



Sebastopol Citizens

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

Sebastopol City Council Meeting September 18, 2018 – Synopsis and Commentary

- From 5:00 to 6:30 pm a study session and presentation of summary of work in Sonoma County by Zero Waste Representatives occupied those present.
- The regular meeting started at 6:50 pm.
- All council members were present for both sessions

Proclamations/Presentations:

- [Lynda Hopkins, 5th District Supervisor](#), thanked the community, the council and nonprofit organizations as well as others for all their help during last year's fires. Then she presented the city with a **\$63,926,33 FEMA check** to help offset some of the incurred expenses. A special thanks went to local groups. They are as follows:
- [St. Stephen's Episcopal Church](#)
- [Sebastopol Community Emergency Response Team](#)
- [Sebastopol Community Cultural Center](#)
- [Ceres Community Project](#)

Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- More warnings about the perceived dangers of EMF. The real danger was her **Erroneous and Misinformed Facts**.
- Not to be outdone, our other resident gadfly and expert on everything, rambled on a while then took an abrupt left hand turn and castigated the city for not observing the [International Day of Peace](#). Council Member Gurney later responded that it had happened but just on a different date at the Peace Wall. Where else?

Consent Calendar:

- **On March 14, 1995**, the city agreed to lease one parking space in the municipal parking lot adjacent to the **Chamber of Commerce building** that could also be used for the expansion of the building. That lease expired on February 14, 2015. A renewal of the lease was "deferred in order for the City Council to discuss and explore potential development for this city owned parking lot." Tonight the lease was extended for ten years "in consideration that any development of this property may be years away." (Ya think?) [But, either party can terminate it without cause.](#)
- A classification of Temporary Maintenance Assistant was approved. Public Works needs a little help to comply with yet another state mandate. This one requires that the in-street water valves be rotated on a regular schedule so they won't freeze-up and become inoperable. Before you apply for this job, [this ain't exactly your garden variety hose bibb.](#) The city has a motorized tool but it's still not as much fun as it looks! \$25,000 was already budgeted for this job.
- Also approved was the pay rate for the above at \$17.98 an hour.
- On October 3, 2017, Team Ghilotti was awarded a **\$1,215,997** contract to **repair and/or replace selected sewer and water pipes**. Because of unforeseen issues, the final cost came in at **\$1,488,322**. The city approved a notification of completion of that project.

Regular Agenda Items:

- While not taking any action, the council discussed adding a parking restriction of **“Parking Prohibited Midnight to 6:00 a.m.” on Morris Street**. Also discussed was prohibition of parking or storage of over-sized vehicles in residential areas. The council mulled over rescinding [city code 10,40.090 TRAILERS](#), as it is unenforceable in its current form. Judging by what was said, this is the only action that will eventually pass through the system. It was clear the entire council had no stomach for the other two recommendations by the chief of police. **Council Member Glass** characterized his recommendations as **“tortured logic” fraught with “unforeseen consequences”** and constitutional issues that she chose not to share. **Council Member Gurney** said that during the Laguna cleanup she only found one styrene bowl, which implied there isn’t a trash problem in the area. She was concerned too about the **“militaristic way” this was being done**. About the idea of no parking between the hours of midnight to 6:00pm, she stated the restriction **“doesn’t make any sense”** because no one is there at that time. **Mayor Slayter** agreed saying that the **“existing conditions seem to be well managed”** and he hadn’t had any complaints from many of the other Morris Street merchants. **Vice Mayor Hinton** said she **hadn’t heard any complaints about over-sized vehicles** parking in residential areas. When she asked the Chief of Police if he had heard any complaints, he smiled politely and said, **“Yes.”** So the council will put this on staff’s plate to **“study.”** Don’t expect any of these proposals to survive that process except the **“Trailer Code.”** The council has made that clear.
- A resolution was adopted to apply to the State of California for a Boundary Adjustment Request so the city would become part of the Santa Rosa Plain Sub-Basin. ([See “Public Hearing” at this link.](#)) This passed 4:1 with Council Member Carnacchi in the minority. He does not want to join the Santa Rosa Plain Sub-Basin even though we don’t have the \$2,000,000 plus to avoid it. To his credit, when his point was defeated, his hair didn’t catch on fire this time.
- Staff asked for direction regarding the **“Healdsburg Avenue Corridor” study** – namely Healdsburg Avenue between the N. Main Street intersection to the Covert Lane intersection, and Gravenstein Highway North between the Covert Lane intersection and Mill Station Road at the northern City boundary. Two bids came in, one from [TJKM](#) at \$59,940 and another from [W-Trans](#) at \$46,000. **Both are nearly double the \$25,000 the city’s estimated cost.** This study, and the one below, will be combined and go **back to the bidders in an effort to renegotiate a lower price tag.**
- There was a Discussion of Bid Proposals for RFP - Traffic Corridor Safety Studies for the **two-way portion of Petaluma Avenue, and for the one-way parallel sections of Petaluma Avenue/McKinley Street** and North and South Main Streets. Several intersections were proposed to be dropped from the study because of few automobile collisions.
- Staff also asked for direction for the feasibility study to return the **current one-way street alignment along SR 116 back to two-way traffic.** Both bids came back over the city’s hopeful estimate of \$50,000: W-Trans at \$145,970 and TJKM at \$80,600. This one got tabled. As Council Member Gurney noted, if you think Pine Grove was a big issue, watch what happens if this moves forward.

City Council Reports:

- Just more show and tell. Oh, and if you ever hear a council member say **“I only have a few short comments to make,”** grab a snack and a couple of beers because you’ll need them.

Election Issues? (Send ‘em in.)

- Downtown parking
- LED street lighting
- Position on the effects of EMF
- The increasing number of [crocodile streets](#)
- Parking on Morris Street.
- Pig wire to replace the chain link fencing around the creek at Ives Park.

Elapsed Time: 3:30 hours (6:50–10:20pm)

Next City Council meeting is October 2, 2018, at the Teen Center, 425 Morris Street at 6:00pm.

You can view this meeting and others at: <http://bit.ly/sebcctv>.

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