



Sebastopol Citizens

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

Sebastopol City Council Meeting February 20, 2018 – Synopsis and Commentary

- Council Member Carnacchi was absent.
- Mayor Slayter made an opening statement about the recent shootings, guns and the safety of children at school.

Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- Two speakers urged the council to keep moving forward with the improvements at the Ragle/Bodega crosswalk.
- A speaker from the Farmers' Market warned about the loose bricks in the plaza causing a hazard and the need for more signs to ensure no cars would park in the plaza when the market opened.
- Alas, the other speakers were still in a panic about EMF and garden variety conspiracies. The frequent aluminum foil clad warrior, while bemoaning her **sensitivities** to EMF, was **insensitive** enough to reference it in the same breath as the Florida shooting.
- One of the conspiracy/EMF speakers unnecessarily lectured the mayor about the details of the [AR15](#), comparing it to a .22 rifle and then reminding him of the Second Amendment which was ratified in 1791 [when this was an “AR15” rifle](#). And, yo, if you need more than one shot for self-defense, you need to calm yourself and spend more time on the range.

Informational Items/ Presentation:

- [Badawi and Associates](#) presented the city's annual audit report for the year ending June 30 2017 and assured us everything is in order.

Public Hearing: (Passed 4:0)

- A discussion was heard of the comprehensive update to the city's pot ordinance – which draws largely from the City of Santa Rosa's ordinance. The council moved very carefully here, acknowledging the possibilities of unforeseen consequence. It voted to replace the urgency ordinance with a permanent ordinance. Changes to that ordinance include no more than four pot events per year (on city or private property), the two existing pot stores will be allowed to deliver as well as two independent delivery businesses. No engineered odor-control will be required for products that are sealed. While there was no odor of pot in the air during the evening, [a strong aroma of budding money](#) wafted from some in attendance. The ordinance will drift back for final approval.

Regular Agenda Items:

- The consideration of Armstrong Development's application for a two-tenant 4,400 square foot building on the CVS property was continued to the March 20th meeting because the city has not yet received the plans. Armstrong and CVS are entitled to do this as part of the settlement resulting from the CVS building debacle that cost the city more than \$336,000. For those of you

who missed this or have successfully suppressed its memory but whose masochist tenancies must be obeyed, here is a link to [Mary Callahan's Press Democrat article](#).

- The council approved a recommendation from the Public Arts Committee to find someone to hang some art on the front of the library. The city's "Art-In-Lieu-Fee Fund" has a sufficient balance to cover the \$40,000 project. \$3,000 would go to each of the three finalists and \$35,000 to the winner and the remainder for "other costs." It will be budgeted for the 2018-19 fiscal year. (Approved 4:0)
- Vice-mayor Hinton asked the council to consider placing "Every Day Heroes" banners on city light poles that feature "a special person or group of people who have contributed to the community and **represent the values** of the City of Sebastopol." It will go to committee and come back later as a more detailed proposal. (Passed 4:0)
- Council Member Gurney proposed and the council concurred, to approve and distribute a "[Sound like a fit?](#)" brochure pitching the City of Sebastopol. This seems to be a departure from the multiple choice litmus test that the city was considering in the past. It's a very slick production but **failed to list just what our official values are**. (Accepted 4:1 with Mayor Slayter in the minority – liking the idea but not so much the design of the product.)

City Council Reports:

A Parting Shot:

Elapsed Time: 4:10 hours (6:00–10:10pm)

Next City Council meeting is March 6, 2018 at the Teen Center, 425 Morris Street at 6 pm.

Your can view this meeting and others at: <http://bit.ly/sebcctv>.

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