



Sebastopol Citizens

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

Sebastopol City Council Meeting October 16, 2018 – Synopsis and Commentary

- All council members were present.

Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- A speaker thanked the city for installing the [HAWK](#) at Bodega near the Burbank Heights. (Notice how this pedestrian in the above link is **not making eye contact with the drivers**. It *must* be somewhere in West County.)
- There was another complaint about the car camping on Morris Street. The speaker claimed that over 70 businesses along Morris Street had concerns about the situation. Much later in the meeting, the council mentioned, not for the first time, that some businesses there that didn't complain. And the council's point was.....?
- Seven speakers wanted the **cell tower** behind the hospital removed. As usual, their science fell short of a slam dunk as it bounced off the rim of reality and fell into the cheap seats.
- Three speakers complained about the new **bike lanes** as they wondered why there were no cyclists in them. It was pretty much a full house when one of them asked how many had cycled to the meeting. **Two hands went up.**

Informational Items/ Presentation:

- A presentation was given by West County Community Services on the status of Park Village, formally known by the less spiffy name of Village Mobile Home Park. Things are improving there but it will not come close to solving the homeless problem ([Click here for a little background info by Mary Callahan of the Press Democrat.](#))
- Another group focused on the 2018 homeless count. Both of these groups, and the council, remained as silent as the Sphinx about letting the Morris Street merry-makers park there. ([No, not this Spinks!](#))

Regular Agenda Items:

- The housing committee, which consists of Mayor Slayter and Council Member Glass, was authorized to take the lead in all future homeless issues.
- The council discussed adopting a zero waste program, which it defined as follows: "In its simplest terms, embodying a Zero Waste Program is a commitment to work to send no waste materials to a landfill for disposal/burial." Still fearing a burning at the stake over the Pine Grove Square debacle, **Council Member Gurney** frequently and forcefully argued for a thorough community outreach program before any implementations are made.
- The zoning ordinance was adopted and will become law in 60 days. (Approved 5:0)
- That also applies to the zoning map.

Public Hearings:

- The council initiated the annexation process of the property located just south of the Tomodachi

Park/Park Village property and north of the Joe Rodota Trail. (Approved 5:0)

- Vice Mayor Hinton had expressed concern that our [Social Host Ordinance](#), while governing the consumption of alcohol by minors at parties, had no such provisions governing the use of marijuana. Adding that provision was discussed and will eventually be added to the ordinance.
- There was a first reading to rescind [Sebastopol Municipal Code 10.40.090 TRAILERS](#). This code prohibits camping out in a vehicle on public property – like on Morris Street. It’s being rescinded because the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled such a law unconstitutional. ([Read the Los Angeles Times here.](#)) The entire municipal code can be found by [clicking here](#). Use the search function to discover just how far out of compliance you are.

Parting Shots:

- It’s a good thing the CVS building finally got approved. It has plenty of bandages on hand to patch up **cyclists downed at the maze** that runs from The Feed Store to CVS.
- Speaking of CVS, as part of the settlement with the city, it agreed to pony up some cash for a **traffic study**, which its opponents hoped would document a traffic snarl of epic proportions. Since neither of those things occurred, how about a post-bike lane traffic study? Hmmm?
- **Caltrans is not responsible for the bike lanes**. The plans were approved by the city council and CalTrans just followed those plans.
- At one point in the meeting, **Council Member Glass** laughingly said that at a recent pancake feed, Council **Member Carnacchi** offered to buy her more pancakes if she spoke less at the meetings. That generated a good laugh. Alas, doesn’t appear Council Member Carnacchi bought those pancakes.

Elapsed Time: 4:00 hours (6:00–10:00pm)

Next City Council meeting is October 30, 2018, at the Teen Center, 425 Morris Street at 6:00pm.

You can view this meeting and others, if you scroll down, at: <http://bit.ly/sebcctv>.

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