



Sebastopol Citizens

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

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

All Council members were present.

Proclamations/Presentations:

- **Certificates of Appreciation** were awarded to outgoing Complete Streets members Geoffrey Skinner, Deanne Thompson, Jannike Allen, and David Ore.
- **Years of Service Awards** were presented to Margarito Roman (10 years with Public Works) and Edward Eastland (10 years with the Fire Department).

Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- The first speaker brought two co-conspirators with him and they did a tag team routine that sucked up ten minutes of our lives. It involved assigning derogatory names to every public official this side of Alexander Hamilton with particular emphasis on **Willie Brown**. They also wanted the Council to rescind something but since my head was ready to explode, it got by me. **How they did drone on.**
- The next speaker, a too often present gadfly, also castigated the Council but spared **Willie Brown**. While waving two American flags about in semaphore fashion (one flag defaced by a poor rendition of a peace symbol), she pointed out several shortcomings of the Council, including not helping with her rent. [You know, some public comment might be better served using semaphore.](#)

Consent Calendar:

- The Council approved a request for bids to repave (some might just say **pave**) [Willow Street](#) between High and Jewell streets. The cost is estimated at **\$262,000** for the design and the actual paving.

Informational Items/ Presentation:

- There was the annual report from the Sonoma County Library Commission—**40 minutes of it.**
- A member of **Cittaslow** gave a report about attending an **all-expense-paid trip** to a recent conference in Portugal. Evidently the local chapter wowed the international wheels with their ability to have our Council bless them with a \$10,000 budget and make them a City agency. We were the **only city in the whole of the USA** so invited—the other two cities in the **whole of the USA** (Fairfax, CA and Sonoma Valley, CA) were not.

Regular Agenda Items:

- The Council considered a request by two Petaluma Avenue residents to change a parking place there, south of [Walker Avenue](#), to accommodate compact vehicles only. The issue is difficulty

- seeing northbound traffic when a large vehicle is parked there. (Granted 5:0)
- At the property owner's request, the Council also considered converting two parking spaces in front of [7225 Healdsburg Avenue](#) to two-hour parking. Owners of at least two other adjoining businesses oppose the idea. Evidently some other business owners and employees park there all day. The Chief of Police noted that if they parked on the north side of Healdsburg Avenue, all day parking wouldn't be an issue and the walking time to the Magnolia Center would be about 1.5 minutes—using the crosswalks. (Granted 5:0)
 - A Sebastopol resident reported a near collision at the intersection of [Jewell and Willow Avenues](#). At the meeting, the Chief of Police shared that there had been only one collision there in the last 10 years—and it was a non-injury incident, so minor that no report was filed. Those at the meeting wanted it changed to a “T” or a roundabout intersection. At the very least, they’d like to see the existing markings improved. Another area resident who lives right there has objected to any changes. The markings could be done within the present budget but a “T” or roundabout would be in the six-figure range and out of budget. The Council discussed getting an expert in to assess the situation but that wasn't what **Council Member Eder** had in mind. He **wants to barricade the right-hand turn** from Jewell to Willow immediately, if not sooner. Drawing on his vast repertoire of hyperbole, he said it was a “death-defying act” to cross the road there and asked if “**we have to kill somebody to validate that this is a bad design?**” Even though he didn't think a study was necessary, in the end he voted with other Council members to have a professional look into it. This seems to be more of a pedestrian issue. Maybe a crosswalk across Willow to the island and from there to the park and being alert while giving it the old [Cittaslow-down](#) would do. **And there is a crosswalk** by the pool—well clear of any shenanigans at the corner.
 - The Council appointed Vice Mayor Glass as a voting delegate to the October 7th League of California Cities conference.

Closed Session: This looks like some City employment issue and also some anticipated litigation.

A Parting Shot: Dang, misfire!

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

Next City Council Meeting is August 2, 2016 at the Teen Center, 425 Morris Street at 6:00pm.

John Necker
SebastopolCitizens.org