



Sebastopol Citizens

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

Sebastopol City Council Meeting June 19, 2018 – Synopsis and Commentary

- Council Member Glass was absent.
- A special meeting at 5:30 pm interviewed an applicant for the Sonoma County Library Commission. The regular meeting started at 6:00 pm.
- The council considered and later appointed Stephen Zollman to the above commission.

Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- An announcement of a new mural to be painted on the north wall of the Basso building was made.
- Several speakers, including representatives from the Barlow and Village Bakery, cited problems related to the increased RV camping on Morris Street. Trash, buckets of urine being dumped, bathing in business bathrooms and erratic behavior that made employees fearful were cited among concerns. The Chief of Police and the City Manager/Attorney said they are trying to solve the problem but are largely restricted by a court ruling declaring city codes--such as [“10.40.090 Trailers”](#)--unconstitutional. A different code now making its way through the courts may change things. In the meantime, the chief said if you ever feel threatened, call the police. That’s what they do. Hmm... How about no parking between the hours of 10:00 pm and 6:00 am? Swing by Morris Street and then contact the city with your suggestions.

Consent Calendar: Approved (4:0)

- Notice was given of a General Municipal Election to be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2018. **Seats vulnerable to the whims of the dissatisfied** are those of Mayor Slayter and Council Members Glass and Gurney. Let the games begin!
- The budget was adopted.
- Also adopted was the approval of current pay rates and ranges for city employees.
- The Capital Improvement Plan Budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 also found its way to adoption. “These projects normally are non-repetitive, stand-alone work involving city streets, bike paths, water, sewer, and storm water infrastructure, and city facilities, including offices and parks.”
- At the last council meeting, **Council Member Carnacchi** suggested an **appreciation dinner** for the **overworked and unpaid members** of the planning commission, design review board and public arts committee. The city found \$2,000 in the travel budget to do just that. The dinner will also include certain other appointed positions and past board members. A Sebastopol Citizens representative will not attend. The city can’t afford the bar tab.

Public Hearings:

- A public hearing scheduled to consider a comprehensive update to the City’s Zoning Ordinance and map was continued to a future City Council Meeting date.

Regular Agenda Items:

- The council considered a staff recommendation to increase the garbage rate to Recology Sonoma Marin. It will be as follows: “Single family rate change requests are between 1.2% and 1.3% per month, with the actual monthly rate changes falling between 15 cents per month to \$1.47 per month. Commercial refuse can rates are requested to rise between 1.6% and 2.1% per month. The actual monetary amount of the commercial rate increases fall between \$3.92 per month and \$56.25 per month. However, the high-end increase is for the largest commercial bin dumped five times per week, which is equivalent to a trash generation of over 40 bags of 30-gallon capacity per day.” (Approved 4:0)
- The council authorized staff to “issue a [Request for Proposals \(RFP\)](#) to qualified consulting firms for conducting a **Traffic Corridor Safety Study** for two segments of SR 116 through the city, namely Healdsburg Avenue between the N. Main Street intersection to the Covert Lane intersection, and Gravenstein Highway North between the Covert Lane intersection and Mill Station Road at the northern city boundary.” The cost of the study would probably be around \$25,000 should the study actually be awarded. At the urging of Vice Mayor Hinton and Council Member Carnacchi, similar RFPs will be conducted on the downtown and South Main areas – especially in the area near the Handline Restaurant where traffic problems seem to be worsening. **(Passed 3:1 with Council Member Carnacchi in the minority because he wanted many changes that no one else did.)**
- **Council Member Carnacchi asked** the council to consider funding a study for a **bypass of the city and changing Main Street back to two-way**. The cost of the study would not exceed \$65,000. For sixty-five cents, some of us geezers will tell you crossing South Main, from a side street, in any mode, will again be impossible. **And the bypass: Fugetaboutit!** The Hezbollah of Horticulture would slip out in the dead of night to plant [Meadowfoam](#) in its path. Fueled by old French fry oil, low flying ultralight aircraft would swoop in under the cover of darkness and air drop truck loads of [promiscuous California Tiger Salamanders](#) that would turn the entire Laguna into a writhing impediment to construction of anything at all until well after the second coming. And the rest of the council agreed – well, OK, not exactly. **Council Member Gurney noted that the bypass, as proposed, would be on county property** and we probably couldn’t even afford the study. Other council members agreed and thought the focus should be the two-way street idea. So the city will send out another RFP to get a rough idea how big a challenge going back to two-way will be.

A Parting Shot:

- At the end of the meeting, **Mayor Slayter casually handed out to council members [a report from the Publicly-Owned Properties Committee](#)**. **Vice Mayor Hinton immediately asked why the name had been changed from the Pine Grove Committee**. Council Member Carnacchi supported her and said it was time to disband the sub-committee completely. Mayor Slayter, Council Member Gurney and the City Manager/Attorney tried to defend the change with volleys of rationals that only made those changes appear more suspicious. So if you see something titled Publicly-Owned Properties Committee, think Pine Grove Square. [It lives! It lives!](#)

Elapsed Time: 3:50 hours (6:00–9:50pm)

Next City Council meeting is July 17, 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