

All Council members were in attendance.

Proclamations

Reserve police officer Jacob Ranish was honored for five years of service. He could not accept the award personally because he is involved with the upcoming inauguration of President Obama. He has also been involved with other presidential duties over the last few years.

Cliff Ostrem was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for his years of service video recording the City Council meetings while never once caught gnashing his teeth.

Discussion and Action

After interviewing five applicants, the City Council members Kyes, Jacob Eder and Gurney all voted for the same two people, Russ Pinto and Scot Stegeman, for the Planning Commission (Slayter had nominated John Henel and Craig Boblitt). So now we have little or no diversity on either the Planning or the City Council. This should not come as a surprise to anyone.

(Public Hearing)

The Council is moving toward adopting a Vulnerable Road Users Ordinance which essentially will make it easier for cyclists, pedestrians and anyone NOT in an vehicle to sue anyone who “disses” them. After listening to the [Sonoma County Bike Coalition](#) supporters speak it was clear that something needs to change. Having epithets and beer cans hurled in their direction is inexcusable but this ordinance isn't going to change that. It's like being a nuclear free zone-just more of that warm and fuzzy politics that accomplishes nothing. So there won't be another reading of it and will surely pass on a 5:0 vote early next year.

In the “Out of the Frying Pan and Into the Fire” category the Council also approved an

Urgency Ordinance which will prohibit CVS from having a drive through pharmacy. Before the vote Armstrong's lawyer stated they have "respected" the process and called into question the Council's legal footing in approving this narrowly applied ordinance. This may trigger the lawsuit that some of the adults in the room have been worried about. Not so with the CVS opponents, the leader of whom flippantly stated that she would "...let the lawyers worry about that." She also stated that she "hoped" the Council would vote for the Ordinance. Then she restated herself and said she "knew" the Council would vote for it. Having received direct orders, the Council fell in line and voted it in 5:0.

Our drinking water is still having to filter out the arsenic in contains. We were doing fine until the State of California changed the parts per billion allowed. It's going to cost the City about \$200,000 dollars to install a pilot project to see what the best course of action is. The pilot project passed on a 5:0 vote. Council member Gurney again raised the specter of the State fluoridating our water.

City Council Committee assignments were portioned out. (How do our Council members find time to do all of this?) Well, when the Leaf Blower Committee was deleted because it had fulfilled its mission, Robert Jacob immediately jumped on the opportunity to take up the all but dead noise ordinance issue. Since, in a pre-election interview with this organization, he professed himself to be a "bridge-builder", we will watch with interest his building or burning of the same.

Not so long ago the Council approved installing electric car charging stations in the cinema parking lot. These would be available to any electric car for free. This project was supposed to be at no cost to the City but a few smaller costs have presented themselves (about \$3700.00 to PG &E and about \$6,000.00 to the county). Now it has been discovered that the transformer in the parking lot doesn't have the required capacity and a new underground feeder line has to be pulled. That's another \$19,200.00. The Council voted 5:0 to go ahead with the project because of the investment that has already been made. So, if you own an electric car you will soon be able to charge it for free at the cinema parking lot. Hopefully the City will also start pumping free gasoline for us commoners at a convenient location soon!