



Sebastopol Citizens

E d u c a t e - C o m m u n i c a t e

Sebastopol City Council Meeting January 16, 2018 – Synopsis and Commentary

- **Mayor Slayter** opened the meeting by announcing the death of [Scott Verse](#), a Sebastopol native and a 30 year veteran of the police department.

Proclamations/Presentations:

- Certificates of Appreciation were given to outgoing design review board member Lynn Deedler and former mayor and planning commission member Robert Jacob.
- [Santa Rosa JC's 100th anniversary](#) was recognized.

Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- Miss Sonoma County was introduced, and we were invited to the upcoming 2018 pageant that has a not easily found website somewhere – probably.
- A strike force of four highly trained grannies in pussy hats announced an upcoming 12:00pm march this Saturday starting at the Mario Savio Free Speech Plaza (aka The Plaza).
- A Valley View resident asked for a vertical sign at the Bodega Ave crosswalk until the permanent safety changes are made. [Click here and scroll down to "Regular Agenda Items"](#) for more info.
- But wait, there's more! In addition to the much beloved EMF warnings troupe, the aerial spraying trio performed. Ahh. Nano microfilaments of aluminum droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven inhibited that very element and promoted the recent fires. Those fires were caused by government microwave weapons that melted metal but left trees and even pine needles untouched by the inferno. We are so fortunate to live in Sebastopol. No where else on earth can we get information like this.

Consent Calendar: (All approved 5:0)

- The minute/reference orders for 2017 were approved. This is an extensive list of agenda items and how your council members voted on them. (When this gets posted on the city website, we will send you a link to it.)
- You can also anticipate a link the city's goals and priorities, which were also approved.
- A claim for damage by a resident of Sebastopol was rejected. He alleges a police officer damaged his fence in the process of collaring a suspect. The damage to the suspect was not stated.
- The lease of the Senior Center expired in December, and the council voted to extend it to June of 2018, which will give the budget sub-committee a little more time to contemplate any changes.

Study Session:

- **The parking study for Pine Grove Square was studied.** For those of you who were

unfortunate enough to miss the preliminaries, some previous and current council members wanted to build a new city hall in the parking lot across the street from the post office and on the west side of Hop Monk. Miraculously, like water to wine, (or maybe the other way around) it later changed. With alligator arms outreach to the community, the city dropped the hall and went for a multi-use project with 51 units and 7,500 square feet of commercial space or 69 units with 12,550 square feet of commercial use. **Mayor Slayter** opened this item with a lengthy conciliatory statement describing it as only a concept with no firm plans and certainly no voting. Other council members supported that. **It didn't work**. After the engineer's report that parking wouldn't be a problem, the packed house got right in council's collective ears. Twenty of them spoke against the idea of building anything there while four gave the parking study only lukewarm support. **Council Member Carnacchi** fired off several volleys of numbers at the parking engineer that led some, including **Council Member Glass**, to question the study's method. **Vice Mayor Hinton** questioned the cost of the study so far, which is \$21,000, while **Council Member Gurney** viewed the **library lot as the difficulty**. And while Pine Grove Square seems to be slipping slowly into the sea of oblivion, one should never underestimate the skill set of **Council Member Gurney**. (No action taken.)

Public Hearing:

- An urgent ordinance to extend our pot laws for another 10 months and 15 days was approved to keep the State of California out of the process. (Passed 5:0)

Regular Agenda Items:

- **The council** then confronted the question of replacing the old, inefficient, orange-headed street light fixtures with "new warmer" LED fixtures. There was still a sizable crowd around for this item, and public comment was one for and twelve against installing LED fixtures. The Luddites are nothing if not creative as the hyperbole reached such levels that it would not have been surprising to hear that LEDs caused everything from ingrown toenails and occasional flatulence. During their objections a widespread synchronized head nodding accompanied murmurings of "yes" and "right on." The fervor was so thick in the air that it took all my self control not to jump up and shout "Hallelujah!" The council too was also affected as **they voted 5:0 to ban LED lighting in the city** and to "wait it out" for newer technology, thereby incurring only a **modest loss of \$26,000 per year**.
- Someone had the temerity to propose building a gas station/convenience market/car wash/and RV storage facility at [5300 Sebastopol Road](#). The council has found out about it and will send a "Not In My Back Yard" letter to the county.
- Committee and voting assignments were discussed as were setting council meeting dates for 2018.
- The city also continues to deal with the fallout of Governor Brown's decision to blow-up California's redevelopment agencies.

A Parting Shot:

- The LED fixtures that PG&E **was** offering were approved by both the AMA and the International Dark Sky Association. Are we not fortunate to have a [local band of folks](#) to protect us from these two questionable organizations? But their work has just begun. The high pressure sodium lights are already outdated and, as PG&E mentioned at the meeting, in time, they will no longer be repaired but replaced byyou guessed it.

Elapsed Time: 5:15 hours (6:00–11:15pm)

Next City Council meeting is February 6, 2018 at the Teen Center, 425 Morris Street at 6:00pm.

You can view this meeting and others at: <http://bit.ly/sebcctv>.

John Necker

SebastopolCitizens.org