

## Sebastopol City Council Meeting – March 4, 2014 – Synopsis and Commentary

All Council members were present except Council Member Gurney

**Mayor Jacob** *did not* ask us to turn off our electronic devices to spare those who are **EMF sensitive**.

He did mentioned receiving input about changing the rules for **Public Comments** (aka open mike). For a brief moment it appeared as if he was going to show a little backbone and change the format. Alas. We will continue to be beleaguered by the political gadflies, all of whom are long gone by the end of the meeting. Having early Public Comment on agenda items is reasonable but there is no reason why **Public Comments** on non agenda items can't be moved to the end of the meeting. Let's see how many flies are buzzin' at 9:45pm.

### Proclamations:

**Police Officer David Edney** was recognized for five years of service. He has been instrumental in several areas, including [MADD](#) and our [high school drug problems](#).

**Fire Chief William Braga** was recognized for 30 years of service. He's been on 18,000 calls!

### Public Comments (aka open mike):

Sampler Below:

- The speaker who goes on ad nauseam about U. N. plots and aerial spraying of who knows what said that the public comments format should not be changed because we don't need shorter meetings. Well, some of us do and she leaves early.
- Another agreed and stated several different times and in different ways that we don't need to repeat ourselves.
- A **Cittaslow** representative spoke for awhile about something that was mostly unclear.
- There were complaints about the car wash on Healdsburg Avenue.
- **Sebastopol Grange** is having a movie night this Sunday. [Please see their calendar](#).

### Consent Calendar:

Funds for a refurbished Type 3 Wildland Fire Engine were approved.

**Council Member Eder** pulled the authorization of a contract to revise the skate park design out of consent for discussion. ([See December 17, 2013 notes for more info.](#))

*What they said:*

**Council Member Eder:** Set a target price and break it into phases.

**Council Member Kyes:** Also wants it in stages, community participation, [cobb structures](#), planted with fruit trees, and edible landscaping and to send to the whole nine yards to the infamous Design Review Board.

#### **Informational Items and Presentations:**

**Mayor Jacob and Council Member Gurney** placed on the agenda a presentation by [Sebastopol Village Convergence](#). Like **Cittaslow**, that supports this idea, they want to “create a sense of place.” People will come from far and wide to help. This mostly involves the above mentioned cobb structures and “[repairing intersections](#)” (actually painting them would be more accurate.) The goals are to get all of us out of our houses, meet our neighbors and create a village. You may feel that you have already accomplished those goals but *they* don't. It got real vague when the village people were asked about where the money was coming from and where it was going. The house was packed with supporters who produced 18 **Public Comment** speakers. Not a naysayer in the lot.

*What they Said:*

**Council Member Eder:** Wanted to know if the purchase order for the Occupy benches had been issued. The answer was “no” and that never popped up again.

**Council Member Kyes:** Alluded to putting the village people to work at the skate park.

**Council Member Slayter:** Had questions about guidelines, planning and inspection requirements.

**Mayor Jacob:** Wondered who will come to get involved.

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

The city will sign a contract to have equipment installed at well #7 to filter out arsenic. This occurs naturally and we were good to go until the Feds and the State dropped the maximum parts per billion from 50 to 10. (#7 is around 11-13 ppb). But **Mayor Jacob** is pushing for 5

ppb. Say whaa...? Where did that come from? At **\$5,000**, the filter will keep the ppb below 10 for about 10 months. To keep the level at 5ppb will require changing more often at a cost of around **\$20,000** per year. The contract was approved 4:0 but the full Council will debate changing our standard to 5ppb. Are we are going to chalk up another “Only In Sebastopol?”

**The Facade Improvement Program** will restart and grant up to \$2500 to any business in town to upgrade their facade (awnings, paint, signs etc.) It passed 3:1 with **Council Member Eder** in the minority.

A “**Peace Wall**” has been proposed for the **Mario Savio Free Speech Plaza**. Starting at the height of about 2' it rises to 6' in the center then back to 2' as it arches away from the face. It has a peace symbol on top. This gives it an unsettling likeness to the tiara of [Wonder Woman](#). It's at no cost to the City and the fellow proposing it seems nice enough but don't we have some sort of “peace” monument there and are we not already “Peacetown, USA? We may even become “Peace Village, USA” soon.

#### *What They Said*

**Mayor Jacob:** What will you do if the Design Review Board wants to change it? How do you determine the four names that will get inscribed on it every year?

**Council Member Kyes:** Didn't like the proposed location and got down into the weeds about that before any initial action had even been taken.

**Council Member Eder:** The city should first have a policy about doing things like this on public property - especially since this is a political statement. (Whoa! Good idea! Too bad we weren't thinking like that before the CVS debacle.)

**Council Member Slayter:** Agreed with Council Member Eder.

It will come back to the full Council because it was going to be 2:2 tonight.

At this point none of the “open mike” speakers were in the house.

Duration 3:45

--John Necker