

Sebastopol City Council Meeting – September 2, 2014 – Synopsis and Commentary

Council members Glass and Slayter were away attending the [League of California Cities Conference](#).

Proclamations: Glen Schainblatt, building inspector, was recognized for ten years of service to the City. He has many certificates, been praised by FEMA, and has been, and will continue to be, on part-time loan to Napa to assist their inspection team.

Public Comment: (aka open mike)

Did you know that the Pentagon not only has the ability to create [zombies](#) but also can do it in specific zip codes? That was one person's public comment. Before you just dismiss this idea, consider zip code [20510](#). And remember your **First Sergeant**, he with his nose a quarter of an inch from yours yelling unintelligibly, his eyes bulging out, and his arms flailing in the air. Did he seem completely human to you?

To give even more credence to the previous speaker's claim, an old favorite showed up with his skill who, herself, spoke in a zombie-like monotone. Then he spoke, quoting the Constitution of the United States like Jefferson himself (including numbers!). Unfortunately his point got lost somewhere between meandering and mumbling. He offered to stay "to the end of the meeting" and explain his plan to "restore democracy and save this country." He left the meeting within minutes of that offer. Well, the Giants were playing.

Another speaker started with "I never know what I'm going to talk about until I get here" and when he finished speaking things hadn't changed.

Of course there were others and so we lost over twenty minutes.

Consent Calendar:

1. Rejection of a claim for a fender bender involving a police vehicle responding to a code 3 call. These sorts of issues are typically rejected and just handed off to the City's insurer.
2. A delay in the filling of vacancies on the Arts Committee.
3. The next phase of the library/city hall landscaping project will be completed with the \$8,860.00 in donations that were received. Phase two will cost about \$34,000 but there are no funds available.
4. Landfill - Republic Services of Sonoma County ([owned by Republic Services](#)) will run the landfill for 20 years and Sebastopol agreed to send its waste there.
5. Allow a 5.5% salary increase for City employees who obtain certain job-related State certificates.
6. Award the contract to replace the roof at city hall to Wedge Roofing (\$26,000). During the bidding process, the staff became aware of another process that would allow refurbishing the roof without replacing it and still get a 15 year manufacturer's warranty. This is a significant saving to the City of about **\$45,000**. A tip of the hat to Public Works for considering it and Wedge Roofing for suggesting it.
7. **League of California Cities** is asking for support of a resolution calling upon the Governor and Legislature to address the damage incurred by **marijuana growth** on private and public lands. As mentioned in our [August 5th summary](#), this is a direct threat to **Mayor Jacob's suppliers** so he isn't going to like it. He and Council Members Gurney and Eder condemned the damage done by illegal pot growth while presenting those growers (your Council referred to them as "cultivators") as victims of a poor marijuana policy. Our pot policies need some work alright,

but how [could you not support something that might mitigate this?](#)

8. Arnold Construction won the bid to treat the naturally occurring arsenic in well number 7 (\$910,000) to bring it into compliance with Federal and State law.

Public Hearings:

- Even though Sebastopol has been doing an excellent job over the years of conserving water, it still must comply with the new State law and is being treated no differently than some other cities that were less cautious. *No good deed goes unpunished!* At this point, complying should not be difficult. You probably already are. [See the details here](#). Page three cuts right to the chase.

Discussion and Action Items:

- Council members are allowed \$610.00 each for Council Initiative Funds, money they can give directly to their favorite groups, such as the Fire Department, Analy Student Leadership Conference and, oh yes, the indispensable Citta Slow.

And some more lingering business was cleaned up in the wake of the Governor's dissolution of the Community Development Agencies.

There will be closed City Council sessions on September 8th and 16th.

A Parting Shot!

One of our EMF gadflies has a habit of sitting out in the foyer to observe the Council meetings. She shuts off the lights, presumably to protect what's left of her brain from the EMF. It's dark there and if a trip and fall incident occurs, it will be the City that bears the brunt of the lawsuit.

John Necker

Duration 1:45 (Love it!!!)