

Sebastopol City Council Meeting – December 3, 2013 – Synopsis and Commentary

All council members were present.

Well, this was a quick one as the main item of business was installing a new mayor. But first we were treated to a presentation by our new \$20,000 city department, Cittaslow. As expected, it was rich in verbiage but poor in specifics. They are still focused on eco-tourism (which is only one consonant away from ego-tourism) and envisions great hordes of jolly green people eager to escape their horrible living conditions elsewhere to bathe themselves in the near Eden qualities of downtown Sebastopol - right there at the intersection of Highways 12 and 116.

Another item of business (albeit this one based on reality) was the approving of staff recommendations dealing with the Community Development Block Grant Funds that could bring in as much a \$236,824 that will be used to make actual and measurable improvements to our little City - mostly at Ives pool and the surrounding area.

Outgoing **Mayor Kyes**, resplendent in an often missing jacket and tie, spoke about things that have taken place during his tenure. He first thanked his colleagues, staff and Sebastopol “citizens” both in and out of the city limits. He stated that things are improving but we will still experience a 1.5 million dollar a year short fall if we try to fix everything that needs fixing within the next ten years. He proudly noted that we will spend \$800,000 on our streets while the “county is going to let their streets go to gravel.” Those kind of remarks aren't going to do us any good with the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors but that will be Vice Mayor Jacob's problem.

That is because Mayor Kyes then nominated **Robert Jacob** for mayor who was confirmed 5:0. The surprise was council members **Eder and Gurney** nominating **Patrick Slayter** as vice mayor and having it confirmed 5:0.

One member of the public thought **Mayor Jacob** too new for the post and it should have gone to now **Vice Mayor Slayter**. Her argument was somewhat diminished as she morphed it into

an attack on Supervisor Carrillo where she demonstrated having no clue about double “r’s” or “l’s” in Spanish.

Council member Gurney, stated that she had no reports to give, then reported on a list of reports she will give in the future. The girl can't help it!

Giddy with success, the council and their supporters then broke bad for the Hop Monk to celebrate.

My walk home was troubled by the realization that this new Council still lacks the most important defense there is against extremism - doubt.

Duration 1:20

John Necker