

Sebastopol City Council Meeting – January 7, 2014 – Synopsis and Commentary

All Council members were present for this **4:00 pm meeting** called to interview the Design Review Board applicants.

The first order of business was to reject a late application by [Rick Taylor](#) on grounds it would not be fair to other applicants. Be that as it may, it's regrettable, because, of all five applications, his was the only one to actually meet the professional criteria set by the City.

That criteria reads, in part: "In making appointments, the City Council shall select, insofar as possible, the following: (a:) two persons, at least one of whom shall be a licensed architect and at least one of whom shall be a licensed landscape architect, (b:) One person who may be any of the following: architect, landscape architect, building designer, building contractor, landscape contractor, (c:) two persons not in (a) or (b)."

The applicants interviewed were:

- Lynn Deedler, an incumbent who categorized himself as a licensed building contractor under (b) and (c);
- Bob Beauchamp, an incumbent who categorized himself as a licensed architect (a);
- Bill Shortridge, who arrived here from Venice, CA seven years ago and categorized himself as (c);
- Larry Nielsen, a long time Sebastopol resident who categorized himself as (c).

After some very direct questioning by **Vice Mayor Slayter**, it was discovered that none of the four remaining applicants was currently licensed.

The questions put to the applicants by the Council were roughly consistent. **Mayor Jacob** and **Council Member Gurney** focused on the perception of negativity and lack of respect shown by the present Design Review Board and how that could be remedied. **Council Member Eder** asked the applicants what building they thought best represented Sebastopol and what building didn't. **Vice Mayor Slayter** was more concerned with the professional qualifications of the applicants. **Council Member Kyes** had no questions.

After the interviews, the Council adjourned until 6:00 pm.

(Duration 1:00)

All Council members were present for the **6:00 pm meeting** except **Council Member Kyes**.

Proclamations:

Assistant Chief Michael Reeser was recognized for 35 years of service with the Sebastopol *Volunteer* fire department. That's 1500 Thursday night drills (every Thursday) and 15,000 calls for service. Find out who that man is and buy him lunch!

Public Comment:

Mayor Jacob announced that he was limiting comments to 20 minutes and those unable to speak in that window of time could do so at the end of the meeting. Much to my surprise, there were no howls of protest. Well, it went on for 26 minutes but it's a step in the right direction. We heard the same old, tired gadfly rants. They need to find some invaders from Mars and/or wear costumes. It's getting really boring.

The youngest person to speak, Timothy, whose last name remains a mystery, thanked **Police Chief Weaver** for his help at the skate park and asked the City to consider installing lights at the park. As the only rational speaker, he deserves consideration for just getting up there with those people. If you belong to some service organization, this might be a good project for you.

Discussion and Action Items:

The Council voted 3:1 to install Bob Beauchamp, Lynn Deedler and Bill Shortridge to serve on the **Design Review Board**. Mr. Beauchamp and Mr. Deedler probably got the nod for what some would think of as their astounding performance handling the CVS/Chase project. **Vice Mayor Slayter** was in the minority as he expressed reservations about the professional qualifications of some of the applicants.

The library Joint Powers Agency wars are heating up. The city will send in its

recommendations regarding funding extra hours, taxes and the number of representative seats allotted to each city. More will certainly follow. The vote was 3:1 with **Mayor Jacob** in the minority. He had some issues with the general wording and the impact it would have on the disadvantaged.

The Council continues to consider ways to increase our revenues. A sub-committee will report on that soon.

City Council Reports:

Brief! Hooray!!!!

Mayor Jacob reported that **Public Works** labored long and hard on a water main break on January 1st. Buy a Public Works person lunch too!

Duration 2:50

John Necker