



# Sebastopol Citizens

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

## Sebastopol City Council Meeting February 5, 2019 – Synopsis and Commentary

- All council members were present.

### Proclamations/Presentations:

- Michael Jacob, outgoing planning commissioner, was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation.

### Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- A speaker lamented the lack of volunteerism in Sebastopol.\*

### Consent Calendar: (Approved (5:0))

- **Mayor Hinton** and **Council Member Glass**, along with the City Manager, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, and the Finance Director, will begin meeting to assemble a draft budget that the full council will later consider. [The schedule for those meetings is here.](#)
- A reclassification of the police department's records dispatch supervisor was approved.
- A job description revision for an accounting supervisor position was approved.

### Informational Items/ Presentation:

- [Sonoma County Tourism](#), a private, non-profit marketing organization, gave a talk on its "post fire activities." Unhappy with the accuracy of the national news media during the fire, they pledged to be ready to address that head on should it happen again. Let's hope they never get a chance to make good on that pledge. Own a business? [Contact these folks to ask about a free posting on their site.](#) Right now 250+ of your competitors are up there. (FYI: Their presentation lasted 15 minutes and they didn't recite the text on the screen. That's how it should be done, folks.)

### Regular Agenda Items:

- [The Apple Blossom Parade and Festival](#) brought to us exclusively by the Sebastopol Chamber of Commerce, (**budgeted at \$10,000**) will be held on April 13 and 14. The council approved a reduction of the event permit fees and the closing of Main Street for the parade. It passed 5:0 after council **Member Gurney complained** that they were already getting a real good deal by getting to "use all that real estate." She had no complaints about the **\$19,270** budgeted for Cittaslow that brings you, well, itself. You may remember that Sebastopol has the distinction of being one of only three cities in the entire United States that is an official Cittaslow city – the other two are Fairfax and Sonoma, California.
- In December of last year the Public Arts Committee (on a 4:1 vote) selected [Michael McGinnis to install his work, "Gray Matter"](#), on the library wall facing Bodega Avenue. The council approved the selection with a 5:0 vote.
- The 2018-19 midyear budget adjustments were approved. [You can see them here.](#) The issue was

would the council will approve a bump of about \$6,000 for the [Sebastopol Area Senior Center](#). So the place was packed with [folks who know who Liberace was](#). The other reason it was approved was due to increased costs that the center cannot control. (Passed 5:0)

- **Council Member Carnacchi, our resident Bolshevik**, who said “my heart was crushed” by being passed over as vice mayor, asked the council to establish a clear process for appointing the Mayor and Vice Mayor. Unfortunately for him, and us, he had no clear plan and, armed with stacks of statistics, seemed to be set on filibustering to the small hours of the morning until Mayor Hinton gently slowed his momentum and we just moved on, leaving fragments of his broken heart to waft slowly down into the dust of defeat.
- Sonoma County voters on Nov. 6, 2018 approved Measure M, a one-eighth cent sales tax that will support Sonoma County’s regional and city parks. Tonight’s discussion was to determine if the legally required oversight committee should consist of council members only or be open to the public. This will be put on a future agenda and a member of the council will then be appointed. (Passed 5:0)
- \* The City received four applications (three for the citizen seat and one for the commercial entities representative seat) for the Zero Waste Subcommittee. The city came up one short on the “commercial” seat, so it will re-notice the opening in hopes of getting more applicants. One applicant was a student and a minor. Since there is no student/minor position listed as a potential committee member, the council opened a “youth” seat for a student between grades nine through twelve. (Passed 5:0)

#### **A Parting Shot:**

- The council’s pandering to the sea of silver-haired seniors was a lesson on how to accumulate votes. Even after Mayor Hinton asked everyone to abstain from applauding public comment offerings, **Council Member Gurney** led my fellow geezers in that **goofy hand waving** form of intimidation. Of course, no one then spoke against the funding.

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

Next City Council meeting is February 19, 2019, at the Teen Center, 425 Morris Street at 6:00pm.

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

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