

Sebastopol City Council Meeting- June 19, 2012

Synopsis and Commentary

Dan Swedenborg Sebastopol Citizen

All Council Members were present as well as members of the Business Outreach Committee (BOC).

The only **Informational Item** involved a presentation (with Powerpoint) by several members of the BOC. They covered the Barlow Project, Parking Issues, use of Food Trucks, the Entrepreneur Project, Career Day (for teenagers), Park Improvements, and the 5 Year Plan. Public comments were made by five citizens, four that thanked the BOC for its efforts towards increasing the economic vitality of Sebastopol. One citizen offered appreciation as well but warned that the city must also be concerned with health and well-being of the residents, particularly in regards to emissions from fluorescent lights and cell phone towers. Massive sun flares were not addressed.

There was one **Public Hearing** item as well. The council entertained a motion to approve the levying the annual assessments for the City of Sebastopol Lighting Special Assessment District for FY 2012/13. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously. The \$23.50 per resident assessment remains unchanged from last year.

There were four **Discussion and Action** items.

- A presentation was made about Cittaslow (see Web page for explanation of this international organization and its member cities). A motion was made to form a 13 member Cittaslow Sebastopol Steering Committee with Councilmember Gurney as the Council Liaison. The motion passed.
- Police Chief Weaver went through three traffic/parking issues the most notable of which is to provide 24 minute parking in front of the smoke shop on S. Main Street.
- About 25 minutes was spent in discussion and public comment regarding the draft language for the proposed increase in sales tax to be on the November 6, 2012 ballot. Discussion included concerns that any increase (1/4 or 1/2%) would be regressive especially for low income earners and retirees on fixed incomes. Also, an increase of 1/2 % would make Sebastopol's overall sales tax the highest in the county. The actual vote on whether to go forward (probably on 4 of 5 council vote) will take place at the July 17, 2012 council meeting.

- The fourth and final action item of note was the scheduling of a Special City Council meeting to handle the appeal brought forward by the Armstrong Corporation in response to the Council's most recent disapproval of the CVS Project. The date decided upon is Thursday, July 19, 2021. Given the City's tenuous legal position regarding (possible lawsuit to be brought by CVS/Armstrong at a cost of \$1M) this should be a very interesting meeting.