



# 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 20, 2017 – Synopsis and Commentary

All Council members were present.

### Proclamations/Presentations:

- Teresa Ramondo retired and was honored for her 28 years of service at the Sebastopol Chamber of Commerce. 28 years! What? She started when she was 10?
- **Vice Mayor Slayter** gave a presentation on elder abuse. Of course he went on in detail. It was unclear if he was just trying to be helpful or trying to instigate violence toward a certain elder who may, on occasion, be a little critical of the Council.

### Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- The first speaker, who also spoke at almost every opportunity tonight, wanted a new US flag with our **rights** printed on it. (Have you noticed in West County the word **responsibility** is seldom spoken?) Because he mumbles, most of it was difficult to follow, but it definitely involved the CIA, NSA, Clinton the younger, and changing our entire financial system. Yeah, why not?
- The second speaker seemed not to be phased by the first and announced the screening of [“Women’s March” on July 7<sup>th</sup>](#).

### Consent Calendar: (Approved 5:0, except numbers 2 and 9)

1. The following persons were selected to have their names chiseled into the [Peace Wall](#):  
[Reverend Don and Dee Shilling](#)  
[Charles J. Liteky](#)  
[Holly Near](#)  
[Susan Lamont](#)

There is no City record of those who were nominated but not selected. That could be an interesting comparison.

2. **Diane Davis** was awarded a **\$46,500 contract** to head a program to reduce youth drinking and drug use. The **cost is covered by a grant from the County**. The grant was won by the **Sebastopol Police Department** as it has been for many years. **Council Member Carnacchi** pulled this item for speaker #1 (mentioned above) whose remarks were still nearly unintelligible. (**Finally approved 5:0 at the end of the meeting.\***)
3. The Council approved a resolution to accept a grant of **\$1,195,500 for bike lanes** on Bodega Avenue. But the original request was for \$2,391,000 so the City, over a five-year period **will use some of its other resources** (Pavement Fund and the Traffic Impact Fund) to make up the difference of **\$1,195,500 for bike lanes**.
4. The Council adopted the [MTC Surplus Land Resolution](#). The above grant would have disappeared had they not. This will bind us to the [Surplus Land Act](#).

5. Also approved was an agreement with [Daily Acts](#) for the sum of **\$21,000** to provide landscaping services at the **Village Mobile Home Park, which is now being called Park Village**. There doesn't appear to have been any **competitive bidding**. Maybe the change in name confused other less astute bidders.
6. Some language was cleaned up relating to our agreement with California's Golden State Financing Authority. This will allow the City to take advantage of the [PACE](#) program.
7. An addition to the General Fund budget of **\$8,000** was made. For many years, the [Humane Society](#) has been charging the City less than cost for its services. The current contract is \$3,600 per year with associated costs. (This fiscal year, the City has paid out about \$6,500.) The Humane Society is proposing \$4,200 per year, plus associated costs. Look to be getting to \$8,000 in a few years—if not sooner.
8. **A Pine Grove Square parking study** was discussed. It will cost between **\$25,000 – \$30,000**. **Council Member Hinton** was pleased to see the study move forward but wanted, and received, assurance from staff that the cost of the study conducted by [W-Trans](#) would not be marked up by [Linda Herman Consulting](#). **Council Member Carnacchi** really got his knickers in a twist about this one, questioning many aspects of the study and then **voted against it**. (Approved 4:1)

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

- Cittaslow gave a joint presentation with the Community Outreach Coordinator. This demonstrated two things: **Cittaslow appears more practical** in the company of the Community Outreach Coordinator and is also very good at attaching itself to programs that really don't need its help.

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

- Planning Director gave the annual **Recreational Facilities Report**. Although it was stated in a much more nuanced fashion, everything is slowly deteriorating because we don't have enough money to maintain it. The parks, The Plaza and The Preserve are all problematic. Even the gophers are on a rampage this year and the City will erect owl boxes in an attempt to control them. Well, something bigger than owls will be required on my property as can be seen in my [security camera footage of a recent gopher problem](#).
- **Changes to Willow and Jewell** were again discussed—after it's all been finished and no one showed up to support any more changes. But with **Council Members Gurney and Hinton** referring to it as a **speedway and a freeway**, and **Mayor Glass** agreeing there surely was some sort of problem, it will [return like Oxalis](#). The only thing stopping it now is **\$150,000 can't be found to spray on it**.
- A subcommittee was formed to assess the fiscal impacts of retirement and post-retirement benefits of city employees. The City continues to save money to make payments. But, unlike a mortgage, **CalPERS will not allow payments against the principle**, which would allow cities to pay off their debts sooner. (Passed 5:0)
- **Council Member Carnacchi** called for a review of the agenda-setting process. Staff will update the procedure and bring it back for review.
- **On the international front**, Mayor Glass unveiled a resolution opposing President Trump's withdrawal from the **Paris Climate Agreement**. **Can you believe** that it took over 13 minutes for **our council** to approve this one? (Passed 5:1 with Council Member Carnacchi abstaining.)
- **On the national front**, Council Member Carnacchi is out to fix the **immigration problem**. But he withdrew his item because the language needed to be more specific—way more specific.

#### **City Council Reports:**

**A Parting Shot:**

\* **Although it seemed like a good idea at the time**, moving discussion of pulled consent calendar items to the end of the meeting is proving to be inefficient. Often, the staff and those others associated with an item have to remain, sometimes for hours, just to hear someone whine about some detail. From now on, consent calendar items will be taken in order with discussion and comment.

Elapsed Time: 4:30 hours (6:00–10:30pm)

Next City Council meeting is July 18, 2017 at the Teen Center, 425 Morris Street at 6:00pm.

You can view this meeting and others at: <https://livestream.com/accounts/14608643>.

**John Necker**

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