



Sebastopol Citizens

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

Sebastopol City Council Meeting February 19, 2019 – Synopsis and Commentary

- There was an earlier closed meeting relating to labor issues.
- All council members were present for the 6:00pm meeting.

Proclamations/Presentations:

- Andrew Cerini was recognized for five years of service with the Public Works Department.

Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- Two young ladies asked the council to embrace the New Green Deal. Keeping in step with the national discussion, there was no explanation on just how it would actually be able to function. However, their message was well presented, to the point and short. Ah....hope!
- The executive director of the Palm Dive Health Care District gave a pep talk for the hospital and mentioned the upcoming vote on March 6.
- A speaker for AAMG did the same.
- Another speaker urged is to vote “Yes” in the upcoming election.
- [Click here for the County Voter Information Guide for Special Election: March 5, 2019.](#)

Consent Calendar: (Approved 5:0)

- Previous meeting notes were approved.
- The city accepted the work done for the installation of the Bodega Avenue/Nelson Way “HAWK” pedestrian hybrid beacon. The contract total was \$284,636.08. City funds expended were \$204,636.08 as SB1 State Funding and Sonoma County Grant Funding made contributions. Unlike like “The Green Mile”, that serpentine through our fair city like some two dimensional anaconda lying in wait to snare the unwary cyclist, this project will actually make crossing at Bodega Avenue and Nelson Way much safer.
- Also accepted was the utility slab work at Park Village. The initial estimate was \$96,100 but reality reared its ugly head and the best bid the city could get was \$119,870. The contract total ended up at \$131,528.19. OK, it is sometimes appropriate to question our council’s *raison du jour* when it comes to spending, but this cost overrun was mostly due unexpected underground utilities that had to be moved – a not uncommon occurrence in underground construction.
- Sometimes, something that you thought had long ago been left in the dust, appears in the rear view mirror again, and in this case it’s the **Occupy Movement** that so intimidated the city council **back in 2013, that the then council** agreed to build a bench for them if they **ceased to occupy the Plaza**. ([Click here and scroll down to “Discussion and Action.”](#)) That bench was going to be financed by donations. Well, a bench is there now but this one is being financed by your Park Funds. To celebrate that, council approved a dedication ceremony to be held on April 7th, although the first of the month may have been more appropriate. Come and wave your hands in the air.

Informational Items/ Presentation:

- The Community Outreach Coordinator made a presentation.
- And there was one by Cittaslow.
- The City's cannabis regulation was reviewed.*
- Both the Community Outreach and Cittaslow held their presentation to just under ten minutes. It appears staff is working to discourage Fidel Castro-like presentations.

Regular Agenda Items:

- [Badawi & Associates](#) gave a report summarizing the state required annual audit for the year that ended on June 30, 2018. The short version is we are doing OK although the Dragon of CalPERS slumbers restlessly in his lair.
- Do you know what a "Bus Buddy" is? Some of you may think it a canister of pepper spray to repel the muggers on the bus lines. But no, according to **Council Member Gurney**, it's a "celebrity" who will assist inexperienced riders on the free Local Shuttle #24 bus. Just what this assistance will consist of is unclear, but that "celebrity" better be on the lookout for the sudden appearance of a small spray canister. Two canisters may be required under certain circumstances because these "celebrities" may be members of the city council and other locals, one who should make you wonder who's doing the background checks. [Read all about it here.](#)
- Vice-Mayor Slayter asked the council to support the 2019 Bike to Work day, which is May 9th this year. Even though getting to school or work on a bike can sometimes be a bit of a hassle, he [didn't mention anything about "Bike Buddies."](#)

City Council Reports:

- Yep.

A Parting Shot:

- When, in 2013, the **Occupy Movement** received permission from the then city council (**Eder, Gurney, Jacob, Slayter and Mayor Kyes**) to bivouac at the plaza, **Sebastopol Citizens.org** made a formal request to do the same thing but was rejected out of hand. (That actually came as a relief to several members who were "volunteered" to pull guard duty had it been approved.) [What are we getting for our efforts?](#) Nada. Not even a three legged stool. But it's an ill wind that blows no good and that is one beautiful bench. The process, not so much.
- *Below in some information sent to me by the planning director detailing cannabis operations in Sebastopol :
 1. 6771 Sebastopol Ave, #100 – SPARC/Responsible Patient Care (formerly Peace in Medicine) – Cannabis dispensary (Adult and Medical) with delivery permitted.
 2. 785 Gravenstein Highway South – Solful – Cannabis dispensary (Adult and Medical) with delivery permitted.
 3. Abbott Ave – Regen West – Cannabis manufacturing.
 4. Morris Street – Smoke Society – Cannabis manufacturing.
 5. Abbott Ave – Cannabis cultivation, indoor

Additionally, we recently received a delivery-only application that will be going to the Planning commission in the next month or so: 523 South Main Street – Highlands Farm – Office Only Cannabis delivery (no on-site retail).

Elapsed Time: 3:15 hours (6:00–9:15 pm)

Next City Council meeting is March 5, 2019, 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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