



Sebastopol Citizens

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

Sebastopol City Council Meeting September 4, 2018 – Synopsis and Commentary

- All council members were present.

Proclamations/Presentations:

- September was proclaimed [National Senior Center Month](#).
- Meg Mizutani was honored by the “Locals Who Make A Difference” program largely because of her work with [Sebastopol World Friends](#).

Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- The same flurry of EMF paranoia was delivered by the same foggy speaker with the same dreary delivery. Come on! Perk it up. Work a little alien abduction in there. Oh, wait. Maybe that *has* happened!
- Just when we thought it couldn't get worse, it did. Our perennial gadfly and expert on everything showed up with a long winded storm to blame the council for everything, including President Trump and stopped just short of blaming the council for the Giants being nine games back.
- Then a newbie let loose a tornado abuse on Mayor Slayter and Council Member Carnacchi. The more he talked, the stormier he got, spinning off in all directions and ending up calling Council Member Carnacchi a psychopath – a condition to which the speaker may have some close association. And even though it's been used here before, [it's time to trot this out again for these three](#).

Consent Calendar: (Approved 5:0)

- The annual conflict of interest code was approved with little evidence of collusion.
- Redwood Empire Municipal Insurance Fund (REMIF) will continue representing the city when claims are filed against the city.
- A letter of opposition to [Senate Bill 3157— Streamline Act](#) was approved. Wireless carriers are pushing hard to be allowed to place their equipment on city owned poles without the approval of the city. The only possible advantage to allowing them to do so would be that we would be so overwhelmed by the sheer ugliness of the new equipment that we would fail to notice the lesser ugliness of the existing overhead wiring.
- A letter of supporting [SB 12, the Sharps and Pharmaceutical Drug Take-Back Program](#), was approved. It would require a manufacturer or distributor of drugs to provide collection and proper disposal of pharmaceutical drug waste. However, the bill seems to ignore those ubiquitous martini olive toothpicks that become such a hazard in the late evening hours. Dispose of yours responsibly!

Informational Items/ Presentation:

- A presentation about the Laguna Treatment Plant's 50th anniversary was given. There will be an open house Saturday, September 22, from 10am to 2:00pm.
- There was also a presentation from [SHARE Sonoma County](#). It's a home-sharing program to provide affordable housing and to help seniors "age in place" with a roomie. Click on the link for more information.
- PG&E presented its [Community Wildfire Program](#). This was informative and unlike the Sonoma Clean Power **takeover** we didn't have to opt in or out to hear it. PG&E is taking steps to make its system safer and [you can find out more about that here](#).

Public Hearing:

- The council debated then approved a Basin Boundary Modification Request to the California Department of Water Resources as per the **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014**. This affects over 500 water basins in California and is a SNAFU of epic proportions. First the state applies the "act" the same way to us as it does to those in the Central Valley. Second, it arbitrarily changed our status, forcing us to join the Santa Rosa Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). If we don't join, we will have to make our own GSP, which we can't afford – some mumblings of "millions of dollars" were heard. If we do nothing, the state will step in and **takeover** our water system, then bill us anyway, which would be worse than bankruptcy alone. But wait, there's more! **There ain't no "act" yet**. The council ask enough questions of our engineering manager to fill a dump truck, if we had one, that is. He had few answers because the state doesn't seem to be able or willing to answer his questions. The state appears to be making it up as it goes. Grit your teeth and stay tuned. (Passed 4:1 with Council Member Carnacchi standing in the middle of the tracks of moral principle while the train of practicality bears down upon him.)

Regular Agenda Items:

- The council designated Sunny Galbraith as the voting member and Guy Tillotson as the alternate voting member to the [Local Task Force on The Integrated Waste Management](#). (5:0)
- That concrete pad with utilities at Village Park (aka Village Mobile Home Park) went out to bid. Only one bid came back. It was from R & C Construction of Middletown, CA for \$119,870. This bid was above the engineer's cost estimate for the work of \$85,800 and a tad over the \$35,815 that's left in the coffers for the project. The council will go ahead with the project anyway if a \$20,000 contribution comes in from West County Community Services. (Passed 4:1 with **Council Member Carnacchi** in the minority. He stated that **this whole project is starting to make a "giant sucking sound."**)
- Also returning were three bid packages for Bodega Ave. intersections safety improvements at Robinson Road, Florence Avenue, and Washington Avenue. DC Electric was the low bidder at \$225,669 compared to the engineering cost estimate of \$217,700. For now the council voted to go ahead with just the Washington Avenue improvements at a cost of \$85,569. For a while, **Mayor Slayter and Council Member Gurney** pushed for doing all three by **drawing down the city's reserve fund**, but Vice Mayor Hinton and Council Member Carnacchi were successful in deflecting that. (Passed 5:0)
- The November 6th council meeting was canceled and moved to October 30th and the November 20th meeting was moved to November 13th. (5:0)
- [League of California Cities](#) Conference will be held September 12 – 14, 2018, and the council set its positions on several resolutions that will be proposed there. (5:0)

City Council Reports:

- Village Park is scheduled to get two new small homes on wheels and more may be on the way. Does this mean the official name will go back to **Village Mobile Home Park**?

A Parting Shot: (Election Issues?)

- Downtown parking
- LED street lighting
- Position on the effects of EMF
- The increasing number of [crocodile streets](#)

Elapsed Time: 4:30 hours (6:00–10:30pm)

Next City Council meeting is September 18, 2018, at the Teen Center, 425 Morris Street at 6:00 pm.

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

John Necker

SebastopolCitizens.org