

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

## 2014 City Council Meetings

(You may click on the dates to read the full summary.)

### [January 7](#)

- The City Council, composed of **Mayor Jacob, Council Members Gurney, Eder and Kyes** interviewed and then appointed two applicants to the Design Review Board who had **misrepresented themselves** on their application forms on a 5:1 vote. Vice Mayor Slayter was in the minority.

### [January 21](#)

- The Laguna Vista Project stumbled forward with hopes of starting a two year study to determine if **Meadowfoam** is lurking thereabouts.

### [February 4](#)

- **Mayor Jacob** started the meeting by asking us to **turn off our cell phones** for the benefit of those who are EMF sensitive.
- At Public Comment, the EMF/Tick lady thanked the Mayor for “sponsoring” her efforts.
- A young man asked for lights at the skate park.
- The Council sent a letter to the County **opposing fluoridation**.

### [February 18](#)

- The [Press Democrat](#) reported that a federal judge may dismiss the CVS lawsuit against the City.

### [March 4](#)

- **Mayor Jacob** *did not* ask us to **turn off our cell phones** for the benefit of those who are EMF sensitive.
- During Pubic Comments, a rational speaker complained about the car wash on Healdsburg Avenue.
- **Mayor Jacob and Council Member Gurney** arranged for a presentation by Sebastopol Village Convergence that wanted to give **our aimless little burg** “a sense of place.”
- A speaker proposed installation of a **“Peace Wall”** at the Mario Savio Free Speech Plaza.

### [March 18](#)

- The EMF-phobe actually started wearing an **aluminum foil hat** to the meetings.
- There were more complaints about the car wash at Rotten Robbie's.
- The City's revenues continued to fall as the **Council contemplates building a new city hall**.
- The **User Utility Tax (UUT)** extension was broached.
- The City asked for donations to build a **\$15,000 bench** to commemorate the Occupy Sebastopol

movement.

#### April 1

- The **Planning Director clawed back \$75,000** of grant money from the state that can be applied to the skate park.
- There were more discussions about the UUT.
- The Peace Wall continued to be discussed.

#### April 15

- There were more complaints about the car wash.
- **Sebastopol World Friends** thanked the City for its support.
- There was talk about **going back to a two-way street system** downtown.
- The **GPAC Advisory Committee** was finalized.

#### May 6

- **The Council repealed** Chapter 5.12 of an ancient ordinance that prohibits engaging in, among other things, fortune telling, prophesy and mind reading by means of **crystal gazing**, necromancy and even magnetism.
- The **quarterly financial report** for the third quarter ending March 31st was presented, showing “a dramatic drop” in capital improvement revenues in fiscal year 15/16. *These two items are probably not connected.*

#### May 20

- **Cittaslow, your new \$20,000 city agency**, gave a 20-minute presentation of its mission to preserve our “unique town character”. It again failed to present any facts as to how much money it is making for the City - if any.
- There was a **successful appeal of a denial** by the Design Review Board. Since October of 2013, a fellow had tried to build a small house on Norlee Street and had been before the Design Review Board three times. **Council Members Gurney and Eder** didn't like it but it was approved 3:2.

#### June 3

- **There was a tribute to Michael Kyes who died unexpectedly on May 25<sup>th</sup>.**
- After much resistance, the Council awarded a grant of \$5,000 to the Chamber of Commerce (they bring you the annual Apple Blossom Parade and Festival). The Arts Center received \$7,500. **Compare that to the \$20,000 the still unproven Cittaslow received.**

#### June 17

- **The FY 2014/15 budget was approved** after some discussion of the adversarial nature of Community Grants and the need to consider consistent funding for those groups who have ongoing projects (see above).

June 19

- The Council unanimously selected Una Glass to fulfill the seat of her late husband, Councilman and former Mayor Michael Kyes.

July 1

- [The Sonoma West Times & News](#) reported on a tentative agreement between the City and CVS.
- The removal of naturally occurring arsenic in well #7 (Cooper Road) got started.

July 15

- Council Member **Gurney criticized Supervisor Mike McGuire** for being “against his own compromise” by opposing community funding for libraries.
- The scope of the UUT expanded and moved closer to being on the November ballot.

August 5

- **In less than an hour**, The Village Building Convergence got the OK for a festival and to paint up some streets. The vote was 5:0 despite a poorly thought out plan that would have, and has, doomed the plans of less favored groups.
- **Mayor Jacob voiced his opposition** a League of California Cities resolution condemning illegal pot growing.

September 2

- Republic Services of Sonoma County (owned by Republic Services) will run the landfill for 20 years. Sebastopol agreed to send its waste there.

September 16

- The contract for **Communications Outreach Coordinator** (Holly Hansen) was extended.
- **The City rejected all bids** for slurry seals on selected streets because the lowest bid came in 60% higher than the estimate.

October 7

- The CVS suit appeared to be settled. CVS will pay the City a total of \$150,000 for a traffic signal synchronization study and pay Small Town Sebastopol's attorney costs. **And if there is any loose change left over, the City and Small Town Sebastopol jointly have discretion as to the use of all remaining funds.**

October 21

- The City sent \$6,564.00 to the County of Sonoma to study the feasibility of a bike trail that may run from our southern city limits to Petaluma somewhere in the area of the KOA.
- The City will extend the interim **ordinance banning “formula” businesses** to preserve our “special qualities.”

## November 18

- There are ten City buildings that need accessibility improvements. The City has received a \$50,000 grant to have an architect provide design services that will lead to putting these projects out to bid.
- **All bids** for the remodeling of the Sebastopol Community Cultural Center (390 Morris Street) **were rejected** because we don't have the funds to do the job as proposed. A more modest proposal may be in the works.

## December 2

- **City Council Candidates, Glass, Gurney, and Slater were elected.**
- The Council proceeded with plans to pursue a draft design for the expansion of the skate park.
- **Cittaslow cites its own survey to justify its existence.** Still no hard numbers on the income side of the ledger.

## December 16

- The first reading and **introduction of an ordinance to ban drive-throughs** and regulate modifications to existing drive-throughs came before the Council.
- The **Council opposes the move of the Independent Charter School** and will send a letter to the County stating just that.