

Sebastopol City Council Meeting – June 4, 2013 – Synopsis and Commentary

All Council Members were present.

Mayor Kyes announced there was nothing to report from the closed session that appeared to be dealing with labor negotiations.

Proclamations:

Police Sergeant Greg DeVore was honored for ten years of service to the City. He started as a community service volunteer in 2002, became a reserve officer in 2003, and then moved to full-time in 2004. Of the thirteen officers on staff, eleven, including the chief, have followed this path to a full-time position.

June has been proclaimed Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month by [President Obama](#) and by the City of Sebastopol.

Public Comment:

A speaker asked for the same recognition for heterosexuals. Well, how politically incorrect can one person be. The icy looks directed at him by the Council dropped the room temperature by several degrees.

Another spoke about the skulduggery of PG&E, which is, apparently, able to send out drone-like power spikes to zap energy-efficient lighting. Wow, the CIA should hire those guys.

The skate park is trying to get more family involvement at the facility and is looking for people with youth leadership skills.

Another speaker bemoaned the fact that the City Planning director was the City Environmental Coordinator. She said she wanted someone who “cares about the environment” and wanted him stripped of his environmental responsibilities.

Not only did no Council Member come to the City Planner's defense, but Council Member Gurney actually reminded us that she tried to remove him of those responsibilities with the previous Council. She failed but said she would see what this Council would do about that idea.

And why Council Member Gurney wishes to embrace that insult to staff from the same person who brings us ticks in a bottle, extended reports of her personal health, and the most scientifically bizarre views of EMF is beyond understanding.

Presentations:

Like Daniel into the lion's den, PG&E walked in and gave a presentation of some of the different programs they have to offer. Unlike the presentation by Sonoma Clean Power, they made it through the whole thing without once bashing the competition.

The presenter, who was young enough to be the granddaughter of the gray-hairs spewing venom in the direction of PG&E, withstood her share of abuse with grace and charm that belied her years.

Still, even the specter of competition seems to be having some impact on PG&E, so maybe some good will come of this whole process.

Consent Calendar:

Most of the consent calendar was filled with routine matters but the Council is, at last, going to follow through with allowing second-story offices in buildings within the industrial district. Approval will be limited to buildings that can *NOW* accommodate them. If any conversions are to be made at a later date, they will have to be blessed by the Council.

Public Hearing Items:

The Administrative Services Director gave an excellent overview of our financial situation and it can be [viewed here](#).

Next, the Council began the laborious process of scrutinizing the 2013-2014 proposed budget. The bad news is that they didn't have time to get through it all at this meeting but the good (and surprising) news is that we are in the black and our financial situation is likely to improve in the near future.

For those of you who follow along, yes, the \$20,000.00 for [Cittaslow](#) is still there. There are annual dues of approximately \$3,200. Roughly a third (\$1,000) goes to the national Cittaslow organization. The balance (variable as it is calculated in Euros) goes to the international organization and will be surprising if it isn't approved with at least a 4:1 vote.

After reading their [fact sheet](#), it doesn't appear that a plain business plan showing a projected profit against expenses has yet been beamed down.

Elapsed Time=4.5 hours

John Necker