

## Sebastopol City Council Meeting August 4, 2015 – Synopsis and Commentary

Council Member Glass was absent

### Proclamations/Presentations:

- August was proclaimed [Gravenstein Apple Month](#).
- August 9-15 was proclaimed National Health Centers Week.
- Pattie Murphy was given a Years of Service Award (15 years).
- Sue Kelly, Engineering Director, was honored upon her retirement.

### Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- The first speaker again asked the Council to promote “practical stores” in Sebastopol. She also stopped speaking when the three-minute timer sounded. **Following the rules in Sebastopol?** What's up with that?
- The next speaker, a Cleveland Avenue resident, stated that Rotten Robbie was not conforming to the ordinance that governs its operation.
- **Mayor Slayter** again announced that Public Comment was for items not on the agenda and *within the jurisdiction of the City of Sebastopol*. Whoa, if he enforces the jurisdiction clause, how are we going to know about all the plots against us? And you may have noticed some members of the Open Mike clan have been missing lately. My guess is they have gone back to the [mothership](#) for re-programming.

### Consent Calendar: (These all passed 4:0 without discussion.)

- In late 2014, the City asked for bids to implement its ADA plan for city buildings. The request for bids was circulated in November of 2014 and again in March of 2015 **with no response forthcoming**. The City tried again in May of 2015 and finally received *a bid* in June from Craig Williams, a local architect. Well, his office is here in town so he probably knows what he's getting into. Mr. Williams will design and prepare bidding documents for the ADA improvements to ten City buildings, starting with Ives Pool. A Community Development Block Grant will cover his fee of \$61,395.
- The City is moving ahead with its storm water improvements with the help of [GHD, Inc](#). An amendment to their contract was made that capped City approved extra charges at **\$42,000**. This was accomplished in a very calm and civilized manner without the usual wailing and gnashing of teeth over doing **business with a corporation**.
- Yard debris can no longer be trucked to the local dump. (Please pardon my old fashioned and probably politically incorrect term.) Instead, debris will be trucked to “multiple out-of-county facilities.” So our rates are going up.
  - **20 gallon up \$0.98**
  - **32 gallon up \$1.69**
  - **64 gallon up \$3.08**
  - **96 gallon up \$5.14**
- City Council and staff committee assignments were made. There's a lot more to running this city than just council meetings and staff's workweek. For instance, having to sit on several extra boards and committees. One of those is called the **“Sebastopol Disaster Council.”** Ya know, depending on your mindset, you might read that a couple of different ways.

- A new state law requires cities to contract with the Board of Equalization to get any cash back for local charges imposed on consumers of prepaid mobile services.

### **Public Hearings:**

- The City was moving toward canceling its enforcement responsibility for the **Fircrest Mobile Home Park**. In 1963, the City assumed jurisdiction for the park. Amendments to the state health and safety code have left the City with very little to regulate. The many services provided by the Department of Housing and Community Development might better serve the residents and relieve the burden on City staff. But that isn't what the 80 plus residents in attendance wanted. Therefore, the City will remain the enforcement agency on a 4:0 vote. For better or for worse, none of this applies to the **Village Mobile Home Park**, which the City owns, lock, stock and barrel.
- AB2188 amended the **Solar Rights Act** and the City is adjusting to that by moving toward an ordinance that speeds up the permitting process. The City has been doing this for a while now, so not much is to be done here. The City is also investigating a new computer system and software that will allow online tracking of all permits.

### **Regular Agenda Items:**

- On June 2, 2015, the City approved a Capital Improvement Plan that included, among other things, a bike lane on Highway 116. The **\$1,000,000 project** is moving along and should the City be successful with the grant application, it will have to come up with **\$200,000** as its part of the deal. The Council agreed with the Engineering Director to wait until mid October to see if the grant application is successful before continuing to move forward.
- There was a closed session dealing with employee performance evaluation.

### **A Parting Shot:**

- In October of 2013, the [CPUC](#) and PG&E started receiving letters from me questioning the City of Sebastopol's authority to ban smart meters. No response was ever forthcoming. Then last month, after one letter to [Senator Mark McGuire](#), a CPUC liaison from his office answered my question. Basically, in my words, it's this: the CPUC will capitulate to any city in its jurisdiction that passes an ordinance banning smart meters. Well that sets an interesting precedent. **Can the City of Sebastopol now ban wireless routers in the downtown core?**

Elapsed Time 2:30 (6:00pm-8:30pm)

John Necker

PS: Sorry, just a few low-level gafs and no "special people" to liven things up.