they just get passed through the system if they arrive there. The Council will support that effort with a letter. In the meantime, your **old batteries** can be disposed of at Sebastopol Hardware and your **old prescription drugs** can meet the same fate at the Sebastopol Police Department building.

- The League of California Cities proposed four upcoming resolutions. The Council discussed them to determine how the City's delegate, Mayor Slayter, should vote.

**A Parting Shot:** (Two, actually.)

- Earlier this year **Jacob** pushed for, and was successful in approving, a modern sign for [Tomodachi Park](#). But Tuesday evening he thought the new LED lights were **too high tech** looking for low-tech Sebastopol.
- The berries are ready at the **Railroad Brier Patch** but you better be quick. Folks are living in its lush growth so you'll have to share what is left.

Elapsed Time 2:45 (6:00pm-8:45pm)

Next Council meeting is October 6 at Analy High School Library.

**John Necker**