



Sebastopol Citizens

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

Sebastopol City Council Meeting April 17, 2018 – Synopsis and Commentary

- All council members were present.

Proclamations/Presentations:

- The fourth Friday in April was declared [Children’s Memorial Flag Day](#).
- May was declared [Building Safety Month](#). If anyone tells you “They don’t build ‘em like they used to.” your response should be “And it’s a good thing, too!”

Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- [Have mercy](#). Well, they had none. A wave of wackos rolled into the meeting engulfing us all in 30 minutes of bizarre EMF and government conspiracy theories that could only be comprehended by those who had taken too many drugs in the 70s. And the fellow north of town on Hwy 116 was there with his fringe friends using tag-team tactics to defeat the three minute speaking rule while still railing against [Willie Brown](#). Willie Brown?!

Consent Calendar: (See * below)

- The council adopted a resolution approving our lighting assessment district that will go into effect after a future public hearing. The district also went into the hole by \$5,896 on June 30, 2017. Ever digging downward, it is estimated that number will be \$14,531 by the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2018. The proposed annual assessment will increase from \$28.90 to \$36.44 for the 2018/19 fiscal year. **Had the council approved LED street lighting in September of 2015, we would already be saving \$26,000 per year on street lighting.**
- Meanwhile the council approved the paying of the completed work on Covert Lane that tore out the median strips to accommodate **bike lanes** for the six people who occasionally pedal along there. **Cost? \$114,674.**
- The city approved applying for funds from the California Transportation Commission that, while there’s no mention of blitzing unsuspecting median strips, will address some things other than just bicycles. There will be a nod to us cretins that would rather risk an interview with Bob Mueller than risk a bike ride in this town. If the application is successful, work will also be done on selected cross walks, sidewalks and some streets will get slurry seals.
- A matching **grant application of \$181,000 for a trail in the Laguna** will be submitted to the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District. If successful, we will have to match about 50% of that number less what we can finagle in non-cash payments.
- A bid from [De Nora Water Technologies, Inc.](#) was accepted to replace the filter on Well #7 that removes the natural occurring arsenic there. **The cost will not exceed \$64,375.**
- In September of 2017 the council approved phase 1 of a **Wayfinding Sign Project** so we senior citizens can find our way home after a few beers. **The cost of the installed signage \$52,000** and goes to [Matinelli Environmental Graphics](#).

- **The Council waived the \$445.00 fee for the Senior Center [Driven To Perfection Classic Car Show](#), Saturday May 26th at the O'Reilly Media Center.**
- A resolution passed opposing the "[Tax Fairness, Transparency and Accountability Act](#)" that is very little more than an attempt to require municipalities to have 2/3 majority approval instead of a simple majority to impose general taxes. Special taxes ([think measure M](#)) already require a 2/3 voter approval. Just the name of proposed act should give pause. It's right up there with "This is a national security issue." Isn't it better to have a local council, warts and all, making decisions on local taxation?
- The city relinquished its access rights on Jewell Avenue at the rear lot [1021 Laurel Court](#). This will allow a driveway at the rear of the lot. Changes in the development of the area made driveway restrictions unnecessary.
- The council will generate a letter of support to FEMA that may result in a grant that will help pay for a **full time fire fighter** for three years. Our costs are: Year 1 - \$25,816.75, Year 2 - \$27,789.75, and Year 3 - \$41,957.65. (Years 1 and 2 will be paid for by the reduction in the stipends for volunteer fire fighters.) At the beginning of year four we are on our own and the city will review the position which it projected to cost, with full benefits, \$127,566. Folks, we are having trouble finding volunteer fire fighters. We are going to have to start paying for the other kind.
*** Council Member Carnacchi** asked for a separate vote on the Way-finding signs item, which he opposed, and Tax Fairness item on which he abstained because he hadn't had time to read it. **All others voted 5:0 in the affirmative on all items.**

Informational Items/ Presentation:

- [Sebastopol World Friends](#) gave a presentation about their visit to Takeo, Japan in March. It was a model that more presenters could learn from – there was not repetition, no rambling, and no reciting the text on the screen and the whole thing (including the slide show) lasted a merciful fifteen minutes. What a relief after Public Comment!
- **Supervisor Hopkins and Mayor Slayter** pitched the **proposed \$300,000,000 Citizens Housing Recovery Bond** and outlined Sonoma County's dire housing needs. The Sonoma County Supervisors hope to place it on this November's ballot. [Supervisor Hopkins](#) was here to get input from the council and assess their willingness to support this [general obligation bond](#). They generally did so.

Regular Agenda Items: (Passed 5:0)

- **The council allowed Cittaslow to spend \$5050.35 of it's \$20,000 budget** to install signs around town that offer three self-guided tours of the metropolis that is Sebastopol. The green line will take you to the Laguna, the red line to Florence Street and the blue line to Ives park. They'll be lining up for these exciting tours.
- The council also is considered annexing a small parcel just south of Tomodachi Park and north of the Joe Rodota Trail.
- **Every year each council member is allotted \$500** to spend on projects that are near and dear to their hearts. To stop them from spending it on bullet-proof desks, private jets flights or off center movie performers, the projects must be approved by the other council members and be in line with city policy and regulations. Vice-mayor Hinton requested her \$500 go to Ives Pool and Mayor Slayter sent his to World Friends for a scholarship fund. Council Member Gurney also pledged her \$500 to World Friends.

A Parting Shot:

- Some nuggets from Public Comment were: A speaker announcing her fear of the government requiring wireless faucets and shower-heads (no mention of toilets), while another blamed the city council for the 21 billion dollar US debt then announced she is going to run, for the third time, against Senator Dianne Feinstein in the upcoming election. Good luck with that.

Elapsed Time: 3:00 hours (6:00–9:00pm)

Next City Council meeting is May 1, 2018 at the Teen Center, 425 Morris Street at 6:00pm.

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

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