



Sebastopol Citizens

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

Sebastopol City Council Meeting July 16, 2019 – Synopsis and Commentary

- All council members were present.
- And so was [Assemblymember Mark Levine](#) with a **\$1.5 million dollar check** for the damages the city suffered during the flood. Mayor Hinton, who said it was “a team effort” had a lot to do with this.

Proclamations/Presentations:

- **Fidel Quintero** was recognized for 15 years with public works.

Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- Forgetting for the moment her usual fears of chem trails, the United Nations and even the Rothchilds, this speaker, who **does not** live in Sebastopol, wanted the City to provide her a place to park her trailers in the event of another fire so she wouldn't have to sweat out fleeing the scene with the back roads clogged with commoners. While we were still trying to digest that, she started talking about genetic food. OK, that does it. She doesn't get to bring any trailers into our fair city until hazmat has cleared them for whatever she's growing in there.
- This speaker didn't want more gas stations built in Sonoma County and maybe not even on the planet, and he wants the council to write a letter to the county objecting to the station proposed on Llano road and Highway 12.
- He who seems to be in league with the first speaker and who has evidently just returned from a years' long penguin count in the cold heart of Antarctica or a much deserved vacation to his home planet, proudly informed the uninformed that lithium ion batteries sometimes catch on fire. Yo, Ben Franklin knew that!
- The executive director of the **Palm Drive Whatever** seemed proud to announce that on July 9 it came out of bankruptcy. To some, being **in there** would be embarrassing so bragging about being **out there** seemed odd. And the **bonds**, well “**they are close**” to being paid off. Lady, we ain't playing' horseshoes here and Palm Drive Whatever has been close to a lot of things but what it isn't close to now is what we voted for all those years ago – a hospital. Maybe a different look would help. Let's see – Palm Drive Health Care and Five Minute Oil Change (for the cars only, of course.) Oh, wait, Palm Drive Health Care and Essential Oil Change and Wine Bar. That will pay off them there bonds whether they are close or afar off.

Consent Calendar: (Consented to 5:0)

- The council approved a standardized performance evaluation program for city employees.
- The Finance Department expanded to an Administrative Services function. It encompasses other general administrative functions such as human resources, which has responsibility for personnel matters affecting all city departments. It was approved. [You may find some of those functions by clicking here.](#)
- During the Great Recession, the position of Associate Planner was reduced to Assistant Planner

because of a reduction in the workload. But because things are picking up (the number of applications received in 2018 was 105, compared to 53 in 2011), the council reinstated that position tonight and will try to fill it.

- The council approved city pay rates and [you may see those numbers here](#).
- The bus buddy program was renewed.
- Many items relating to the city's position with various unions and employees were approved. [You may scroll through them here](#).

Regular Agenda Items:

- Vice Mayor Slayter asked the council to consider transitioning to Sonoma Clean Power's 100% renewable and local service, [EverGreen](#), to power city-owned equipment. This took close to two hours and looked as if the council was going to make the \$41,000 dive into the green wave until **Council Member Carnacchi**, smoldering away down on the end of the dias, suggested, with great self restraint (not even a bulging vein in the neck), getting a quote from PG&E for its [new green energy programs](#). Well, he probably knew that because the rest of the council considers PG&E as a business run by the minions of Satan in the lower circles of hell (#8 or maybe even #9) his suggestion was going nowhere – but he sure changed the conversation. And during the public comment on this issue, Vice Mayor Slayter assured the lady with the trailers that EverGreen will not beam power down from space. Okey-dokey. (Passed 4:1 with Council Member Carnacchi abstaining only because of the lack of a competitive bid.)
- The council continued to discuss and tweak the “Goals and Priorities” document, a task only just less tedious than slogging through [War and Peace](#) in Russian in an attempt to find some humor. As **Council Member Carnacchi** began to question the document's value, stating that everything being discussed is already in the General Plan, the rest of the council started to question its value too. After much discussion, it will come back. And there was a lot of talk about it **not being longer than ten items**. As often said in the Old Country, “Vee shall see.”
- Council Member Carnacchi intended to ask the council if they were interested in a joint meeting with the planning commission. He tabled this for a later date.
- Administration and Mayor Hinton asked the council to consider the purchase of iPads for council member use for official business. **Council Member Gurney wanted a phone instead**, insinuating that other council members might be playing games on an iPad during a meeting – which might be helpful as it could distract them from feeling compelled to speak at length on a topic whether it was necessary or not. And what games does she have in mind? Her apparent light grip on things digital suggest [it might be this game](#). It will come back but **Vice Mayor Slayter and Council Member Gurney are already assembling torpedoes** to blow this idea out of Luddite Lake so they can continue to thumb through reams of paper to find some esoteric passage that makes it a capital crime to use an iPad. It appears they prefer to do business in an eighteenth century style. Unlike Jefferson's work, iPads offer electronic notation and instant search capabilities.
- Council Member Gurney asked the council to create a liaison to the [Sebastopol Community Cultural Center](#). (Passed 5:0)
- Mayor Hinton asked the council to accept a State Assist Grant and direct the budget sub-committee to come up with recommendations on just how to spend the \$1.5 million received from the state because of flood damage. (Passed 5:0)
- Vice Mayor Slayter and Council Member Gurney introduced an idea for an early morning cycling event sponsored by the city on Saturday, September 21. They wisely chose the early morning weekend hours to reduce the fatality count. The party line on this **\$4,000 adventure** is “continuing efforts to improve pedestrian, bicycle and public transit facilities and amenities.” But it's really an attempt to get some cyclists on to the Green Mile so the city can post it on the

website to lure the foolhardy to cycle around Sebastopol. What's the cost of a few maimed or dead cyclists compared to the bliss of calling ourselves a progressive city? (Passed 5:0 and may God have mercy on their souls.)

- Various voting instructions were given for the upcoming [League of California Cities annual conference](#). (Passed 5:0)

City Council Reports:

- Just bearable.

A Parting Shot:

- [Thank you Assemblymember Marc Levine and Mayor Neysa Hinton.](#)

Elapsed Time: 4:45 hours (6:00–10:45pm)

Next City Council meeting is August 6, 2019, 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