

Sebastopol City Council Meeting – March 18, 2014 – Synopsis and Commentary

All Council members were present except Mayor Jacob.

Vice Mayor Slayter asked us all to pay closer attention to the words that compose the [Pledge of Allegiance](#) as we recite it. His favorite part is the last six words.

“I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, **with liberty and justice for all.**”

He also asked us to silence or power off our cell phones so they *wouldn't interrupt the proceedings*.

Unlike **Mayor Jacob**, he is evidently EMF tolerant.

Proclamations:

National Surveyor's Week will be from March 16th through March 22nd.

Public Comments (aka open mike):

The EMF-phobe, actually wearing an aluminum foil hat, embarrassed herself and some of us too as she proclaimed a causal relationship between the death of a popular West County activist from brain cancer due to EMF. It was an unfeeling and self-serving remark, even by her “standards.”

Other speakers continued to complain about the car wash on Healdsburg Avenue. The last speaker was more concerned with U.N. Plots.

Consent Calendar:

Approved without discussion were:

- Support for Senate Bill 1014, Safe Medication Management. It would require sellers of prescription drugs to provide a safe method for their disposal. It is unclear if you will be allowed to dispose of the last part of your **Medical Marijuana** roach with your Lipitor.
- The routine Street Lighting Assessment for 2013-14 moved forward.

- Analy High School's Culinary Boot Camp got \$100.00 from the Council's Initiative Funds.

Informational Items and Presentations:

[The Ives Pool](#) annual presentation was interesting. Opened in 1941, Ives has 14 different programs and is open 350 days a year. It has taught 20,000 kids to swim (9,000 by the Rotary Club of Sebastopol that has been doing it for 30 years). It is owned by the City but is operated by the Western Sonoma County Swimmers. There is nothing like it in the county and very little like it in the United States.

Discussion and Action Items:

A presentation by [CERES](#) won the unanimous support of the Council to support the [Sonoma County Healthy and Sustainable Food Action Plan](#).

Our Quarterly Financial Report was mostly as expected. We aren't flat broke but we need to be very careful. For instance, in construction activity (quarter to quarter comparison):

- New single family permits are **down** 60%
- Commercial permits are **down** 78%
- Building permit fees are **down** 57%

And if we voters don't re-approve the [User Utility Tax](#) in some form, we will have to cut services.

A sub-committee and a series of public meetings will appear to discuss the future of the old Diamond Lumber Yard. **Council Member Gurney** reported that the owner welcomes this idea.

The City is putting its toe in the water to assess the feasibility of building a new City Hall in the Burnett parking lot downtown. The plan is to form a private/public partnership so the City could afford to do it. Well, that should help the building permit fees. **And this is one reason why the meetings take so long.** This was introduced as a concept that will cost about \$1,000 for a consultant and some staff time. No plans exist but **Council Member Kyes** immediately started acting like it was going to happen tomorrow, objecting to several things that weren't even proposed. The most ironic part was his objection to **Council Member Eder's** wanting to

approve \$2,000 instead of \$1,000. It wasn't that long ago that **Council Member Kyes** gave **\$5000** to his political friends to massacre the berries at the **Railroad Brier Patch** to such a degree that the City got into trouble with two different governing agencies. The expenditure was approved 3:1.

And a parting shot!

[This from our City website:](#)

“Donations needed for the Occupy Bench Project!

The City of Sebastopol is planning a circular bench project and memorial plaque in the Town Plaza to recognize the ‘Occupy’ movement, including its activities in Sebastopol’s own Plaza. Can you help make this project a reality? The estimated project cost is \$15,000 and the City will match donations, which are tax deductible. Over \$2,300 in donations have already been made! We will build this summer if funding permits. Send your donation to: City of Sebastopol Occupy Bench Project, c/o Planning Department, 7120 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol, CA 95472.”

This is how it looks to me. The City Council was seen as so inept at removing the *one* Occupy tent (that was usually unoccupied) that it was eventually coerced into this embarrassing agreement with the one Occupy camper left.

[Mercy, mercy mercy.](#)

Duration 3:40

John Necker