



Sebastopol Citizens

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

Sebastopol City Council Meeting April 19, 2016 – Synopsis and Commentary

Councilman Jacob is on an extended leave of absence. For more detail, see this article by **Amie Windsor** in the [Sonoma West Times and News](#).

Proclamations/Presentations:

- April 22, 2016 was proclaimed [Earth Day](#) in Sebastopol.
- The fourth Friday in April was declared Children's Memorial Day in memory of children who have died by violence.

Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- A Burbank Heights resident continued to push for a stoplight at Nelson Way.
- Another speaker said the opponents of the proposed KOWS tower were not given enough consideration. He even went so far as to say that “the few moderate conservatives” in town should also be listened to. Oh, brave soul!

Consent Calendar: (Passed 4:0 without comment except the second item*)

- The annual **street lighting assessment of \$20.16 per parcel**, the same as last year, was moved forward.
- The Council awarded \$70,427 to [W-Trans](#) of Santa Rosa to get the design work done for bike paths. The Council has already budgeted \$545,179 for this and is hoping to get a \$50,000 [TECA](#) grant. But there seems to be **zero** funds available for a stoplight at [Burbank Heights](#) so the seniors can cross Bodega Avenue at Nelson Way without fearing for their lives.
- The Council adopted a revised budget schedule for 2016/17. And **Council Member Slayter** will replace Jacob on the committee. **Vice Mayor Glass** will continue to serve. The first public meeting on the budget schedule will be April 26, 2016 at 10:30am at City Hall.
- The Council approved a solicitation for bids to slurry the streets that have just been repaired. The repairs were at **260 locations** at a cost of \$239,507. The engineering manager states the slurry should add 10 to 15 years of pavement life and at \$210,883, the slurry project falls well within the total project of \$450,390. It will be paid for by local street taxes and Measure M funds.

Informational Items/Presentation:

- There was a presentation by [Sebastopol World Friends](#) on their recent trip to our sister city, [Takeo, Japan](#).
- As Sonoma County prepares to renew its “[Community Separators](#)” policy, a County representative gave a presentation about the project. See the [Sebastopol Map](#) here. At this stage, it seems to be mostly unchanged and, if approved, will remain that way for the next 30 years.
- Our Financial Director gave a quarterly report. [And here it is!](#) Things are meeting expectations, which weren't exactly high.
- The Planning Director reported on the Cities Level of Service. [And here that is.](#) OK, it's 78 pages long but as you mouse through, you will surely find something that's of interest to you.

Regular Agenda Items:

- There was a preliminary review of the upcoming annexation of Village Park and Tomodachi Park. The City owns them but has not formally annexed them yet. According to **Slater**, when **Village Park** was bought, the public was promised a public park at the location, and not the recent Tomodachi Park. **Mayor Gurney**, who sat on the Council at that time, **did not correct him**. Does that mean **we're going to have a real park there** as we drive into town over our shiny new CalTrans bridge?

City Council Reports:

- The City Manager stated that on Wednesday morning, the 20th, the City Engineering Manager was scheduled to have a meeting with CalTrans about the traffic situation at Petaluma Avenue and Hwy. 12. Some changes for the better are likely to occur. CalTrans controls all lane closure methods and was even scheduled to do major shoulder work there itself. They have wisely chosen to do it while other construction is in progress. So hang in there, we are jumping over two hurdles at once. Check [the City website](#) for updates. If you have ideas of how to improve the website, [click here](#).

Closed Session:

- Two items were scheduled: The Village Mobile Home Park and employee labor negotiations.

A Parting Shot:

*Words fail to express my outrage over the way some people in this town receive preferential treatment from certain members of the City Council. But an attempt will be made anyway. **Council Member Eder** pulled the bike paths item from the Consent Calendar for discussion. This is not uncommon, especially for him. **Gurney** noted his request and moved it to the last item on the agenda. Also not uncommon. What isn't uncommon enough was a fellow from the public interrupting the meeting as he objected to the item being placed last on the agenda. Although the mayor rejected his objections, he should have just been gavelled out of order.

But the plot thickens from here. Returning from the break after the presentations, Eder immediately **petitioned Gurney** to take up the bike path item. And why? Because some other people who couldn't bother to stay, asked him to do so while in the lobby at break. **That makes them ah...lobbyists.** So the mayor folded and took the matter up, which **Eder tried to kill for his buddy**, claiming the study was too old, he had vague suspicions about the consultant, and other meandering objections. Even with his friend Eder pitching for him, this fellow was again allowed to interrupt the meeting to the point where the mayor had to open public comment again. Fortunately for us all, **words failed me then too.** (It passed 3:1 with Eder in the minority.)

[Gentle reader, thank you for letting me get this out of my system.](#)

Elapsed Time: 3:30 (6:00pm – 9:30pm)

Next City Council Meeting is May 3, 2016 at 6:00pm at the **Sebastopol Community Center**.

John Necker
[SebastopolCitizens.org](#)