



Sebastopol Citizens

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

Sebastopol City Council Meeting July 5, 2016 – Synopsis and Commentary

- All Council members were present.
- There was a 4:00pm closed session because of “significant exposure to litigation” and another closed session at the end of the meeting for a conference with legal counsel because of anticipated litigation.

Proclamations/Presentations:

- July 15th was proclaimed [Sister Cities International Day](#). You can learn more about our [local program here](#).

Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- There were no speakers!

Consent Calendar: (All approved without comment 5:0)

- The Council approved a resolution to call for November 8th elections and request that the County consolidate our municipal election with the statewide one as it has in the past. Another resolution setting the costs for running for a council seat was approved. For as little as a **\$387** deposit you too **can run for the Sebastopol City Council**. And if you do, you can count on me to buy you a beer.
- The Council renewed the **\$38,000** contract of Holly Hansen, **Communications Outreach Coordinator**.
- The Council rejected a claim that it was complicit with several other local and out-of-town agencies that led to the emotional distress of a minor.

Regular Agenda Items:

- The Council moved ahead a request for bids for an environmental impact report (EIR) on the [proposed KOWS antenna](#). It appears the main rationale for the report will be the visual impact of the antenna. Those opposing KOWS had their suspicions that the City would pick up the tab for the study at the expense of the taxpayers. They also stated that a much earlier Council promised that nothing but the water tanks would ever be constructed on the proposed site of the antenna. The City Manager/Attorney made us all aware that he had no recollection of any such verbal or formal statement. Further, he said, no City Council can restrict the action of a future one. He also said that if a greater community good can be demonstrated, the City can, and has, paid for part or all of an EIR. If that will happen or not remains to be seen. (Passed 5:0)
- The **Community Impact Sub-Committee reported**. This sub-committee is composed of **Mayor Gurney and one of the founders of Cittaslow**. They are hatching a litmus test

(although they call it a questionnaire) that will be presented to those who wish to do business in the City. Responding to the questionnaire will be voluntary, of course. Uh huh. The Mayor said the citizens will determine what we value. One wonders if it will be more than the [22% that renewed the Urban Growth Boundary](#). And **Council Member Eder** already wants to **make it compulsory** for businesses that employ more than a yet-to-be-determined number of people. Or maybe we can just use this recent statement by Mayor Gurney as a litmus test. It appeared in a recent [Press Democrat article by Guy Kovner](#): “We are very real people here, authentic and genuine in a world of corporatization and homogenization of culture.” Just put it right up at the top of the form. If you are not real, if you are not authentic, if you don't blindly hate corporations and anything that ain't like us, ***you need not apply***.

City Council Reports:

- The Council reported on a meeting they had with many downtown business people about Pine Grove Square—a [proposed new City Hall](#) in the parking lot down town. The **Council seemed to be amused** at the concern the businesses had over the potential loss of parking.

A Parting Shot:

- What has become of PG&E's proposal to change out our streetlights with LEDs at an eventual savings to us of [\\$54,000](#) per year? It be gone. The small but powerful group of **authentic and genuine Luddites won**.

Elapsed Time: 1:25 hours (6:00–7:25pm) Wow, we've had **Open Mike** that lasted longer than that.

Next City Council Meeting is July 19, 2016 at the Teen Center, 425 Morris Street at 6:00pm.

John Necker

SebastopolCitizens.org