



# 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 6, 2016 – Synopsis and Commentary

All Council members were present.

- At the beginning of the meeting, Mayor Gurney asked and received Council permission to add a closed session at the end of this meeting because of late-breaking exposure to litigation.

**Recount?\***

### Discussion and Action Item:

- A resolution confirming the Municipal election results was approved. Michael Carnacchi and Neysa Hinton joined Mayor Gurney, Vice Mayor Glass and Councilman Slayter as your new City Council. Carnacchi and Hinton were elected by popular vote so **both avoided any Electoral College entanglements.**

### Proclamations/Presentations:

- Council members Carnacchi and Hinton took the oath of office.
- Mayor Gurney gave her outgoing message.
- Una Glass was elected Mayor. (5:0)
- Council Member Slayter was elected Vice Mayor. (5:0)
- There was a presentation for outgoing Council members Eder and Jacob. They both spoke. **Eder**, who went on a bit, ended by **encouraging us to boycott CVS**. [Whew, he just can't let it go.](#)

### Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- The Council was asked by the first of many pious speakers to declare **Sebastopol a Sanctuary City**. For reasons that were unclear, he cited his military experience and claimed to have an ancestor for which a U.S. Army Fort was named. (Hopefully it wasn't the one who participated in the [Indian Removal Policy of 1835](#) and the [U.S.–Mexican War of 1846 to 1848](#)). Anyway, Sebastopol is already a de facto Sanctuary City and formalizing it will only jeopardize potential federal funds.
- \*SHARP was back in force. Apparently KOWS was responsible for some trenching at the antenna site that may have damaged some trees and may have been done without permits and certainly before any lease papers were signed. SHARP graciously offered to drop litigation if the City denies granting of the lease. [For more details click here to read Amie Windsor's report in the Sonoma West Times and News.](#) KOWS and Sharp may deserve each other!
- **Consent Calendar:** (Approved 5:0)
- The required annual sewer system report was approved. There were five overflows in 2016, down one from 2015. This segues nicely to the following.
- An \$8,199 claim against the City by The Barlow for sewer backup was rejected and will be

forwarded to our insurance company.

- The contract with [MuniServices, LLC](#) was amended to conform with [AB1717](#) that deals with taxing prepaid wireless services.

### **Regular Agenda Items:**

- The Council discussed what few see as a problem at the Willow Street and Jewell Avenue intersection. There is no statistical evidence to justify a \$100,000 to \$150,00 change to that intersection. Just one minor collision in ten years. On the other hand, a couple of seniors trying to cross Bodega Avenue at Burbank Heights have been struck by vehicles. After much discussion, the Council took the usual action of kicking the can down the road and will later review this yet again. Maybe by then it will dawn on them that the money should be spent at Burbank. [Usain Bolt couldn't cross there without trepidation.](#)

### **Public Hearing:**

- **The Council discussed and did extend the rent control moratorium for another six months.** (4:0) **Council Member Carnacchi had to recuse himself** because he lives in a residence that could be affected by rent control but **Council Member Hinton had no ace in the hole** and had to stay, wryly thanking **“whoever sprung this on the new Council.”** You may remember, former Council member Jacob with strong support from former Council member Eder, just dropped this on the City with no adequate research. Because Council member Carnacchi had to recuse himself, a 4:0 vote was necessary to continue the rent moratorium. Soon, during a prolonged discussion, it became clear that Vice Mayor Slayter was the only one considering a “no” vote. Saying that the moratorium would hurt a small group of people (the few landlords who would fall under this moratorium) and would not solve the big problem of housing, he asked those landlords present if they would pledge not to raise their rents for six months. After again expressing his reservations about the moratorium and agreeing with Council Member Gurney and Mayor Glass that none of them knew how to fix the housing problem, he gracefully pirouetted to vote to extend the moratorium. After the vote and being cast in a less than sympathetic light by the Council and other speakers, two of the landlords present voluntarily announced they would not take the 3% raise they were entitled to if the Council promised to resolve this matter within the six months. The Council tacitly agreed. Somebody should have got that in writing. [Read more from Mary Callahan at The Press Democrat here.](#)
- The Council approved applying for a \$50,000 grant for ADA upgrades.

### **Regular Agenda Items:**

- The Council set a date of January 10, 2017 at 8:00am at City Hall for the City Goals and Priorities meeting.

### **A Parting Shot:**

- To get elected, Eder spent more than \$12,000, which was second to Jacob, who raised more than \$35,000, more than all of the other candidates combined and more than any candidate in the city's history. [\(Source: The Press Democrat October 19, 2016\).](#) Both pushed for the moratorium (Jacob had it put on the agenda) but neither was in the building when it was discussed tonight. So just how committed were they?

Elapsed Time: 5:30 (6:00–11:30pm)

Next City Council meeting is December 20, 2016 at the Teen Center, 425 Morris Street at 6:00pm.

You can view this meeting and others at: <https://livestream.com/accounts/14608643>.

**John Necker**

**[SebastopolCitizens.org](http://SebastopolCitizens.org)**