



Sebastopol Citizens

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

Sebastopol City Council Meeting December 4, 2018 – Synopsis and Commentary

- All council members were present.

Proclamations/Presentations:

- Years of service awards went to the following:
 - Erik Billing for five years with the public works department
 - Cameron Fenske for five years with the police department
 - Marc Simpson for 25 years with the fire department
 - Mike Simpson for 25 years with the fire department
 - Timothy McHale for 25 years with the fire department
 - Steve Thibodeau for 35 years with the fire department.

Consent Calendar:

- A resolution declared that Sarah Glade Gurney, Una Glass and Patrick Slayter have been elected to the office of the City of Sebastopol City Council for a four-year term ending in 2022. It also confirmed that the existing, extended 0.5% sales tax will stay in force until the cows come home or until it's repealed by the lowly voters if it defies all odds and somehow manages to get on a ballot. The cows will win this race as they will with the 2% bump in the transient occupancy tax, aka the hotel tax.

Presentation:

- The above triumvirate were all sworn in after they defeated the one and only person who ran for a seat against them with this outcome:

Sarah Glade Gurney	2,869	29.4%
<u>Una JM Glass</u>	2,606	26.7%
Patrick Slayter	2,478	25.4%
Vaughn Richard <u>Higginbotham</u>	1,779	18.2%
Write-in candidate(s)	28	0.3%

- Mayor Slayter gave his outgoing speech.
- Council Member Hinton was appointed mayor.
- Mayor Slayter was appointed vice mayor.

Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- Well, this got interesting. **A lady closely associated with Council Member Carnacchi** criticized the council for not making him the vice mayor. She then displayed her lack of empathy by addressing Council Member Glass by name, stating the newly appointed Council Member Glass was treated much better by the council when she filled the seat of her late husband, former Council Member Kyes.
- Refusing to take his seat after the break, plain ol' Council Member Carnacchi spoke from the public comment launch pad to whine about not being vice mayor. He was angry. He was hurt. And then he was gone. [Council Member Carnacchi left the building.](#)
- The rare ensuing quiet was ruined by the conspiracy/chem trail lady. If nothing else, she can dream 'em up. Be on the alert. Your bank is trying to mutate your DNA with the artificial sweeteners they supply with their coffee. My bank uses a different method to do harm – no coffee but uses an interest rate so small that it may soon qualify for place on the Periodic Table.
- Then the conspiracy/chem trail husband wanted the council to allow applause to support positions taken at public comment. To strengthen his argument, he then lied about the position of past mayors on that subject.
- And just when we thought there was no hope for normalcy, a lady thanked the council for the traffic safety improvements at Bodega Avenue and Ragle Road.
- Another lady voiced her opposition to applauding and hand waving (a la Occupy) because she saw them both as a form of intimidation – which they are. After covering a few of these council meetings, it's been my experience that those who want to applaud or wave are **always in the MAJORITY**. It's a sad comment these last two speakers seemed out of place during public comment—given how things are.

Consent Calendar: (Passed 4:0)

- Roger and Linda Collins became the next inductees to the Locals Who Make a Difference program.
- The council approved a search for an on call consultant to help with telecommunication and environmental issues that fall outside the area of staff expertise.

Regular Agenda Item:

- At the request of Council Members Gurney and the absent Carnacchi, this item had been placed on the agenda for discussion about the cell tower at [501 Petaluma Avenue](#). The residents and EMF irregulars were out in force, grumbling about many things, including Mayor Hinton's merciful two minute limit for each public comment speaker. The comments were generally the same. While some of the professed maladies appeared to be serious, no scientific causal relationship between the cell tower and the maladies at 501 Petaluma Avenue was demonstrated. The council agreed to write a letter to [Crown Castle](#) asking them to shut the tower off, move it or just get rid of it. The city lawyer/manager, trying to avoid another CVS misadventure, cautioned that the city has no jurisdiction in this matter and the Crown Castle lawyers have made that clear to him. **Oh, and your city spent \$700** on a "Certified Building Biologist/Electromagnetic Radiation Specialist", [Liz Menkes](#), to measure radio frequency levels. But was the area scanned for those pesky artificial sweeteners? (Passed 4:0)

Public Hearing:

- The council extended the urgency ordinance in an attempt to ban small cell antennas from being installed on a power pole near you. We aren't talking about a little curly wire atop a pole here. [Click here to check out some of these aesthetically pleasing units.](#) (Passed 4:0)

Regular Agenda Items:

- The council, carefully and cautiously, crept toward a Zero Waste program and how it might affect our fair city. They voted to form a committee with the council stressing community involvement – even with the merchants. Wow! (Passed 5:0 [with Council Member Carnacchi back](#) in the building.)
- The less perilous discussion agreed to setting dates for future meetings and a date for establishing future goals and priorities.
- City council and staff assignments were discussed and set.

City Council Reports:

- An emergency closed session was called to discuss a late breaking potential lawsuit.

A Parting Shot:

- Mayor Hinton seems a little more inclined to run a leaner and more disciplined meeting. And more than one speaker said that some people had been on the council too long. Why, whomever could they mean?

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

Next City Council meeting is December 18, 2018, at the Teen Center, 425 Morris Street at 6:00pm.

Your can view this meeting and others at: <http://bit.ly/sebcctv>.

John Necker

SebastopolCitizens.org