



Sebastopol Citizens

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

Sebastopol City Council Meeting September 20, 2016 – Synopsis and Commentary

All Council members were present.

Proclamations/Presentations:

- The Boy Scouts of America presented a [Medal of Merit Award](#) to Police Explorer Ryan Imschweiler. On a ride-along with a Sebastopol Police Officer, Ryan was able to call for backup like a pro while the officer was preoccupied rolling around in the dirt with a less than cooperative arrestee.
- September 22-28 was proclaimed [Falls Prevention Awareness Week](#). OK, don't make my mistake here. Your Council is not **banning the season of fall** because it isn't progressive enough for them. This is about preventing falling down. (Although, for some of us, it is the only exercise we get anymore.)
- September 18-25 was proclaimed [Nonviolence and Peace Week](#). For this, about 17 ukulele toting seniors showed up to sing "[Imagine](#)." They did break a long-established entertainment rule—leave 'em smiling. You don't sing through a song then say, "One more time" and do the whole thing over yet again. Well, unlike your writer, at least they sang in the right key and they didn't fall down.

Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- A speaker complimented the City staff and in particular our Planning Director who is more accustomed to absorbing abuse in silence from the wackos. There may have been just a hint of stunned disbelief on his face as he listened.

Consent Calendar (approved without comment):

- The City Manager was directed to sign a contract with [GHD](#). The sewer pump station on Morris Street is having increasing **problems with solid waste** buildup and GHD will recommend some solutions. **Cost \$12,357.**
- The City has been involved in "complex technical and legal negotiations" due to underground pollution from a "commercial site in the downtown area." The City will enter into an agreement with [Hazen and Sawyer](#) to continue with an essential consultant who now works for that firm.
- The Council approved some language changes required by CalPERS regarding the Sebastopol Police Officers Association.

Informational Items/ Presentation:

- Analy's 1:4:1 program gave a presentation. The program helps teens avoid drugs and alcohol and encourages students to "live better."
- There was a presentation from [Planeteria](#), which has redesigned the City's website. **Cost \$30,000.** The new website will be a tremendous improvement over the existing one. It's

uncluttered, and fast and easy for the staff to update. It has a new and much-improved search function and forms can be downloaded and bills paid online. **Coming to your computer screen soon!**

Public Hearings:

- The new and improved skate park now has lighting. There was a first reading to bring it into line with the other parks that all close down at 10:00pm. **(Passed 5:0)**
- The general plan is getting closer to adoption and some points were discussed. Among them were **Mayor Gurney and Council Member Slayter** suggesting removal of all parking on [Weeks Way](#), which borders the **Mario Savio Free Speech Plaza**. **Council Member Eder** bemoaned the fact that there's **no Design Review Board** to control the appearance of new single-family dwellings. Evidently he is looking for houses that are [uniformly unique](#).

Regular Agenda Items:

- The wayfinding sign project moved forward. After a June 21 appearance, [L'Image](#) returned, as directed, with other color and design options. The intent is to reduce sign clutter and establish a consistency that will make it easier for all the tourists to find their way around.

City Council Reports:

- The City Manager announced that our very own **Well 7 water-treatment system has won an award** from the American Society of Civil Engineers. He also announced the City will [close Florence Avenue for Halloween](#) for the safety of the Trick or Treat crowd. There wasn't much objection but letters are going out to all the residents now, so we shall see.

A Parting Shot:

- If this Council wants us all to park and walk, does this not imply that we should have adequate parking so we can do that?
- At 10:30pm your Council and staff began a **closed session** to discuss the *initiation* of two different cases of litigation. That probably lasted at least another hour. **That's a long day!**

Elapsed Time: 4:20 (6:10–10:30pm)

Next City Council meeting is October 4, 2016 at the Teen Center, 425 Morris Street at 6:00pm.

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