

## Sebastopol City Council Meeting – January 21, 2014 – Synopsis and Commentary

All Council members were present.

Since he was installed, **Mayor Jacob** continues to ask those present to shut off their electronic devices as a courtesy to others. He also requested it for those who may be sensitive to **EMF**. Those of us who are sensitive to BS\* continue to suffer. He also mentioned that water issues would be addressed at the February 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. (At the end of the meeting, **Council Member Kyes** was overheard saying he would like to raise the fluoridation issue then too. That should perk things up!)

### **Proclamations:**

**Outgoing Design Review Board Member Lindsay Massey** was recognized for her fine work on that outstanding example of small town governance.

### **Public Comment:**

“Open mike night” started off sanely enough with [iWalk Sebastopol](#), in its seventh year, giving us some info on an upcoming event on January 25<sup>th</sup>.

But it was too good to last. The next speakers went on about the weather being geo engineered, synthetic floods (great waves of polyester flowing across the low lands?) and a geology lecture. Another asked for a “transparent budget,” somehow deducing that would facilitate the installation of bike lanes. Well, if the City hadn't budgeted **\$20,000** for **Cittaslow** and sunk **\$300,000** into the **CVS/Chase** lawsuit, we possibly could afford the luxury of bike lanes.

Public Comment ended with a request for a return to a two-way street system.

### **Consent Calendar:**

Approved without **discussion** were:

- A red zone on SR116 from the Eye Associates southward a bit
- Approval of the repairs to Healdsburg Avenue/North Main Street

- The grant from the State for the expansion of Skategarden Park
- Using City logo for Farm Stay/Home Stay Workshop

**Council Member Kyes** pulled for discussion Item #1, the [Laguna Vista Project](#) that slouches toward an unknown fate. This project has been in the grinder for close to 15 years. The short story is that the applicant for the project has requested the initiation of a two-year biological resources study to determine if Sebastopol Meadowfoam is present. This is the first step to a new and improved environmental impact report. All costs will be borne by the applicant.

*What They Said:*

**City Manager/Attorney:** The applicant has a legal right for the process to move forward.

**Mayor Jacob:** Why aren't we looking for spotted salamanders too?

**Council Member Eder:** Wants another study to study the finished study.

**Council Member Slayter:** Wondered if the study would be valid in a drought year.

**Council Member Gurney:** Same as above.

**Council Member Kyes:** Wanted (and got) the item continued (delayed) and then said, "it's fairly likely someone is going to sue us at sometime." (Ya think?)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife will determine the validity of the report in relationship to the drought. My guess is that the City Council could care less if the salamanders ate the Meadowfoam as long as the project is stopped. The vote was 5:0 to continue this at a later date.

### **Discussion and Action Items:**

The Redwood Empire Municipal Insurance Fund is getting ready to make all city members full members. Sebastopol is a founding member and generally supports the idea.

City Hall landscaping will begin soon, thanks largely to the efforts of Eric Ohlsen and Daily Acts.

The Council got out in front of [AB 60](#), due to take effect January 1, 2015. This bill would require the DMV to issue an original driver's license to a person who is unable to submit satisfactory proof that his/her presence in the United States is authorized under federal law if s/he *meets all other qualifications* for licensure and provides satisfactory proof to the department of his or her identity and California residency.

With this resolution, Sebastopol will start implementing part of AB 60 policy now. With the cooperation of the Sebastopol Police Department and the [Graton Day Labor Center](#), this will reduce the number of needless car impounds of immigrant drivers and help educate them to become more fully responsible drivers. This will effect impounds only. All other laws will be enforced.

**Mayor Jacob** again displayed his annoying habit of asking for a show of hands of those who support something he favors. He didn't ask for a show of hands when the **\$20,000** funding of **Cittaslow** was on the agenda, but then those who opposed it outnumbered the supporters by about 5 to 1.

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

She did it again! Unlike her peers, **Council Member Gurney** appears to be physically unable to avoid giving Council reports. Even though she had printed out her reports for each Council member and the City Clerk, and even though it was after 10:00pm, and even though only my tired old bones were left in the peanut gallery, she gave a report on her reports. Have mercy!

\*bad science

Duration 4:10

John Necker