



# Sebastopol Citizens

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

## Sebastopol City Council Meeting September 19, 2017 – Synopsis and Commentary

All Council members were present.

### Proclamations/Presentations:

- September 22-28 was proclaimed [Falls Prevention Awareness Week](#).

### Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- Two residents of Flynn Street echoed past complaints about inappropriate graffiti on the **designated graffiti wall**. Also about beer-swilling adults with spray cans, cans of paint left in the public trash cans, and a general unhealthy feeling for children there.
- Another speaker addressed the planned removal of the signs along Bodega Avenue. (See the last item on the Consent Calendar.)
- Another speaker launched her usual harangue at the council for not correcting things most of us know are out of their control—like the Afghanistan war. She pops up every now and then with this same tired old wheeze. **Yo, mail it in!**
- This was all trumped by a fellow who mumbled his way through an array of integers to what end was likely known only to him. One thing was clear though—mainly because he repeated it. He stated that former President “**Obama has a CIA tattoo on his ass.**” How the gentleman became intimate with the former president’s posterior remained unstated. Anyway, who are we to criticize. But surely we all now look forward to his report as to the ornamentation of President Trump’s tush. Anyone care to guess? Send your entry to: [john\\_n@sebastopolcitizens.org](mailto:john_n@sebastopolcitizens.org).

### Consent Calendar: (All approved 5:0)

- **Design Review Board** members **Lars Langberg, Christine Level and Lynn Deedler** are terming out on December 31<sup>st</sup>. If you are interested in serving, the City will open the application process from September 27<sup>th</sup> to November 8<sup>th</sup>. Applications will be available on the city website.
- **Planning Commission** member **Robert Jacob, former mayor and Council member** has resigned because he is moving out of the 95472 zip code. The City will open the application process from September 27<sup>th</sup> to November 8<sup>th</sup>. Applications will be available on the city website.
- The Council authorized the purchase of a new [Kubota F3990](#) mower for \$24,287.
- Approved was a request for bids to install a [HAWK pedestrian crossing beacon](#) at [Bodega Avenue and Nelson Way](#). The cost is \$271,876 and includes some improvements to the median strip and curbs. That’s up from the original \$187,400 because of market pressures over which the City has no control.
- There was approval of a formal resolution and contract, which is required by Caltrans, for the

[artwork of Ned Khan](#) that will be installed on the eastern side of the new bridge.

- The City approved the transfer of waste disposal and street sweeping to [Recology](#) from our current provider, [Empire Disposal](#). Recology is scheduled to acquire Empire disposal in October of 2017.
- The City Council Farmers' Market Table will continue through this October. After picking up your rutabagas, stop by the table and have a chat with a council member or city employee.
- The signs be gone. Rescinded was the policy that allowed nonprofits so erect signs on the [grass strip on Bodega Avenue](#) heading east into town.

### Regular Agenda Items:

- The way an item gets on the agenda was updated, discussed, and slightly modified. It will be back for a vote. As it stands, any member of the public may **request** that an item be placed on the agenda, but it must be submitted in writing to a council member willing to sponsor it. It must also be approved by the agenda review committee consisting of the mayor, vice mayor, city manager and the assistant city manager/city clerk. **So, if you see some loopy item** appear on the agenda, these are the culprits. And members of the public may **request only** that an item be pulled from the **Consent Calendar** for discussion. But it will take a council member to actually pull it. Almost always, items on the Consent Calendar have been vetted at least once at some previous meeting. Letting the public directly pull it for discussion yet again is not a good idea. Even Thomas Jefferson didn't believe in a pure democracy.
- Direction was given to the mayor by the Council on just how they wanted her to vote on a few items in the upcoming Mayors and Council members Association meeting.

### City Council Reports:

- **City Manager:** The ADA ramp project will be done in the spring, in stages and at night—not during the Christmas holidays.
- **Council Member Gurney:** [There will be an open house](#) discussing the effects of possible sea-level rise on Hwy. 37 on Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> at the Sonoma Veterans Memorial Building, 126 First St. West, Sonoma from 6 to 8pm.

### A Parting Shot:

- If those signs on Bodega Avenue are removed, does that include the [Nuclear Free Zone](#) sign? Let's hope not. It's our **first-line defense against North Korea**. (Hmmm...what do you suppose is tattooed on ..... Well never mind about that now.)

Elapsed Time: 2:00 hours (6:00–8:00pm)

Next City Council meeting is October 3, 2017 at the Teen Center, 425 Morris Street at 6:00pm.

You can view this meeting and others at: <https://livestream.com/accounts/14608643>.

**John Necker**

[SebastopolCitizens.org](http://SebastopolCitizens.org)