



Sebastopol Citizens

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

Sebastopol City Council Meeting February 21, 2016 – Synopsis and Commentary

All Council members were present.

Proclamations/Presentations:

- The Council expressed its appreciation of the [Slow Foods Apple Press](#) volunteers.
- Rich Emig, Superintendent of Public Works, retired and was recognized for years of service to the City. He has worked for the City in various capacities for almost 43 years. Looking at Rich accepting the award could make a body think he started working here at the age of four.

Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- Of the 12 speakers, eight of them spoke against **smart meters**—spouting the same old, tired **junk science** and statistics. Mark Twain popularized it but it was Benjamin Disraeli who first said, "**There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics.**" My smart meters were installed last month. If you want one, give PG&E a call and they will accommodate you. But wait there's more. A little-known feature is that you can place your [Swanson's frozen TV dinner](#) on one of the meters (use the gas meter for low and the electric meter for high) and it's piping hot in no time. Delicious!

Consent Calendar: (Approved 5:0.)

- [Siemens Industry](#) has notified the City that it is **canceling its signal maintenance contract** with the City effective 02/28/2017. They now maintain and repair the lights at Bodega and Pleasant Hill and Bodega and Jewell, plus our 15 lighted crosswalks. ([The list is here on page four.](#)) The City will use a temporary local provider until a permanent one can be found.
- A new job description and salary range for a **Lead Communications Dispatcher** at the police department was approved. This was necessitated by a recent retirement and will be funded by savings accrued by that retirement. The pay range begins at **\$25.86** per hour and can eventually increase to **\$31.43**.
- Citing ever-changing regulations, the Council upgraded the requirements for the Assistant Public Works Superintendent position.
- The Council formalized the pay rate of the two above city positions.
- The Barlow and [Destination Races](#) applied for a 10K "[beer-themed running event](#)" that will start and finish at [The Barlow](#) on Saturday April the 15th. My advice is walk and spill less beer.
- For close to 25 years, the City has been a member of the [Sonoma County Waste Management Association](#). Staff recommended extending membership in perpetuity, which is very nearly forever. Here's hoping the Council did the right thing.

Regular Agenda Items:

- **Mayor Glass** placed on the agenda what was titled "**Consideration of Adoption of Resolution**

for Safeguarding the Civil Rights, Safety and Dignity of all Sebastopol Residents.” In standard English, it simply means declaring Sebastopol a **sanctuary city** without using the “S” word—**something we have been doing for years**. This took an hour and a half and was complicated by **Council Member Carnacchi** who asked a series of hypothetical questions of the Council and staff that could not, of course, be answered. He also offered some convoluted explanation of how SB 54 was going to decriminalize hiring teenagers to sell drugs. He then displayed his **poor judgment** by publicly asking the Council and the City Manager if they had [read SB 54](#). Then, through a Spanish interpreter, he gave an embarrassingly condescending explanation to those present for his opposition of SB 54. This included, but wasn’t limited to, the metropolis of Sebastopol moving to the top of President Trump’s hit list. The City Manager/Attorney cited several legal ideas that should have calmed his fears. Mayor Glass said that it is impossible to read every state bill and she had faith in the state legislature to produce an acceptable law. Carnacchi needs to sharpen his perception of body language or he is going to get jumped in the parking lot by the Council and staff after some meeting like this one. (The resolution passed **4:1 with Council Member Carnacchi abstaining and 4:1 on the letter supporting SB 54 with Carnacchi in the minority**.)

- [The Sebastopol Senior Center](#) is in financial dire straits. It asked the Council for \$50,000 in the form of a grant, a partial loan, or signing for a loan as the owner of the facility, which the City is. The Council agreed to a **grant of \$25,000** now and a possible \$25,000 after a new set of financials are reviewed. (Passed 5:0.)
- At **Council Member Hinton’s urging** staff was authorized to study the possibility of negotiating with major online companies, such as Airbnb, Homeway and VRBO, to have them collect and remit to the City the Transit Occupancy Tax that many proprietors of overnight rentals are not now paying. Sonoma County and other cities have already negotiated such agreements.

A Parting Shot:

- **That’s it; Mayor Glass has exhausted her indulgences!** For the third time in as many meetings, she admonished the public to not applaud to register approval, lest it intimidate those who are to the contrary. Smiling benignly, she afterward said it was “okay” [to waive your hands in the air à la the Occupy Movement](#). Apparently she thinks a distinction exists between the two displays. [That hand jive has got to go](#).

Elapsed Time: 5:50 hours (6:00–11:50pm)

Next City Council meeting is March 7, 2017 at the Teen Center, 425 Morris Street at 6:00pm.

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

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