

Sebastopol City Council Meeting – December 4, 2012 – Synopsis and Commentary

Council Member Shaffer was not in attendance.

Consent Calendar

The election results were approved as was the sales tax increase.

Presentations

John Eder and Robert Jacob were sworn in to a packed house comprising mostly of their supporters who gave them a standing ovation.

Outgoing Mayor Guy Wilson remarked on the election campaign and some of the negative aspects of it. He felt that the candidates ran a positive campaign although some of their supporters did not. He hoped that now we would pause and "...revalue our regard for each other." He also explained that his vote on the CVS/Chase project was based on the law and was hopeful that people would regard that too. Judging by some of the grumbling of those sitting behind me, maybe he's being overly optimistic.

Next came the nomination and the vote for Mayor. Gurney nominated Kyes, Eder gave it a second and it was a 4:0 vote. Then, in rapid secession, Kyes nominated Robert Jacob for Vice Mayor and Eder gave it a second. The whole process was even better scripted than naming of the Plaza after Mario Savio.

Not only did the other council members not have the good manners to at least nominate Council Member Patrick Slater for either position, they didn't even look at him. Slater showed enough class to make both votes unanimous.

The Brown Act notwithstanding, this is the way things will probably be done for a while. Sebastopol is now under control of a small group of people who appear to have their own definition of representative democracy.

Public Comments

The comments didn't bode well for the earlier hopes of former mayor Guy Wilson as speakers took the usual combative tone about CVS and their plans for stopping the project.

Discussion and Action

The Council again spent a great deal of time discussing the Abbot Street extension idea, (a connector from South main to Abbot and out to the Morris Street intersection) only to discover the obvious-it's going to take years to do and the City doesn't have the money to do the job. It will be back.

What is much more likely to happen, and literally much closer to home, is an ordinance to hold property owners responsible for their sewer lateral all the way to the City main. That too will be back for more discussion

The next City Council meeting will be on Tuesday, December 18.

John Necker