



Sebastopol Citizens

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

Sebastopol City Council Meeting June 5, 2018 – Synopsis and Commentary

- All council members were present.

Proclamations/Presentations:

- Lieutenant Gregory Devore was recognized for his 15 years of service with the police department and Fire Chief William Braga for his 35 years with the fire department.
- A proclamation recognizing **Planning Director Kenyon Webster upon his retirement** from the City of Sebastopol was read and presented. The city will take a big institutional hit with his retirement.
- [Carson Pforsich](#) was proclaimed the first of the “Locals Who Make a Difference” in the new city banner Program.

Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- There was another condensing “constitutional” law harangue directed at the council and the public in attendance. The most useful segment of it was when she stomped out of the building upon finishing. Would that she continue in that direction for a good long time.
- A speaker thanked Director Webster and staff for their good work.
- Another reminded us that our teen center was here largely through the director's efforts.

Consent Calendar: (All eventually approved 5:0 except for Council Member Carnacchi abstaining from voting on Bill 1088.)

- The Conflict of Interest Code was accepted.
- The council will shortly interview for two “citizen representative” positions with the Task Force Integrated Waste Management Committee. Perhaps the representatives will discover why the large blue can will now accept little more than a beer bottle (clear) that has passed through a commercial dishwasher a half a dozen times (using only organic soap) while the small black garbage can, that will eventually get dumped on Mother Earth, will accept everything else, including plastic bags, film plastics, coffee cups and Styrofoam. Channeling our national lawmakers, [Recology is blaming China](#) for not being able to do its job!
- Staff recommended approving the proposed building on the southwest corner of the CVS lot but the council reflexively balked – only approving the landscaping because of a window change on the plans. They also want an entry door on the north side that will become Peete’s Coffee. Though the horse has expired, the council continues to pummel it.
- [Senate Bill 1088](#), authored by Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Santa Rosa, was opposed because Sonoma Clean Power didn’t approve of some of the language.
- A concrete pad with utility hookups will go to bid for a trailer to replace the community center at the Park Village (formerly known as **Village Mobile Home Park.**) A trailer is desired so it can quickly get hauled out of there in the next flood. Some changes to the specs were made and

during the demolition of the old pad many underground problems were uncovered. “The City of Sebastopol had **originally approved \$31,000** to Earthtone, based on the original concrete pad proposed at this location. However, as stated, since that time requirements have changed, and the cost is now estimated **closer to \$100,000**. Due to this estimate, the City is required to go to “bid for proposals” and staff will try to find a less expensive pad solution.

Public Hearings:

- The council approved the final weed abatement resolution and owners not complying should not be surprised to shortly see someone do it for them – at the property owner’s expense. As of this meeting there are only two left standing – noncomplying property owners not weeds.
- The annual lighting district assessment was again approved. The proposed annual assessment rate of \$36.44 per Equivalent Single-family Dwelling (ESD) unit for fiscal year 2018/19, which is an **increase of \$7.54**. And largely because the council will not approve LED street lighting, the current lighting fund is **\$5,896 in the hole and losing \$26,000 a year**. Not too bright.
- A bid package for Bodega Avenue safety improvements at Robinson Road, Florence Avenue, and Washington Avenue was publicly discussed. The city will put those improvements out to bid in hopes it can find one it can afford.

Regular Agenda Items:

- Rising out of it’s own ashes, albeit somewhat less gracefully than the Phoenix, the idea of building “**affordable**” housing in the **Burnett Street parking lot** was on the agenda but was postponed. This is something Council Member Gurney really wants, [so it will be back](#).
- Staff asked the council to review and approve the FY 2018/19 Proposed Budget. This was made even more tedious by council **Member Carnacchi’s petulant behavior**. At 10:45 pm he threatened to go through the entire budget, line by line, unless the other council members voted to modify the budget to include funds for a bypass study. Council **Member Gurney remarked** “You don’t get your money by threatening us with a real long meeting.” And she was right. As that became clearer, Member Carnacchi withdrew into silence while his [visage grew darker and darker](#) and his need for Cousin Zeke’s emotional support critter became obvious. On a 4:1 vote (Council Member Carnacchi in the minority) the budget was slightly modified and will come back for final approval.
- Every year each council member gets \$500 to spend on a pet project – as long as it’s legal and conforms to city regulations. (Well those two conditions explain why **SebastopolCitizens.org never gets a dime**.) *Anyway*, Council Member Carnacchi requested his \$500.00 be used for an **appreciation dinner for the City of Sebastopol Planning Commissioners** to acknowledge their dedication and commitment to the City of Sebastopol. Even after his bad behavior, the rest of the Council, instead of yelling Yo Mama at him, not only agreed, but thought it such a good idea they will try to find a way to host a dinner of appreciation to all appointed board members. **And that, Council Member Carnacchi, is how it’s done.**

A Parting Shot:

- The above dinner may prove to be much more enjoyable for the diners if no elected officials are present. There’s nothing like a little off the record venting to re-energize a body.

Elapsed Time: 5:45 hours (6:00–11:45pm)

Next City Council meeting is June 19, 2018 at the Teen Center, 425 Morris Street at 6:00pm.

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

John Necker
SebastopolCitizens.org