



# Sebastopol Citizens

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

## Sebastopol City Council Meeting September 1, 2020 – Synopsis and Commentary

- All council members were virtually present.

### Proclamations/Presentations:

- Don Mort was introduced as the new acting police chief, replacing acting police chief, Lieutenant Gregory DeVore, who has been with the department since 2004 and was second in command to the former chief and will now be allowed to “return to his Lieutenant duties.” Hmmm.
- There was a proclamation in support of the [Sonoma County United in Kindness Campaign](#).
- September was proclaimed Bike to Wherever Month and September 24 was Bike To Wherever Day.
- Joe and Linda Maloney were proclaimed “Locals Who Make A Difference.”

### Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- A speaker thanked the council for the flags marking the [19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution of the United States](#).
- Another speaker expressed concern about no cooling stations if there is another power shut down in hot weather.
- Fire Chief Braga recognized the 16 **volunteer** fire fighters (and their two engines) who are currently on the front lines of the wild fires and will be there through Labor Day.

### Consent Calendar: (Approved 5:0 with some discussion on the last item.)

- The minutes for the August 4, 11 and 12 meetings were approved and will appear here shortly. [Scroll down to Past Council Meetings](#). Not all minutes are available on the website.
- The biennial Conflict of Interest Code was adopted
- The council was asked to approve the “ Shop/Savor/Play/Live/Create/Love” city banner program. [Click here to see the submissions](#).
- The council approved a new classification and salary range for an Accountant/Analyst. This isn’t a new hire but rather an adjustment of the scope of the job requirements.
- Our Local Emergency Proclamation, which has a lifetime of 60 days, was extended. And the way things are looking it’s going to get extended many more times unless the government comes up with a PLAN – or we just all die off.
- The city staff will begin the process of investigating just how to protect the Sebastopol Community Cultural Center from the next flood. The last one was approximately seven feet above ground floor level at the Center. Now THAT will be a PLAN!
- The Center will also be seeking a grant from [CalRecycle](#) for a commercial dishwasher for the main hall kitchen and another at the youth annex. The council will send a letter of support.
- The council consented to “Three (3) hour timed parking limits on the west side of Morris Street between McKinley Street and Eddie Lane and Three (3) hour timed parking for the area in between the two driveways of the Sebastopol Cultural Community Center.”

### **Public Hearing:**

- The tobacco retail license ordinance was discussed for almost three and a half hours. It passed 3:0:2 with Council Member Hinton abstaining because she thought the ordinance restricting transfer of a tobacco business license had too big an impact on a particular business in town. Council Member Carnacchi's reason for abstaining was typically a little less clear but it evidently had [something to do with hookah pipes](#).

### **Regular Agenda Items:**

- The council adopted a small business loan program as outlined by CoMission. [You can see the details here if you scroll down to "Our Recommendations" on page 10](#). The council did make a few small changes but basically this is it. (5:0)
- The council also adopted a Facade Improvement Program to encourage businesses to perk up their look. Another version of this has been around for a while but with poor participation. Use the above link and scroll down one more page. (5:0)
- CoMission wanted another \$14,000 a month, starting on September 1, 2020, to work to the **end of the calendar year**. The council wanted them to continue their work but thought that cost was unsustainable. Hoping that eventually some federal funds would drop like manna from heaven, they voted 5:0 to retain CoMission until the end of the **fiscal year** at a cost not to exceed \$60,000. You can continue to scroll down to see CoMission's hourly rates.

### **City Council Reports:**

- Fire Chief Braga is the city's point man on [Coronavirus Health Orders](#). If a complaint comes in to the city, he will investigate. If you see him coming, stay six feet away, put on your mask and surrender all flammable materials.

### **A Parting Shot:**

- Don't look for ground-breaking on the new [Piazza Hospitality hotel](#) anytime soon. It may not surprise you that obtaining financing in the middle of a pandemic with no apparent solution in sight is difficult to find. While they are still committed to the project, Piazza Hospitality is now working with [Ned Kahn](#) to install some temporary art at the site. Is there no chance of him working a miniature golf course in there?
- The public speaker last night who bemoaned the pay scale of our excellent and overworked city staff evidently hasn't heard the phrase, "If you pay peanuts, you get monkeys." We have staff members each covering several positions that normally require another designated employee.

Elapsed Time: 5:40 hours (6:00–11:40pm)

Next regular city council meeting is September 15, 2020 at the Teen Center, 425 Morris Street at 6:00pm.

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

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