

Sebastopol *Special* City Council Meeting June 30, 2015 – Synopsis and Commentary

All Council members were present.

Open Mike:

- **Police Chief Weaver** found \$84,000 in grant money to help continue Analy High School's 1:4:1 program that encourages youth to avoid drinking and drugs. And the money comes from the seized property of drug dealers. Perfect! [Find out more in Guy Kovner's April 22, 2013 Press Democrat article.](#)
- And then there was the fellow who wants to, somehow, get the sound of a train coming down Main Street at High Noon. He seems to have it all figured out. It's just that his logic wasn't all that easy to follow. [Here are some folks already waiting for that train.](#)

Discussion and Action Items:

- City personnel agreements are amended from time to time and that is what was being discussed here.

Sebastopol Police Officers Association (SPOA) will receive a 2% cost of living increase effective July 1, 2015 and another 2% increase effective January 1, 2016. The City also agreed to split the cost of the increase in the SPOA Kaiser Health plan. The "floating holiday" was extended to 20 hours and the funeral leave was broadened somewhat.

The Service Employees International Union (SEIU) will receive a 2% cost of living increase on July 1. Those on standby will continue to receive \$400 for each week on standby, plus two hours overtime for each of the days the department is closed, and a minimum of two hours for each actual call-out plus the use of a City vehicle. Their clothing allowance will be paid yearly, the health plan and funeral leave will be like that of the SPOA and they will be offered a retirement health savings plan.

Unrepresented employees will receive a 2.6% increase July 1. Health insurance and funeral leave will be as mentioned above. Instead of health insurance, they can receive a 20% salary increase or a deferred compensation of 25%. This all passed 5:0.

- City employee payrates were approved.
- The 2015-16 budget was approved, but not without some last-minute nonsense. Just as we all thought **Mayor Slayter** was going to call for a vote, he instead called for some extra money for one of his favorite organizations. He proposed taking money from other organizations to get what he wanted. **Council Member Glass** was reluctant, saying that doing so under the pressure of having to pass the budget tonight might have some unintended consequences. The rest of the Council agreed. So the mayor asked the city manager if the money could be withdrawn from the reserve funds. The answer was "yes." But before the mayor got his hand in the cookie jar, **Council Member Eder** came to the rescue, pledging his entire Initiative Funds to the mayor. The other Council members all chipped in too. Then, instead of just sitting there and remaining the hero of the evening, **Eder** found, buried deep in the budget, the word "forum" that he wanted changed to "outreach." After discussion, the budget was left as it was and passed 5:0.

A Parting Shot:

Do you remember when, a few years ago, the Briar Patch Brigade descended on the blackberries at the Joe Rodota trail and laid waste to the vegetation to such a degree they ran afoul of a few regulatory agencies? Well, the Brigade is pardoned. The pruning did wonders and the berries are back better than ever, showing an abundance of little green fruits that should be ready soon. Expect a report on their ripeness in the next summary.

Elapsed Time: 0:55 (6:00pm-6:55pm)

John Necker