



# Sebastopol Citizens

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

## Sebastopol City Council Meeting December 3, 2019 – Synopsis and Commentary

- Council Member Carnacchi was absent. It was an “excused” absence as opposed to the type you had in high school because you were too lazy to practice forging your mother’s signature. In Council Member Carnacchi’s case, it was probably a note from the outgoing mayor that kept him out of detention hall.

### Proclamations/Presentations:

- Pat and Craig Boblitt were both ordained as “Locals Who Make A Difference.”

### The Election of Mayor and Vice Mayor:

- First was a message from the outgoing Mayor Hinton. She then called for nominations for her successor. Council Member Gurney nominated Council Member Slayter, and he won in a landslide (4:0). He then nominated Council Member Glass, who was also swept into office by a progressive wave on a 4:0 vote. Then there was a short celebratory break where cake was served. And, no, the Vice Mayor didn’t smash her cake into the mayor’s face, although she may regret not doing that as her term wears on.

### Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- Bubba, the undisputed master of jargon, was back. He started by warning about mistletoe in Regal Park (which is not in the city limits) and then followed that by a “screw the unions” tirade, which morphed into a denunciation of the Democratic party and other odds and ends. If you don’t get the connection there, chances are good you are not alone. And trying to make those connections can be detrimental to your critical thinking skills. My psychiatrist, my doctor, my guru and even my urologist (don’t ask) all agreed that doing so could be as harmful as vaping Oxycontin. And Bubba was on a roll last night as he managed to speak on six items and even let slip a mild critique in my direction, which of course would have hurt my feelings if any existed to be hurt.
- Mayor Slayter allowed supporters of HR 763 (see below) to speak at this time instead of doing so later.

### Consent Calendar: (Approved 4:0)

- In September of 2018, when he wasn’t playing with his Bullet Train to Fresno, Governor Brown signed SB 998, which mandated water service providers to have a written policy concerning residential water shutoffs for nonpayment. Tonight the council adopted a written policy to do just that.
- The council resolved to authorize the city to conduct FBI background checks on new employees. That means current employees haven’t had that scrutiny – including the one who is about to shut off your water. That also means if you can dig up some dirt on that valve turning felon, you may, with that and a small emolument, be able to keep your petunias from wilting.

- Public parking area behind the Chamber of Commerce is starting to look much like the bar scene in Star Wars. The council approved a three hour parking limitation there in hopes that it will discourage overnight and long term parking. Council Member Gurney, yet again and maybe hoping to send the problem, encouraged parking in the CVS lot instead. She was a driving force on the CVS debacle that ended so badly for the city (and her) and [she just can't let it be](#).
- Mayor Slayter sponsored approval of [HR 763](#) that would, if passed, require fossil fuel companies to pay a fee on the fuels they extract. Those fees would be collected by the government and, every month, you will get a check for about \$20. "The fees must be deposited into a Carbon Dividend Trust Fund and used for **administrative expenses** and dividend payments to U.S. citizens or lawful residents. The fees must be decommissioned when emissions levels and monthly dividend payments fall below specified levels." And if you believe for a moment that your government can handle that without someone other than you getting rich, it's time to lighten up on the weed. And seeing Mitch McConnell lovingly wrap his arms around HR 763 will surely bring tears to your eyes while having the side affect of clearing some of that carbon dust.

#### Public Hearings:

- Local amendments to the State Building Codes were adopted. (4:0)
- The city was hoping for some grant money for several projects at Park Village. [However the CDC](#) is having paperwork problems, so all of that is essentially on hold. The city will now apply for grants to cover several ADA projects. First in line for ADA upgrades is the Police Station. But probably because our police don't thump that many people who have to be dragged through the doors before tossed in stir, ADA improvements at the cop shop were thought to be a low priority. Feeling that something like that would never happen to them, Vice Mayor Glass and Council Member Gurney suggested the improvements take place at the Youth Annex and City Hall. Because of the changes, this will come back at a later date. (4:0)
- To keep the State of California happy, modifications to the Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance (AKA Granny Units) were adopted. (4:0)

#### Regular Agenda Items:

- A discussion was continued from the November 19 meeting whether or not to adopt a declaration of a climate emergency. Of course it was adopted on a 4:0 vote. It's an emergency alright but it's a political one that has to take place world wide. The local actions are just to make us feel good while we follow our [Jellyfish cousins](#) down to the depths where, ironically and eventually, we will make our contribution to even more oil.
- A discussion about moving the Sonoma County Mayors and Council Members Gathering to a date in January passed on a 4:0 vote.

#### A Parting Shot:

- **First, the shot to the foot. Evidently, contrary to my assertions here about a statement made at the last meeting**, some new gas ranges sport a "Cooktop Lockout" that won't let you light a burner with a match if electricity is not available. Why in the name of fracking hell would anyone want that feature? Wanna bet some senator's nephew invented these things?
- And as the city inches closer to banning gas hookups, ill wind from an unlikely point on the compass is blowing in from the Luddites who want an exception based on their electromagnetic jitters. OIS. Only In Sebastopol.

Elapsed Time: 3:30 hours (6:00–9:30pm)

Next City Council meeting is December 17, 2019, at the Teen Center, 425 Morris Street at 6:00pm.

You can view this meeting and others at: <http://bit.ly/sebcctv>.

**John Necker**

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