



Sebastopol Citizens

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

Sebastopol City Council Meeting, May 3, 2016 – Synopsis and Commentary

Robert Jacob is on extended leave. All other Council members were present.

Proclamations/Presentations:

- Years of Service Awards were given to two firefighters: Richard Ressler (10 years) and Steven Grant (25 years).
- The Council endorsed the [Community Resilience Challenge](#), declared May Building Safety Month and also Drowning Prevention Month. The Council also declared May 1–7 Annual Municipal Clerks Month. May 15–21 was proclaimed Public Works Week. May 16–20 was proclaimed Bike To Work Week and May 20th Bike To Work Day. Here are several members of [SebastopolCitizens.org riding to work on Bike Day last year](#).

Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- There was one speaker, a local gadfly, who simplifies world problems, solves them in an even simpler fashion, and then expects the Council to march right out and follow her instructions. She also has a tendency to expose some distasteful events in her personal life, real or imagined. You will be spared all of it here.

Consent Calendar: (Approved 4:0 without discussion.)

- The Council approved a resolution to apply for an \$8,842 grant from both the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Sonoma County Transportation Authority for bike lanes. The total cost for the bike lanes is \$595,179. The bulk of that will come from the City's Traffic Impact Fund.

Informational Items/Presentation:

- What was won by the dearth of speakers in the Public Comment portion of the meeting was lost here. An appeal of the [Planning Commission's granting of a permit](#) to erect a [KOWS](#) radio antenna on city property at [1281 Pleasant Hill Road](#) was made by [SHARP](#). **This item ran from 7:00pm to 10:30pm.** For reasons known only to them, the SHARP alliance thought they needed over an **hour and a half to make their point**. It mostly consisted of their objections being stated and restated by about a dozen people. They objected to the height, noncompliance with various laws and the General Plan, property values, and other lesser evils. And they played the hole card—EMF **junk science**. It really boiled down to this: the SHARP alliance just doesn't want to look at a tower, which, in spite of all the smoke they laid down, is a legitimate complaint that should have been their focus. **KOWS rebutted all this in less than half the time** but then came the public comment, which netted over 30 speakers.

By law, the Council is required to rule on this within 30 days of it being considered, unless the applicant and the appellant agree to an extension. **Mayor Gurney**, citing the hour and a heavy

Council workload (including the City budget), asked for an extension to July 7th. KOWS was agreeable to a possible May 31st date or the Council's preferred July 7th date. SHARP, stating that they wanted "to hold the Council's feet to the fire" on this, would agree only to a May 31st date. **Unwise.** A special meeting will be set for that date.

- Some other minor business was dealt with or postponed.

Closed Session: Conference with labor negotiators.

A Parting Shot:

- At about 10:45pm, basking in the glow of my Android phone that had recently informed me that the Warriors had defeated the hated Trail Blazers, the **Queen of the EMF Harpies** uncloaked in front of me, jabbering about **junk science** and waving literature in my face. She completely ignored the fact that not only was the council meeting in session but the mayor was speaking. My request for her to cease and desist was ignored. Retreating to another seat, I was sorely tempted to [set my cell phone to stun and let her have it!](#)

Elapsed Time: 5 hours (6:00pm–11:00pm)

Next City Council Meeting is May 17, 2016 at the Teen Center, 425 Morris Street at 6:00pm.

John Necker
SebastopolCitizens.org