



# Sebastopol Citizens

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

## Sebastopol City Council Meeting October 3, 2017 – Synopsis and Commentary

### Proclamations/Presentations:

- October 15 to 21 was proclaimed [Freedom From Workplace Bullies Week](#).
- October was proclaimed [Domestic Violence Awareness Month](#).
- October was also declared [Chamber of Commerce Month](#).
- The [Ukrainian Open World Delegates](#) were welcomed.

### Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- Full disclosure here: One comment relating to the domestic violence proclamation was completely inappropriate and self-serving and you will be spared the details here. It's on the city website if you must hear it.
- The EMF (aka electronically misinformed folks) urged us all to oppose [SB 649](#) – for all the wrong reasons. The real danger lies with the city losing its right to govern utilities within its borders, not in the alt facts science of the EMF proponents. Politics makes strange bedfellows, no?
- One speaker wanted to ban all “fossil fuels” related to landscaping tools. As a certified fossil, my suspicions were aroused as to exactly which of my fuels he finds objectionable. Gin?
- Then there was the usual gadfly rant at the Council for not solving all of the world's problems.

### Consent Calendar: (All eventually approved 5:0)

- Updated agenda procedures were adopted.
- The [Natchez Crape Myrtle](#) was declared the official Main Street tree, replacing the less hearty Flowering Pear, which will be “termed out” by death, disease, damage or other factors.
- The Council authorized awarding a **\$1,297,777.77** to [Team Ghilotti](#) to replace selected ailing sewer and water lines. The cost will be covered by our much-improved sewer and water funds.
- The city has accepted the ADA improvements at Ives Park and the pool.
- A request for bids to renovate the Ives Pool bathhouse was also approved.
- **Council Member Carnacchi** pulled the “agenda” item for discussion. He wanted clarification on just how to do that very thing for just a quick question without actually pulling it, which sends it to the end of the night's agenda... if you are following me here. **Council Member Gurney** suggested since the consent calendar was available well before the Council meeting, he could simply contact staff *before* the meeting. He seemed satisfied with that plan.
- **Council Member Hinton** pulled the “tree” item to encourage a more aggressive replacement schedule. Staff indicated they would do their best to accommodate but there are many trees (at \$150 each) and few dollars. Okay then, count me in for a \$150 donation if *you* organize it. Maybe you could crowd fund it as **“Myrtle of Main Street needs our help.”** Come on, who's

going to know you are talking about a tree?

**Regular Agenda Items:**

- Increased safety measures at Ragle Road and Bodega Avenue were discussed. This was moving in the direction of a four way stop until five members of the adjacent neighborhood objected. Their concern was the probable increased traffic noise, exhaust and long back-ups that might tempt drivers to take a shortcut using [Valley View Drive and Ragle Avenue South](#). Instead, the City will move ahead with a [RRFB](#) with the idea of eventually installing a stop light system.
- **Mayor Glass with Council Members Gurney and Slayter funded** the nascent [Sonoma County Secure Families Fund](#) at **\$10,000 a year** with the probability of doing it for another two years. **Council Members Carnacchi and Hinton voted no**, not willing to spend that sort of money on yet another **unproven organization** when there are many needs here at home.

**City Council Reports:**

- At 9:50pm, this took about 20 minutes, mostly by **Council Member Hinton's** details about the League of California Cities meeting. **Council Member Gurney** did help out by doing a point-by-point review of an overly generalized magazine article about the Millennial generation that she tied into planning mass transportation for them and not owning a car. Funny how these reports are so much more interesting at 8:40pm.

Elapsed Time: 4:15 hours (6:00–10:15pm)

**Closed Session:** There is anticipated litigation.

Next City Council meeting is October 17, 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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