



Sebastopol Citizens

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

Sebastopol City Council Meeting January 3, 2017 – Synopsis and Commentary

Council Member Hinton was absent.

Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- Nothing! Nada! Nista! And this applies to *every* item on the agenda.

Consent Calendar: (Approved 4:0)

- The Council rejected a claim by Allstate Insurance for Nicholle Galvan alleging that a Sebastopol Police officer damaged the claimant's car's rear quarter panel with a flashlight.
- Approved was the amending of the City marijuana ordinance to allow Traditional Living, Inc. to open a new marijuana store at [785 Gravenstein Highway South](#). Other related amendments were also made.
- Also approved was a [list of agenda items](#) that the Council has reviewed and/or acted upon in the last calendar year.

Informational Items/ Presentation:

- **Outreach Coordinator Holly Hansen** gave her semi-annual report. Her job is to push Sebastopol out to the media—in both print and digital formats. There are many other things in which she is involved. Two of them create a more transparent city government. One is her work on the new city website that makes information much easier to find. And the other, at the urging of Mayor Glass, is a much-improved [livestream of the council meetings](#). If, for some nearly unforgivable reason, you can't sit down every other Tuesday and watch it live, you can watch the delayed broadcast. (Hoping for slow-mo and instant replay soon.) You can now pay your water and sewer bill online too.
- **Cittaslow also gave its report.** There were some interesting items, such as a meeting with non-profits in town to see how they could work together, and a less interesting analysis of Cittaslow's website activity. **The most interesting item** was their development of something nicely titled a “**Community Vision Questionnaire.**” It will be a **list of questions** anyone wanting to start a business in town will be **required to complete**. While completion of the checklist is mandatory, it is “only to provide a basis for the business to describe itself and **spark a conversation.**” Cittaslow was quick to reassure that this litmus test would have no “regulatory impact” but did state that “the more items they check, the more aligned they are with the General Plan and community concerns. There are no demerits in the process.” Well, how many unchecked items would warrant a cool reception if not a demerit? And what happens if a business doesn't want to fill out the questionnaire or gives answers that the City Department of Cittaslow doesn't like and then still applies for a permit as a jackhammer repair shop downtown? **Then will it be “conversation” or “conflagration?”**

Regular Agenda Items:

- The Council discussed the process to appoint someone to the [Sonoma County Transportation Authority/Regional Climate Protection Agency](#). Check this out. If you are interested in representing the City, [contact the City Clerk pronto](#). The paperwork must be in by January 11.
- Dates for future city council meetings were approved.

Closed Session:

- There was a discussion of the existing litigation that SHARP has brought against the City of Sebastopol. [More information by Amie Windsor in the Sonoma West Times and News here](#).

A Parting Shot:

- As the evidence above shows, it was a sparse crowd for the meeting. Maybe all of the folks who fear EMF, government plots and fear itself are all afraid of the rain. [The very thought of it had me dancing all the way home](#).
- To keep up with this in-coming storm you may go to [our website](#) and click on the weather link or just [click here](#).
- To follow an upcoming storm of a different nature you may [click here](#).

Elapsed Time: **1:15!** hours (6:00–7:15pm)

Next City Council meeting is January 10, 2017 at City Hall from 8:00–10:00am when **goals and priorities for the Council will be set**.

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

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