



# Sebastopol Citizens

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

## Sebastopol City Council Meeting October 17, 2017 – Synopsis and Commentary

- All council members were present.

### Proclamations/Presentations:

- There's going to be a new sheriff in town. Police Chief Weaver is retiring. Joining the force in 1989 as a reserve officer he is passing his baton to [James Conner](#). Those who spoke about Chief Weaver tonight used one word over and over again – integrity. A good choice of words.

### Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- The first speaker thanked the City for its good work during these trying times and also pitched her local radio station.
- Another speaker (Mr. Music) announced a fund raiser for fire victims that will take place Saturday the 21<sup>th</sup> from 12 – 6PM at Ives park. **It's free but bring your checkbook!**

### Consent Calendar: (Passed 5:0)

- The owner and the buyer of the property at [717 Robinson Road](#) have petitioned the City to connect to the city water system. Although outside of the city limits, the property is within the "Urban Growth Boundary." The property, while not occupied for over 20 years, is already connected to the sewer system.
- With Captain Conner being promoted to Chief, the pay rate for the Lieutenant position needs to be updated because that lower position, and not the one of Captain, will be filled when Captain Conner takes over. Of course, it must be approved by the City Council. As of November 1, 2017 the rate for that position is now \$95,176 annually with steps up to \$115,695. [City pay and rate ranges can be found here.](#)

### Public Hearing:

- **Changes in City fees were discussed for two hours.** Despite the law that states that they cannot exceed the estimated reasonable costs of the service provided, and against the recommendation of staff, **Council Member Hinton** was determined to ensure that those folks who organize for profit workout classes at Ives Park **not pay for the privilege**. **Mayor Glass** agreed stating that she is "**philosophically opposed**" to the fees because of the taxes we pay. **Vice Mayor Slayter**, opposed the fees because he didn't want to discourage people from working out. **Council Member Gurney** brought to our attention that these classes were profit making businesses. She seemed to get the idea that we who live within the city limits, and pay those taxes that the Mayor referred to, would be subsidizing, however meagerly, those businesses. Something to which *you* may be "**philosophically opposed**". In the end a

compromise was reached. So, if your group is less than 16, you can do what you please in the park for free as long as no alcohol or play equipment is part of it. From 16-30 will cost \$25.00 and 30 plus will be \$50.00. There was no mention of the rate the **charter school** pays on its frequent forays into the park. [The draft fee schedule can be found here.](#)

### **Regular Agenda Items:**

- There was discussion about the sad state of Ives Park. Council gave direction to staff to come up with a inexpensive plan to improve the park. But with such limited resources, as [Willie Hutch](#) sang, [If You Ain't Got No Money \(You Can't Get No Honey\)](#).
- The discussion of the infrastructure improvements at Bodega and Ragle continued. **Council Member Carnacchi** voiced strong concerns about speed there and the need to do something in the interim of the long term solution that probably won't occur before next spring. So the City will roll out the [traffic cat](#), drop in [some temporary K Rail](#) and, inexplicably, one of [those little green men that are so easily stolen](#).
- **Council Member Hinton** asked the Council to direct the mayor to write a **letter of objection to HR 597** which would allow for another casino after 2037. ([See Sec. 5. \(b\)\(2\)](#).) The bill states lands taken into trust would be “ineligible for gaming” in perpetuity north of where Hwy.12/101 intersect. **There is a lot of real estate south of that intersection.**(Passed 5:0)

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

Next City Council meeting is November 7, 2017 at the Teen Center, 425 Morris Street at 6:00pm.

You can view this meeting and others at: <https://livestream.com/accounts/14608643>.

**John Necker**  
[SebastopolCitizens.org](http://SebastopolCitizens.org)