



Sebastopol Citizens

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

Sebastopol City Council Meeting March 21, 2016 – Synopsis and Commentary

All Council members were present.

Proclamations/Presentations:

- March 19-27 was proclaimed [National Surveyors Week](#).

Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- No speakers but what was gained here was later lost.*

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

- The cost sharing agreement between the City and the police continues to wind through the bowels of CalPERS. It would have been easier to just do a cash under the table deal!
- The Council adopted changes in its Granny Unit ordinance to accommodate the State of California.
- The property at 160 Pleasant Hill Road received its final blessing for a zoning change.
- Team Ghilotti was awarded the contract to repair the flashing crosswalk at the library. The cost is \$148,403.
- The Council will fire off a letter supporting Teresa Barrett for reappointment to [LAFCO](#).
- A position of Lead Police Dispatcher was finalized. Let's hope CalPERS doesn't notice.
- The City included itself in the [PACE](#) program.

Informational Items/ Presentation:

- Cittaslow spoke about its [Time Bank Program](#).

Public Hearing: (Passed 5:0.)

- The Council moved ahead with the annexation of [Tomodachi Park](#) and changed its zoning as well as that of the Village Mobile Home Park after satisfying some last minute LAFCO requirements.

Regular Agenda Items: (Passed 5:0.)

- The Council approved a draft agreement with West County Community Services (WCCS) to manage the [Village Mobile Home Park](#) and provide housing for 12 – 24 homeless people. The City has been **losing about \$65,000 a year** on the operation. A sub-committee (consisting of

Council Members Gurney and Hinton, former mayor Jacob, the Planning Director, City manger and City Clerk), recommended **granting \$95,800** to WCCS. \$75,000 was already budgeted for the park before this idea was broached. [Read the official staff report here](#). The goal for the first year of WCCS’ management is a 20% reduction in cost to the City with the long term goal of reducing the cost to zero. OK, that’s a lot of money but is it not time to get that place cleaned up? Here’s how it falls out:

City grant to WCCS	\$95,800.
2016/17 Budget Adjustment	\$7,500.
Capital Improvement Budget	<u>\$154,751.</u>
	\$258,051.

The Housing In-Lieu Fund and the Housing Linkage fund, both earmarked for a project similar to this, will more than cover the total – although **“the Council may choose to allocate money from the General Fund.”** Read more details here by [Bleys Rose at the Sonoma West Times and News](#).

City Council Reports:

- *Ignoring the adage “If you don’t have something to say, don’t say it”, every council member then engaged in a session of gratuitous gabbing. While show-and-tell is pretty darned cute coming from a eight year old it has the opposite effect when it erupts from an adult. Didn’t former President Obama outlaw “waddaboring people?”

A Parting Shot:

- Although **Cittaslow’s** Time Bank Program appears to be in the black, we received no statement about its other bank. First, my apologies for having referred to it as “your \$10,000 agency” when it is, in fact, your \$20,000 agency. Second, the numbers below are not a leak from a bureaucrat trying to destroy the city government. They are public records of what was budgeted and what was spent.

2013/14 Budget \$20,000 Spent \$17,837.07
2014/15 Budget \$18,000 Spent \$17,932.58
2015/16 Budget \$20,000 Spent \$12,543.40
2016/17 Budget \$27,125 Spent to date \$9,310.21

[That got us the time bank and these other projects.](#)

Elapsed Time: 2:30 hours (6:00–8:30pm)

Next City Council meeting is April 4, 2017 at the Teen Center, 425 Morris Street at 6:00pm.

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

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