

Sebastopol City Council Meeting – April 2, 2013 – Synopsis and Commentary

Vice Mayor Jacob was absent.

Proclamations/Presentations

Mayor Kyes proclaimed April as Child Abuse Prevention month. He also proclaimed April 22nd as Earth Day in Sebastopol.

Public Comments

In a very polite manner, one speaker questioned if the steps the City has taken with Smart Meters is proportionate to dangers that are claimed. Had he delivered his remarks at the February 19th meeting, when the room was overflowing with [Neo-Ludites](#), he might have discovered some new dangers about suggesting a rational discussion of Smart Meters.

At this meeting though, there were only about ten members of the public attending. Unfortunately, one of them, who clings to the microphone like a tick to a hound dog, had to, yet again, warn us all about wireless radiation and the eminent apocalypse by Lyme disease.

Another speaker castigated the local police and the FBI for NOT wiretapping her phone.

Discussion and Action

Council Member Gurney introduced discussion on changing qualifications for the Planning Commission to allow seating of someone who is not a citizen of Sebastopol or a business owner here.

One public speaker made some good arguments for this idea citing that many who live on the outskirts of town do feel that they are part of Sebastopol. That is the up side. The other is that it may give the majority of the Council an opportunity to pack the Planning Commission with another political supporter.

Points by Council Members:

Eder:

Expanding it beyond seven members is not a good idea
Expanding the boundaries will open diversity to the commission
Not comfortable with it "...being a carte blanche..." seat.

Slater:

It should be left as is.
Possibly OK with a non voting advisory seat

Kyes:

We don't need borders.
We could make the border the Oregon State line (I'm not making this up!)
See no reason to put any kind of boundaries on applicants.

Gurney:

Seemed to be OK with most ideas-just wanted to add that extra seat
OK with using the 95472 Zip Code as a boundary

By a 4:1 vote (Slater in the minority) it went back to staff for wordsmithing. It will be back and it will pass-probably 4:1.

On a 4:0 vote, the City will produce an RFP (Request for Proposal) to find a possible Information Officer. Since we don't have any money, this is a long way from happening but it might happen as a part-time job. It will be interesting to see who that plum is handed to.

Closed Session

For a change, this did not appear to be new litigation.

Note: This meeting lasted less than two hours. Well done, City Council!

John Necker