



Sebastopol Citizens

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

Sebastopol City Council Meeting December 19, 2017 – Synopsis and Commentary

All Council members were present.

- **At 3:00pm, the applicant interviews for the Design Review Board and the Planning Commission began.** The DRB applicants were sitting members Lynn Deedler, Lars Langberg, Christine Level, and new applicant Ron Hari. After the interviews and during discussions, some Council members voiced concerns about reported unprofessional conduct by Deedler in the past. When it became clear that Deedler probably would not make the cut, Council Member Gurney attempted to table the process and re-advertise the position so she wouldn't have to decide between just Hari and Deedler. When that failed, she somehow found it ominous that three of the likely new board members live in close proximity. But Vice Mayor Hinton politely, but firmly, insisted on voting tonight, at which time Council Member Gurney announced she would abstain from voting. **Council Member Carnacchi** voted for Deedler, stating that **“The design review board without Deedler would be like the city council without Sarah Gurney.”** (Words fail me.) So the successful applicants were Hari, Level and Lars on the votes of Mayor Slayter, Vice Mayor Hinton, and Council Member Glass.
- Applicants for a vacant seat on the planning commission were Patrick Wilson, Lewis Buchner and Rei Blaser. Wilson was seated 4:0 with Carnacchi recusing himself because of a potential conflict of interest.

Proclamations/Presentations:

- Years of Service Awards were given to police officers Charles Wong (5 years) and Jacob Ranish (10 years.)

Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- **We were shocked**, shocked to hear a resident complain that he and many of his friends feel unrepresented in city politics. As an example, he questioned the value of the **bike lane markings** and the [\\$114,674 changes to Covert Lane](#) to better accommodate cyclists. The six cyclists who regularly traverse Covert Lane were not present to rebut.

Consent Calendar:

- The [Chrisp Company](#) has completed the aforementioned **bike lane markings** around town. The city has recognized that and will cut them a check for **\$72,986.85**.
- The city will request bids for a [flashing beacon](#) at [Bodega Avenue and Ragle Road](#). The estimated cost is **\$141,300**.

Public Hearing:

- The Council discussed a resolution that would change the housing fee structure to encourage the building of smaller (Granny) units, establishing separate dwellings in an existing home and

allowing temporary off-street RV parking for fire victims so they don't have to park at **Sebastopol's de facto KOA that exists on Morris Street**. Council Member Gurney wondered, since our fees are already outdated, what would be the financial impact to the city of reducing them further. Council Member Glass was concerned about someone "building a 4000-square-foot house" taking advantage of a new fee structure. And Mayor Slayter wanted to make sure the new fees will help meet the housing need we have in town. The resolution will go back to the committee to tighten up the language.

Regular Agenda Items:

- **The Council adopted an urgency ordinance to get its pot policy in writing before January 1, 2018.** The urgency springs from the State of California that, on this issue, apparently can't find its collective posterior with either hand but could still impose upon us its own policies if we don't do it by the first of the year. Following the Council's thinking on this ordinance was difficult to follow. [Here's a video of them passing their ideas back and forth](#). Anyway, it will be back for major repairs on January 16th but in the meantime, **starting January 1, only our two pot shops will be able to sell medical or recreational marijuana.**
- LANTERN, a local nonprofit dedicated to increasing the size of the library, made its annual presentation to the Council. The slide show featured an 8.5-million-dollar building that, if Vice Mayor's Hinton's calculations are correct, would cost the owner of a 2000-square-foot house in Sebastopol \$700 more in taxes. **Don't expect any Council action on this until the bike lanes are done.**
- The city's attempt to expand the Ives Pool house and make the facility fully ADA compliant has fallen short by about \$25,000—even after significant changes were made to the original plans. The engineering manager will renegotiate with the contractor and the city will allow up to \$20,000 to make up any difference. Grant funds are on the horizon, but only that.
- The Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017 (SB1) allows cities to apply to the State of California for funds to be used for road work and pedestrian and bicycle projects. The city made that application but then the State made late changes to the rules, so the Council had to approve another resolution tonight. What are they smokin' over there in Sacramento?

Closed Session: One case of possible litigation was addressed.

A Parting Shot:

- It looks as if the [Caltrans project](#) will rear its ugly head on January 8th. More information will follow when it gets posted on the city website.

Elapsed Time: 8:00 hours (3:00–11:00pm – Dang, just short of collecting overtime!)

Next City Council meeting is January 16, 2018 at the Teen Center, 425 Morris Street at 6:00pm.

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

John Necker
SebastopolCitizens.org