

Sebastopol City Council Meeting – July 16, 2013 – Synopsis and Commentary

Council Member Eder was absent.

There was no report on the closed session identified as “Threatened Litigation-Significant Exposer to Litigation.” Could this be a new one?

Presentations:

Some nice folks from our sister city of [Takeo, Japan](#) presented us with a thank you and some gifts. In conjunction with Sebastopol they have won a fairly prestigious award from World Friends. They passed on an opportunity to litigate. They probably weren't fully briefed on our customs.

Public Comment:

One speaker wanted the median strip at Litchfield modified because of parking and traffic issues. Another speaker wanted us to do “something we all like instead of what we don't like.” She was unclear on exactly what that was but at least she articulated it in short order. And that was it. Amazing!

Vice Mayor Jacob engaged in a little PR for his new toy, the new \$20,000.00 city department, Cittaslow. He proudly stated that it has hung banners downtown and is giving away free apples to promote local produce. \$20,000.00 will buy a lot of apples. A better idea would have been to forget the banners and hand out cold beers and “medical” marijuana downtown. That would definitely slow things down.

Council Member Gurney talked about some changes that are being considered on Route 37. Maybe after she's finished fixing that she can check out the problems that some think exist at Highways 12 and 116.

Public Hearing:

There was an introduction and waiving of a further reading to allow the **planning commission**

to appoint a member from the zip code 95472 who is not a citizen of Sebastopol and/or owns a business here. This is the final throws of the Council packing the commission with its supporters. It was clear from his remarks that Vice Mayor Jacob would like to open up even more seats. That idea went nowhere but that extra seat will go forward and you can expect the Vice Mayor's idea to gain traction once we get used to it. It passed 3:1 with Slater in the minority.

Discussion and Action Items:

The CVS saga continues as specific design elements of the project were discussed. The city attorney cautioned the Council that it could not actually approve the changes because the drive-through moratorium prevents it. The developer's attorney disagreed as their stenographer typed away.

They all decided to discuss the proposed elements anyway which were largely satisfied by Armstrong development. After two hours of discussion nothing was really resolved because the Council felt it couldn't even agree with Armstrong that at least some their suggestions had been satisfied. Because Council Member Eder was absent, the Council felt it had to give him a chance to repeat this process for another two hours in a few weeks. And in a brilliant display of throwing a wrench into the machinery, **Vice Mayor Jacob**, who attended many of the CVS meetings, said he could not make an informed decision because he wasn't a council member when all of this was being discussed. He needs to review the 100+ pages of meeting notes and, dang, that might just take up to another 30 days. This is the same person who at the last meeting said there is a flaw in the process for development. The Armstrong lawyer listened and the stenographer typed.

What They Said:

Mayor Kyes:

Doesn't like how the fire lane bollards look.

Wanted to remove the bollards.

Thought it OK for emergency vehicles to just drive over a curb.

Seemed to forget that Armstrong would be OK with just a driveway there.

Council member Gurney:

Wanted some of the bollards moved a few feet west.

Wanted wording changed on emergency access signs.

Worried about an extra door on the trash enclosure.

Worried about the 16' cornice on the bank building.

Vice Mayor Jacob:

Thought the bollards plastic and ugly.

Wondered if something else could be used.

Council Member Slater:

Wondered if the bollards could be green.

The real silly remarks were left out here but the Armstrong lawyer listened and the stenographer typed.

The General Plan update continues. The City has \$292,000 budgeted for something that will probably cost between \$500,000 and \$700,000. The Council was clearly not happy with what they got back from SSU Senior Planning Workshop Class which it deemed unscientific. [You can find those reports here.](#) SSU Sebastopol Existing Conditions Report Final April 2013 has an interesting survey. And there is a little something about our cell towers on page 83. And on page 91 the answers to the question “**Are there any other environmental hazards in Sebastopol that you would like us to be aware of?**” are also interesting. (Spoiler Alert! Two people cited Smart Meters and, coincidentally, two people cited EMF. Inexplicably, there were no numbers following Hysteria.)

Elapsed Time=4.0 hours

John Necker

Note: The berries at the \$4,000.00+ Railroad Briar Patch (AKA Railroad Forest) are doing well this year. Get your buckets ready. It's going to be a bumper crop!