

Sebastopol City Council Meeting February 2, 2016 – Synopsis and Commentary

All Council Members were present.

Proclamations/Presentations:

Presentations of appreciation were awarded to outgoing Public Arts and Planning Commission members. GPAC committee members were also recognized.

Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- A speaker asked for a crosswalk somewhere between Napa Auto Parts and Morris Street to reduce his walking time. (Really? We'll get right on it.)
- The next half dozen or so (including the one who literally did a song and dance for us) asked for a stoplight at Burbank Heights. Recently, a lady was struck in the crosswalk by a car. Maybe this would be a good solution. Let the cars travel at 45mph. This will rectify an unnaturally slow speed limit there and also **STOP** the cars when people want to cross.
- The Analy 1-4-1 Club will present Calvin Terrell plus a pasta feed on March 3rd. [More information here.](#)

Consent Calendar: (Approved without comment 5:0)*

- The Council took the necessary steps to approve the [70th Apple Blossom Festival](#) on April 16th and 17th.
- The Council rejected a trip-and fall-claim for \$1,000 from a Cazadero resident.
- The City will move ahead with a new website to be redesigned and maintained by [Planeteria](#). The cost for the project is **\$40,000**.
- At **Police Chief Weaver's** urging, the Council will launch a **\$22,932** grant-funded effort to reduce the access to alcohol by Sebastopol youths. Diane Davis will enter into a contract with the City to implement this program. So, if you serve or sell alcoholic drinks, you had better sharpen up your “carding” skills. Maybe something like this would be a **good idea for marijuana** too. See [Bob Norberg's 2013 Press Democrat](#) article here.

***Council Member Eder** found some insignificant typos in last meeting's notes, not related to him, that he wanted changed. So now the **City Clerk** will have to review the tape of the meeting and change those few words—in her spare time no doubt! This is becoming a **bad habit** of his.

Regular Agenda Items:

- The Council discussed spending \$4,525 to have [Daily Acts](#) hold a workshop designed to show us how to conserve rainwater. It turns out the City department of Cittaslow thought this a good idea and so **Mayor Gurney** and **Vice Mayor Glass** complied and put it on the agenda. **Council Member Slayter** questioned the cost of the workshop and stated the project must be done on a public building so the City can benefit from the result of the demonstration. It passed 5:0. Oh, and that \$4,525? **It did not come out of Cittaslow's budget.** [Collecting rainwater](#) isn't difficult. Storing and redistributing it is the big problem.
- The mid-year budget was adjusted. The City is doing a good job of making this process more understandable to us mere mortals. The short story is we are in the black, things are looking up but we should still be frugal.
- The Council appointed Paul Fritz to the **Planning Commission** to fill an unexpected vacancy.
- Every year the **Sonoma County Mayors' and Council Members' Association** ask each city

for suggestions of issues of significance that merit discussion. Our Council did not like the wording the Association used, thinking it, as Glass put it, **“not a good legislative process.”** And the Council will tell them so when it submits its “educational” ideas about composting, water, affordable housing, and rent control among other things.

- Direction was given to the Mayor about whom to vote for to fill a position on a board of the above association.
- A Council committee assignment was made.
- [Council goals and priorities](#) were reviewed and re-adopted.

Council Communications:

The City Manager announced that he has received **an email from CVS** stating they plan to start pulling building permits within two weeks. **Eder immediately asked to see the site plan and elevations.** During the CVS debacle, Eder often started his statements with “I'm not an architect but...” and it looks like we are in for some more of that. He ain't no [Frank Lloyd Wright](#).

A Parting Shot:

During the budget adjustment, **some delayed items were funded.** The City will probably hire an employee to help in the finance department, install some flashing lights on Hwy 12 near Burbank Housing, hire a consultant for **Pine Grove Square** (aka the much-hoped-for new City Hall in the parking lot near the Chamber of Commerce), put \$50,000 in the street-repair kitty, and squirrel away some money in the general fund. **Council Member Jacob** wanted to allocate \$28,000 for an economic developer position. **Gurney wisely argued** against doing that now, considering there isn't even a job description for the position yet. She prevailed 4:1 with Jacob in the minority.

Closed Session:

This may have something to do with the City contemplating a new hire in finance.

Elapsed Time: 4:00 (6:10–10:10pm)

The next [City Council/Planning Commission meeting](#) is February 9, 2016 at the Teen Center, 425 Morris Street at 6:00pm.

John Necker