



Sebastopol Citizens

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

Sebastopol City Council Meeting July 18, 2017 – Synopsis and Commentary

Council Member Gurney was absent because of a conflict in schedules. Since the last Council meeting, **she has become a grandmother**. Not to be outdone, and also absent, was **Assistant City Manager/City Clerk Mary Gourley** who, yet again, **became a grandmother** shortly before this meeting. For those of you who wish to schedule the birth of your grandchild on the day of the next Council meeting, the date is August 1st. Applications should be directed to the City of Sebastopol.

Proclamations/Presentations:

- The new Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Jill McLewis, was introduced.

Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- The first speaker spoke about the Pine Grove idea but her point escaped me.
- The second speaker didn't like the idea of [parklets](#), parents j-walking with children, or consultants—except the ones with whom she has associated.

Consent Calendar: (Approved 4:0.)

- The contract for the **Community Outreach Coordinator** was approved. **Cost \$40,000.**
- A list of agenda items (1/17 through 6/17) was approved. [You may see that list here.](#)
- The August 15, 2017 Council meeting was canceled.
- A second request for damages was filed by a person who neglected to sign the first request (among other things). He signed this one and it was sent off to the city's insurer. [More details here.](#)
- A contract with [Marin IT](#) was approved. The city, with 49 full-time employees and eight departments, **has no full-time IT service** and Marin IT has been on a pay-as-you-go basis. This contract will put a patch on that at a **cost of \$49,610.**
- The completion of the crosswalk repair at the library was accepted. The **original bid** was for **\$148,403** but because of unknown conditions below grade, which were expected, the **final cost** was **\$163, 324.99.** (Hmmm...What was that 99 cents for?)
- The Council approved a contract with [Chrisp Corporation](#) to install bicycle signs paint and lanes on city streets. Cost is **\$72,986.85.** This will be covered by the Traffic Impact Fund plus a [TFCA](#) grant. No general funds will be used. (What, we couldn't beat 'em down to \$72,986,00?)
- Council Member Hinton was appointed to the Landscape Sub-Committee.
- Some administrative changes were made between the city and various bargaining units.

Informational Items/ Presentation:

- [Sebastopol World Friends](#) gave a **20-minute report** on an April visit to [Chyhyryn, Ukraine](#). They are trying to raise funds to ship medical supplies there. For more information, [check out their web page here.](#)

Regular Agenda Items: (All approved 4:0.)

- Removing 40' of parking on the north side of Laguna Parkway from Johnson Street was approved. Parking there creates a hazard for those entering the parkway from Johnson St.
- Staff was authorized to seek permission from Caltrans to remove parking restrictions at [632 Petaluma Avenue](#).
- The Council proposed staffing a table at the Farmers' Market from July 23rd to September 24th inclusive. On those dates, some brave Council member, or even the city manager, will discuss city policy with you. While they seem to be tempting fate at having it at that location, it is **NOT OKAY** to buy fruits and/or vegetables (organic or no) to hurl as missiles in their direction, should you hear something of which you don't approve. Be polite when you voice your opinion—this is Peace Town, USA not our nation's capital. If you must spew venom, tweet it. It seems to work for others. [Click here to see the line-up](#).

City Council Reports:

- This took 20 minutes. The least sleep inducing was **Vice Mayor Slayter's** Sonoma Clean Power report in which he often **vilified PG&E**. **To his credit**, he did stop short of linking them to ISIS.

Elapsed Time: 1:20 hours (6:00–7:20pm)

Next City Council meeting is August 1, 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