

Sebastopol City Council Meeting- June 17, 2014- Synopsis and Commentary

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:01 and the following council members were present: John Eder, Sarah Gurney, and Patrick Slater (Presiding Acting Mayor)

After the salute to the flag (actually a none too robust recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance) the council sailed past Proclamations and Presentations, a quick one amendment stop for the approval of the June 3, 2014 minutes, and then on to **Public Comment**.

Public comment spanned a very short 17 minutes to include the usual concerns of EMF, constitutional conspiracy, unconstitutional war, and the overall decline of western society via cultural Marxism delivered by the usual cadre of concerned citizens. Under the heading of "Actually concerns Sebastopol" the Executive Director of our Chamber of Commerce rebutted Major Jacobs comments of the last meeting citing the Chambers's wish to maintain their independence while maintaining a close partnership with the city, all for the betterment of Sebastopol. Another citizen spoke to the concern that money be allocated for landscaping at the library.

There were five **Consent Calendar** Items to be dealt with of which two were routinely approved without discussion. The FY 2014/15 budget was approved after some discussion of the adversarial nature of Community Grants and the need to consider consistent funding for those groups who have on-going projects. This was followed by an item to authorize a letter (to be signed by the Vice-Mayor) in support of HR 1565, state legislation attempting to limit gun violence through various controls (without putting the 2nd amendment at risk). After four comments from the public and some council discussion, the item was approved. The third and last item also involved an official letter from our council. This letter is in opposition to State legislation AB 2145 (aka Monopoly Protection Bill) which would require "Opt-in" for Sonoma Clean Power...which is what PG&E would prefer. This item was approved and like the other items, unanimously.

There were three **Presentations** given, all informative. The first was by Terry Kelly with an update on the status of the Senior Center. All good stuff speaking to a well used and much appreciated facility. This was followed by the Planning Directors annual report covering the basic concerns of our community as per the existing General Plan, namely, water/sewage, drainage, parks and traffic, etc. Lastly the Engineering Director (Sue Kelly) provided a very detailed report on where \$8.2 million has been spent of the last ten years. Your humble correspondent was particularly happy to see \$300K put toward the total resurfacing of Keating Ave, a street so checkered and pitted that one jay walks at their own risk sans any vehicular traffic.

Discussion and Action Items numbered three took about 50 minutes. First, four applicants were approved to fill four vacancies on the Complete Streets Advisory

Committee. Initial discussion toyed with allowing more applicants to apply but the council kept to the application date and also felt that those applicants who got their forms in on time were also worthy of filling the positions.

The next item concerned the Laguna Preserve and the need to hire an outside consultant to draft a management plan which will coordinate with count as well as Open Space Agency. An RFP will be issued August 1, 2014.

Lastly, (and once again) the on-going issue of how to mitigate traffic flow through town was discussed. With much back and forth (as well as public comment) the recommendation to effect a by-pass using signage to direct traffic to alternate routes was put on hold as future agenda item. The question is how to ask the county to readily accept more traffic on their roads vice the two state routes that are most commonly used by both cars and trucks.

Only one minute was required to approve the “transfer of parcels” to the City of Sebastopol Successor Agency from the Former Sebastopol Community Development Agency (which the state made defunct care of the recent recession and a huge deficient).

A mere six minutes was dedicated to **City Council Reports** to include a reminder of the Special Council meeting on Thursday, June 19th to fill the council seat previously held by Michael Kyes.

For Further Reading: For those interested on the varied and often-bizarre comments made during public comment, I refer you to the minutes provided by the City Clerk, Mary G.

Duration: 3:30 (Well below the average!)

D. Swedenborg