

Sebastopol City Council Meeting- March 17, 2015- Synopsis and Commentary

All Council Members present with the exception of Robert Jacob.

After a quick Roll Call and Salute to the Flag, Mayor Slater made an unagendized (albeit brief) proclamation to honor the 30th anniversary of Sebastopol's sister city relationship with Takeo, Japan.

Public comment spanned a very short 16 minutes. The first speaker continued the tradition of warning us of various conspiracies by covering two that are new to this citizen. First, we are not really in a drought (See True H2O Facts) and that the PACE Loan Program is backed by the World Bank and therefore equally as evil and as expansive as the World Bank.

The remaining four speakers all focused on the Rotten Robbie Car Wash. Apparently all are homeowners who live adjacent to the property and lament the continued problem of noise (the air driers) as well as the loss of a large tree which was recently removed when the car wash was expanded. To their credit, these speakers were respectful and thoughtful when asking the Council to actively enforce the use permit(s) issued to Rotten Robbie.

There were three **Consent Calendar** Items, which were all approved without comment.

The **regular calendar agenda** item focused on the city's Sewer Management Action Plan (SSMP) which needed to be recertified since the last SSMP was approved in 2010. Paul Causey (Consultant) was introduced by the city engineer and then gave a power point presentation covering all things regarding waste and sewer management. The bottom line is for the city to maintain the infrastructure (pipes, pumps, etc.) and minimize the occurrence of SSO's (Sanitary Sewer Overflow). There was very little one could disagree with as evidenced by the short and succinct questions/comments of the Council. While over an hour (with a ten minute break) was devoted to discussing the effective removal of human waste, it was time well spent. For this humble citizen/observer this is exactly the kind of issue which a city council is meant to oversee and address. The recertification was approved 4/0.

The **remaining agenda item** was an informational presentation by the Community and Local Law Enforcement Task Force with Brian Vaughn as the primary presenter. This 21 member task force was formed by the county Supervisors in response to the Andy Lopez shooting. Their primary recommendations were as follows:

- *Design a model for an Independent Citizen Review Body (for law enforcement oversight)

- *Recommend options for community policing

*Consider whether or not the Office of the Coroner should be elected separately from the Office of Sheriff

*Provide the Board of Supervisors additional feedback from the community at large

All four council members had questions which were fielded by several members of the task force. Bottom line with this presentation was to seek the support of the Council and the Sebastopol Police Department for recommendations with county-wide implications. A notable one would be to promote cultural diversity in hiring practices for all law enforcement entities within the county.

The remaining time went to City Council Reports and is best summarized as uneventful.

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

D. Swedenborg