



# Sebastopol Citizens

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

## Sebastopol City Council Meeting June 18, 2019 – Synopsis and Commentary

### The 5:00 pm Meeting:

- Danielle Connor and Barry Green interviewed for one opening on the the city's Zero Waste Sub-Committee.
- Steven Pierce interviewed for one position [SCTA/RCPA Climate Action Committee](#).

### The 6:00 pm Meeting:

- All council members were present.

### Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- Four speakers urged the council to adopt a "[Climate Emergency Resolution](#)."
- For the second time a speaker from the [Fircrest Mobile Home Park](#) complained about PG&E installing smart meters as they upgraded the utility infrastructure. Lady, that ship has sailed. Anyway, those meters are good for warming bagels if you stack them just right.
- A speaker representing Sonoma County Secure Families asked the council for financial support. (The council seemed inclined to do so at a later date.)

### Consent Calendar: (Approved 5:0)

- The city awarded a contract to [ClearSource Financial Consulting/Harris & Associates](#) to study our Development Impact Fees as well as our User Fees. Periodic review of the impact fees is required by the state and this will bring us into compliance. **The Impact Fees include:** traffic, park, inclusionary housing/affordable housing linkage, wastewater retrofit, water and sewer connection charges, art, utility undergrounding and annexation fees. **The User Fees include:** building and fire inspections and permit review, encroachment permits, grading permits, business license applications, park user fees for special events, planning applications, animal licenses and parking permits. Other **fees should be paid and** aren't by those who believe: dropping **their** dog's waste in **my** garbage can is OK, stopping their car in the middle of the street to BS with their pedestrian cronies while ignoring the traffic trying to pass and believing that the glares they are receiving are really looks of approval, walking in a traffic lane when a sidewalk is available, really believing that Sebastopol or their unleashed dog is unique, and even worse, believing **they** are.
- The council approved issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an engineering, planning and design of improvements of the "Bodega Corridor." That corridor," Bodega Avenue, is not a state highway going west from Main Street to the city limit. It is a city street that we alone maintain. **If** this ever happens, there *will* be sidewalks. But of course there will be bicycle lanes too. The green mile that runs by CVS, where medical supplies are abundant, was just fortuitous. Since putting a bike lane in the Bodega Corridor is exponentially more dangerous, the always efficient council put this lane adjacent to the cemetery.
- [Recology Sonoma Marin](#) was granted a rate increase. The agenda item states: "Single family

rate change requests for single cans are between 4.1% and 4.3% per month, with the actual monthly rate changes falling between 48 cents per month to \$2.59 per month.” What won’t increase is what you can put in the container – except unwanted dog waste, which is all but a constitutional right for those who, along with their dogs, are unique. Ah, for those days when you paid the competent collection company to actually accept your household waste because they knew how to deal with it instead of balking and crying “Contamination!” at the discovery of a peanut butter jar that hadn’t passed through an autoclave.

### **Informational Items/ Presentation:**

- Weed abatement time again. This was a big disappointment for me because nothing perks up my day like exposing the potential felons who refuse to remove dangerous weeds from their property. And it was even more anticipated because this year the city redacted the public list and hid it somewhere deep in the fire station. (By overcoming my usual fear of veracity, this is actually true.) Alas, by the time you read this there will be only one property in Sebastopol that has not complied and the owner lives on the east coast where they talk funny – so fuhgeddaboudit! No subpoenaing the records, no investigation, no jail time. Bummer.
- The FY19-20 Preliminary Proposed Budget continued to be scrutinized and was eventually passed. (5:0) ([Click here to review the 273 pages.](#))
- The Capital Improvement Program Budget was also scrutinized. ([For a list of 2015 through 2018 completed projects click here and scroll to page seven.](#)) It also passed. (5:0)

### **Regular Agenda Items:**

- Danielle Connor was appointed to the Zero Waste Sub-Committee. (5:0)
- Steven Pierce was appointed as liaison to the Climate Action Committee. (5:0)

### **A Parting Shot:**

- Unlike her fellow council members, **Council Member Gurney** (and to a lesser extent **Vice Mayor Slayter**) **resisted the approval of a full-time fire fighter**. Council Member Gurney suggested the money, about \$127,000, could be better spent on some other unnamed city department. Before wisely not suggesting Cittaslow, she settled on the city and the assistant city manager – who were seated to her immediate right. While both those city employees do much more than their fair share for us, they ain’t gonna show up when your free range essentials oil candles set your house on fire and/or you’ve fallen down and can’t or won’t get up because there’s something in those candles that’s way too relaxing. While you won’t see the wages and perks of the fire and police departments defended here, it’s better to accept the fact that the days of an all volunteer fire department will soon suffer the same fate as analog PG&E meters.

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

Next City Council meeting is July 16, 2019, at the Teen Center, 425 Morris Street at 6:00pm.

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

**John Necker**  
[SebastopolCitizens.org](http://SebastopolCitizens.org)