

## Sebastopol City Council Meeting – October 15, 2013 – Synopsis and Commentary

All Council members were present.

### Closed Session

Existing Litigation Longs Drug Stores v. The City of The Laguna, USA. Maybe if **Council Member Gurney** keeps coming up with more of these precious little names for us, Longs Drug Stores may get confused and end up suing some other city.

### Proclamations

[Cub Scout Pack 128](#) of Sebastopol led us in the salute to the flag.

October 20-26 was proclaimed “Freedom from Workplace Bullies” week.

The last item came a little too soon for our Planning Director who was again bullied by the EMF-phobe and another woman who is the force behind the CVS saga and much more that takes place in this town. With the patience of Yoda, he again sat there and took it from two people who could use a little help themselves.

### Public Comments

[The Sebastopol Grange](#) thanked the city for supporting the 141st Annual California State Grange Convention that just occurred there.

Another speaker spoke out against graffiti and weeds that seem to be sprouting up in Sebastopol. And just when one might be thinking this was all high-minded civic pride, it took a sharp turn to the left and zeroed in on the CVS property. The city attorney/manager said he would send another letter to Longs asking them to clean up their act.

Another speaker asked for support to oppose the new casino that will bring us more traffic, drunk driving, prostitution and other ills.

But the last speaker brought to our attention that there were worse dangers at the casino: dirty electricity and EMF. Yikes! She then whipped out a foil poncho for show and tell. She sleeps under it to hide from all that electro dirt. But wait, there's more. Also displayed was a 1920's looking hot water bag that she fills and freezes to cool her brain that is getting overheated from the EMF. (She could use a smaller bag.) And yet more: she has discovered that sleeping on spring mattresses focuses the EMF on the sleeper. And just when you thought it couldn't get any stranger, we were informed that it also applies to the underwire in bras. Well, that information was uplifting!

**Vice Mayor Jacob**, on several occasions, has stated that he wants to “strengthen our EMF position.” Is THAT what he meant?

### **Consent Calendar**

**#1:** Because of construction delays, the improvement agreement for the Barlow project was extended for 12 months.

**#2:** Installation of a **Red Zone** on Litchfield Avenue. That has to do either with parking or the council is going to inter all of the Republicans in town—both of them.

**#3:** Approved an air and traffic study for the Barlow’s 50-room hotel project.

Listening to the council on this matter was a typical example of micro-managing the staff and the experts who have had all the training. The council “tweaked” the approval as if they were trying to outdo each other. If that was the case, **Council Member Slayter** won as he moved individual words around and even, on another issue, edited the backslash in an “and/or” sentence.

Council members, we DO believe you read the material, or at least enough of it to be well informed. You don't have to prove it to us. Let staff do their job! The meetings will be shorter and the product will be better.

## Informational Items

#1: Adoption of some of the amendments to the State building code, which we use here.

#2: Extended, by one year, the Urgency Ordinance that bans “formula business.” The Council still labors under the delusion that big business is hiding in the weeds (CVS), and is ready to pounce and overrun us with chain grocery stores. [Community Market](#) is planned to open in mid-November at the Barlow. Be warned. The ordinance prohibits, among other things, “a formula array of services, merchandise, employee uniforms, signage, [and] trademarks.” So just watch it!

## Discussion and Action Items

#1: There was a presentation by the [Sonoma County Library Joint Powers Agency](#). Library hours have dropped from about 70 to about 40 per week since 1970. The plan is to reverse the downward spiral by forming a JPA that will embrace and support all the libraries in the county for the good of all. At the urging of **Mayor Kyes**, the Agency will provide budget projections and the city attorney will look into the liability issues of joining such an agency.

#2: The General Plan Committee creation criteria got kicked down the road for two weeks. If, like me, you have no life, contact your City Council to apply for a position.

## City Council Reports

To shorten the meetings, these were to be avoided when at all possible. But **Council Member Gurney** not only had hers printed out but also put into the record because they were “important.” She then gave a report on her reports, presumably for the benefit of we two who were left at the end of the meeting.

Duration 3.5 hours (Better, no?)

John Necker