



# Sebastopol Citizens

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

## Sebastopol City Council Meeting October 4, 2016 – Synopsis and Commentary

Vice Mayor Glass was away attending the League of [California Cities Conference](#).

### Years of Service Award:

- Kenyon Webster, our Planning Director, was recognized for his 20 years of service to the city.

### Proclamations/Presentations:

- Fred Bollinger was recognized on his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- [Art Ibleto, the Pasta King](#) was recognized on his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- October 5<sup>th</sup> was proclaimed International Rock & Roll to School Day. [This fellow will probably not be there](#), but he would get things moving!
- The Council proclaimed its support of the [Standing Rock Sioux](#)
- October was proclaimed [Domestic Violence Awareness Month](#).
- October was also [Chamber of Commerce Awareness Month](#).

### Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- The first speaker thanked the Council for acting on his complaints about safety at the Willow Street intersection. Although it was made clear that this Public Comment was for items **NOT on the agenda**, he just knew those rules didn't apply to him. Also, he was not around at the end of the Willow Street discussion. Ahh... a special person.
- Another speaker warned of the dangers of the gentrification of Sebastopol. Too late.
- A speaker congratulated Public Works on its commitment to water conservation.
- Then there was **The Return of the EMF Lady**. Stylin' in faux fatigue pants, gloves, dark glasses, and a bike helmet wrapped in aluminum foil, she was flashing her newest haute couture. According to her, it was a silver net that she then placed over her helmeted head, making her look like some sort of deranged [middle eastern bee keeper](#). Don't believe me? [Click here and go](#) to 59:50 on the time counter on the bottom left.

### Consent Calendar: (Approved without comment 4:0)

- The Council approved a contract with [KASL](#) to design and produce a bid package to install required ADA curb ramps at pedestrian crossings along Hwy. 116. **(Cost \$33,868)**. For doing that, CalTrans will, while repaving parts of Hwy. 116, stripe bike lanes at no cost to the city. The actual construction cost of those ramps is yet to be determined.
- The Council amended an ordinance to codify the light going out at 10:00pm at the Skate Park.
- The contract with our city clerk was amended to reflect her added title of Assistant City Manager, which she acquired in September of 2016.

- And in conjunction with the above, the Council approved pay rate ranges. [You may view those rates here.](#)
- The Council authorized the City Manager to lease a second [Vactor truck](#) needed by Public Works. The lease-purchase cost is \$265,000 over 60 months at an interest rate of 2.25%. The financing is through [Holman Capital](#).

### Regular Agenda Items:

- [W-Trans](#) gave a status report on several ongoing traffic/pedestrian projects. Most members of the public were there expressing concerns about issues on Bodega Avenue from Ragle Road to Jewell Ave. But there was one fellow warning of the menace of the Willow Street/Jewell Avenue intersection that has had only one minor fender-bender there in the last ten years. And because one of the special people complained, your Council is considering three different versions of significant and costly changes to the intersection. **Cost: To be determined but surely some thousands of dollars.** Since 1976, there has never been a problem there for me or many others in our neighborhood. There's a crosswalk at Jewell and another on Willow at the pool. If one decides to cross at the island, simply walk down Willow a few yards, look left toward Jewell, right down Willow (clear vision for at least 200 yards), look left and proceed to island if clear. Then look both ways again and proceed toward the park. The clear vision is even better on this leg. **Cost: Being responsible for your own actions.** The Council will make a decision on one of three plans for changes at the **November 1<sup>st</sup> meeting** even though they have yet failed to adequately notify the area residents.
- The Council also discussed repairing the flashing crosswalk at the library. There are **serious engineering questions** about this fix. Core samples will be taken to determine a “not to exceed” cost. The council also discussed the intersection of Bodega Avenue and [Nelson Way/Gold Ridge](#) at Burbank Heights. (Passed 4:0)
- The Pine Grove Square came back for more discussion and money. You may remember that the idea here is to build a new city hall downtown at the [Burnett Street parking lot](#). To move to Phase II of the study, it's going to need more money. The budget is light to the tune of \$20,000. The total cost will be \$74,525 and will produce a “package to go out to prospective developers,” one of whom would theoretically build the new city hall for us for free—recouping expenses involved by leasing out part of the project. Well, it's possible. (4:0)
- The Mayor was authorized to send a **letter to the County Supervisors** asking them to install signs directing through traffic around Sebastopol by having them use Llano and Occidental Roads. (Passed 4:0)
- Because major ongoing work on the Joe Rodota Trail bridge has rendered it impassable, County Parks has requested the temporary use of the Laguna Preserve trail and bridge for bicycle use. (Failed 3:1 with Eder in the minority)

### City Council Reports:

- A written report was received from the [County-wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee](#).

### A Parting Shot:

- Immediately after authorizing **Mayor Gurney to ask the County Supervisors** to install those signs to direct through traffic around Sebastopol, **they rejected the County's request** to use the Laguna Preserve bridge for cyclists for a period of two weeks. The **County Parks Manager**, who had waited patiently to the very end of the meeting, was **clearly disappointed**. This

Council action, added to a few others, such as writing a letter opposing fluoridation of Cotati's water, will do little to obtain those signs or other favors.

Elapsed Time: 4:45 (6:00–10:45)

Next City Council meeting is October 18, 2016 at the Teen Center, 425 Morris Street at 6:00pm.

You can view archived City Council meetings at: <http://livestream.com/accounts/14608643>

**John Necker**

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