



Sebastopol Citizens

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

Sebastopol City Council Meeting November 21, 2017 – Synopsis and Commentary

Council Member Gurney was absent.

Proclamations/Presentations:

- We were introduced to Sergeant David Harston who has returned to us after a brief stint with the sheriff's office. Reserve officer Ethan Stockton was also introduced. There is no difference between a reserve and a full-time officer, except the little detail that the **reserve does not get paid**. This info might get you a little angle if he pulls you over. Maybe not cash but rather an offer of lunch or at least a donut. Some even keep a box of donuts in their cars to [throw out like chaff](#) if they are being pursued. It seems to work pretty well – ah... according to my sources.
- Diana Rich, director of the Community Center is retiring and was honored for her 10 years of service – [some years more fun than others](#).

Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- A handicapped fellow who is slowly recovering from a serious auto collision complained that he was ticketed and fined \$270 for parking his car in the [cross hash markings](#) in the handicap parking zone. He asked for and was granted a meeting with city officials about it.

Consent Calendar: (Approved 4:0)

- A man claimed he tripped and fell over some bricks at the Mario Savio Free Speech Plaza (aka the Downtown Plaza), breaking his arm in the process. Well, speech there may be free, but he wants to be paid at least \$10,000 for his “pain & suffering.” The Council rejected his claim and handed it off to the insurance company.
- This was a “no brainer.” The Council will accept a \$20,000 grant from the Department of Forestry to provide [protective pants and coats](#) for all of our volunteer firefighters. The specific gear was not called out but my choice would be the one that also provides [EMF and chem trail protection while fighting fires](#).
- The Council took formal steps to limit the city's liability related to design and construction of public improvements. This will not protect them if they poke a [stick into the CVS hornet nest again!](#)
- The Council awarded a **\$245,000** contract to [Mike Brown Electric Company](#) to install a [HAWK flashing light](#) at [Bodega and Nelson Way](#).

Regular Agenda Items:

- **Mayor Glass and Vice Mayor Slayter**, the housing committee, reported on meetings held prior to the fires and later ideas about housing in Sebastopol for those displaced by the fires. The Council had several ideas about improving things on a temporary basis to aid fire victims and other ideas about long-term solutions. **Council Member Hinton** expressed some frustration that things couldn't happen sooner, so the planning director will try to expedite some priority

items. But if she thinks the planning director has any spare time on his hands, she isn't paying attention.

- The mayor will be sending a letter to Caltrans expressing the city's concern about upcoming work to sidewalks, crosswalks and ADA ramps along Highway 116. All members of the Council, a few speakers, and evidently many downtown merchants are concerned about how Caltrans is going about the process. There are seven points the Council would like addressed and [you may see them on page two of this document](#). Since the city has agreed to upgrade the ADA ramps in turn for Caltrans providing bike lane markings, it will be interesting to see if discussions jeopardize that agreement. (Approved 4:0).

Parting Shot:

- **OK, my apologies.** After receiving much criticism from the editorial staff, they forced me to admit that the only police officer ever observed by me having **any** [interest in donuts is this one](#).

Elapsed Time: 3:00 hours (6:00–9:00pm)

Next City Council meeting is December 5, 2017 at the Teen Center, 425 Morris Street at 6:00pm.

You may view this meeting and others at: <http://bit.ly/sebcctv>.

John Necker
SebastopolCitizens.org