

## Sebastopol City Council Meeting September 1, 2015 – Synopsis and Commentary

Council Member Eder was absent.

### Proclamations/Presentations:

- Emily Giammona, a police dispatcher, was introduced.
- Police Officer Salvador Villanueva was introduced. He's our newest and lives here in town.
- September 21 was proclaimed [International Day of Peace in the City](#). But wait, [there's more!](#)
- September was declared the month of [Childhood Cancer Awareness](#) and [Library Card Sign-up](#) month. Run down and get your cool [new library card!](#)
- September 26 and 27 were declared [Russian River Cleanup](#) days.
- [California Coastal Cleanup](#) is happening September 19.
- And my favorite was declaring September 29 as [Cittaslow International Day](#). As of this writing, there are **still only** three cities in the United States that are “certified” cities – Fairfax, Sonoma Valley and us. We, of course, have turned ours into a \$20,000 city agency. It doesn't hurt to cozy up to the City Council. To date, [SebastopolCitizens.org](#) has received only a few slaps upside the head!

### Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- Some of the residents on [Robinson Road](#) are worried about a proposed halfway house there.
- And, after several blissful weeks without her, our resident gadfly spoke at every opportunity and had solutions for everything. [The lady just talks too much.](#)

### Consent Calendar: (All were approved without discussion 4:0)

- The City is exploring the feasibility, **with a little help from your Measure R funds**, of building **a new civic center** in the downtown parking lot by Hop Monk. The sub-committee's “outside individual” sent out a request for consulting services to a number of firms and only one responded. So they want to try it again. The idea here is to get someone to build it for free and let the developer lease out the commercial space as compensation. It will take a brave soul to embrace that plan.
- The Council approved the **second reading** to speed up the solar permitting process. So, in 30 days, this becomes law.
- Some red zone changes at 422 Florence Avenue were approved so the resident can get in and out of his driveway when he wants to.
- The final phase of the City Hall/Library landscaping was approved for a sum not to exceed **\$22,689**. Competitive bidding was “dispensed with” because it was determined that only [Daily Acts](#) and [Permaculture Artisans](#) had the right stuff to do this work. Years ago when then **Council Member Kathleen Shaffer** broached a modest idea like this, it was met with zero support from the rest of the Council. My how things change.
- The Council authorized a **\$15,000 amendment** to its agreement with GHD that proposes a remedial action plan to deal with the PCE plume that has crept from the old dry cleaners at 250 South Main all the way to [710 Petaluma Avenue](#) and well #4. Is this town in danger? [Well yes, but not from this.](#)
- A claim by a lady who was in a collision with a Sebastopol police car was rejected and it will be handed over to the City's insurer.
- **Governor Brown** was evidently surprised to find California roads were in an advanced state of decay and wants the Legislature to look into it. Sebastopol, and probably every other city in California, passed a resolution supporting improvements and sustainability of state and local

transportation infrastructure. Our Council **did not** ask for the bullet train billions to kick off the program.

- The Sebastopol police have now been awarded an **\$85,000 grant** to combat drugs and alcohol in our schools.

#### **Informational Presentations:**

- Our Outreach Coordinator gave a Park(ing) Day presentation. **Council Member Jacob**, who must spend a great deal of time in San Francisco, where this idea was hatched, is obsessed with turning parking places into little parks. Fortunately, none of this is yet going to happen on Caltrans roads so that should drop the body count somewhat. You can check out our first attempt in the library parking lot on September 18.

#### **Regular Agenda Items:**

- [Historical Society](#) wanted to move its [Burbank Farms](#) sign to the top of our “Welcome To Sebastopol” signs. This failed 4:0, but the City will look at making all such signs more consistent.
- The Council discussed the sale of fireworks in the City. No change in the current ordinance was made – probably because a large contingent of Sebastopol Sea Serpents was in attendance. How could anyone cut off this group’s [\\$20,000 fundraiser?](#)
- As a condition of the approval of the **CVS project**, the developer will provide two **electric car-charging stations** at the site and three at the High Street parking lot. There was so much more to be had from CVS if the Council and other groups had not taken such a pugnacious posture in a fight they should have known they couldn't win. Pity.
- **Mayor Slayter and Vice Mayor Gurney** want the City to sponsor an electric vehicle exposition. With the blessing of other Council members, they will return with a plan later. [Hey, this could be fun!](#)

#### **Public Hearings:**

- The City amended its sewer ordinance (last done in 2008) to conform to the [Subregional Water Reclamation System](#) of which we are a part.
- Formula Businesses! Aughh!! You will be spared the minutia. Basically there ain't going to be no formula anything in the downtown core no way. And the chance of expanding or adding a formula business in our shopping centers north and south of town has the same chance as that proverbial snowball. The first reading was passed 4:0 with some modifications. It will come back for a second reading and then become law.

#### **A Parting Shot:**

- On a late walk this AM, imagine my delight in observing a fully uniformed **police officer** doing the **Hokey Pokey** with a group of kids at Parkside School. Yeah, that **is** what it's all about!

Elapsed Time 4:00 (6:00pm-10:00pm)

Next Council meeting is on September 15.

**John Necker**