



# Sebastopol Citizens

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

## Sebastopol City Council Meeting March 5, 2019 – Synopsis and Commentary

All council members were present.

- An earlier 4:00 pm meeting conducted interviews for those applying for the Zero Waste Committee and the Planning Commission.
- Applying for the five openings on the Zero Waste Committee were the following: Amina Rand McNeil (student seat), Cynthia Albers (citizen seat), Elizabeth Rakestraw (citizen seat), Judy Morgan (citizen seat), Kathleen McClaron (commercial seat) and Michael Simintus (commercial seat).
- Applying for the one seat on the planning commission were the following: Kathy Oetinger and Luke Lindenbusch.

### Proclamations/Presentations:

- March 17-23 was recognized as National Surveyor's Week. It would not surprise me that the surveyors will discover the United States has separated from mother earth and is floating out there in another dimension, which would explain why so much now appears to be something that could take place in a Kurt Vonnegut novel.

### Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- The first speaker asked the council to move to [Evergreen](#) to supply power to all city owned electrical equipment. Vice Mayor Slayter responded that it was "in the works."
- The second speaker wanted the council to support a 28<sup>th</sup> amendment to the United States Constitution. You are on you own hunting this one down.

### Regular Calendar Agenda Items:

- **Amina Rand McNeil (student seat), Cynthia Albers (citizen seat), Elizabeth Rakestraw (citizen seat), Judy Morgan (citizen seat), and Michael Simintus (commercial seat)** were all appointed to the **Zero Waste Sub-Committee**. Kathleen McClaron (commercial seat) did not show up for the interview so one seat is still open if you should be so inclined. Speaking of zero waste, since there were more applicants than seats available, this motion didn't require a lot of input from the council at the 7:00 pm meeting. It got it anyway. (Approved 5:0)
- And it didn't stop there. While the council as a whole gushed lavish praise on both **Planning Commision** applicants, **Vice Mayor Slayter** eclipsed them all **and** the **Gettysburg Address** when it became clear that his vote would decide the issue. Then, when finally overcome with fatigue and an inability to dredge up new superlatives, or maybe even becoming vaguely aware that the two applicants who were present might want to know their fate before sunrise, he belatedly announced **Kathy Oetinger** as his choice and the council made it so. (Passed 4:1 with

Council Member Carnacchi holding out for the young Luke Lindenbusch over the more venerable and successful applicant.)

**Consent Calendar:** (Approve 5:0)

- The council approved four more names to be immortalized on the Peace Wall. The latest batch are as follows: [Jim Corbett](#), [Lynn Woolsey](#), Tula Jaffe and Dr. Earl Herr.
- The Sebastopol Fire Department is part of the California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA) and so responds to incidents in other jurisdictions when asked, as they have done with us. This resolution just fulfills some bookkeeping requirements.

**Public Hearings:**

- A discussion occurred for the approval of an ordinance **“banning use of Food Service Ware and other Polystyrene materials within the City of Sebastopol.”** While, it is being proposed only as a recommendation, and this was just the first reading, it is clear that the council wanted to be the first city in the county to pass such an ordinance. It may also eventually show how a headlong stampede to be a “progressive” standard bearer can produce bad legislation. We will see when comes back for the next reading. It will call for a ban on plastic straws and lids and polystyrene containers. If you ask for a straw, it won’t be plastic and will cost you a dime. A lid, will cost you up to a quarter. (In your dreams – a coffee cup lid!) Changes to the first reading were approved (5:0). When it returns, you’ll get more information at that time.
- The council approved two emergency proclamations. One is a pro forma proclamation that may allow the city to recover any losses sustained by the city that were caused by state or federal agencies in relation to flood issues. The other will waive building permit fees for those who must rebuild because of the flood. (Passed 5:0)

**City Manager Reports:**

- The city manager assured us that there were no intrusions into the water system (it stays sealed as long as it’s pressurized) and there were no sewer overflows because public works manned the Morris Street station 24/7 pulling shifts of 16 hours on and eight off.

**A Parting Shot:**

- While avoiding plastic throwaway items when possible seems reasonable, remember a gentleman never enjoys a martini through a straw of any composition.

Elapsed Time: 2:45 hours (7:00–9:45 pm – **It was 4:00 to 9:45 pm for your city council.**)

Next City Council meeting is March 19, 2019, 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](http://SebastopolCitizens.org)