



Sebastopol Citizens

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

Sebastopol City Council Meeting August 6, 2019 – Synopsis and Commentary

- All council members were present.

Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- A **Santa Rosa** resident urged the **Sebastopol** city council to allow bikes, and other wheeled projectiles in our skate park. Oh, and she included wheelchairs on that list. Completely ignoring the safety issue, she focused on city, county and state ordinances that would allow this and topped it off with her assurances all those ordinances would have the effect of holding the city harmless. She didn't say she was a Stanford law graduate, but she certainly displayed that form, except for the dress code and tattoos of course. The **skatepark** was designed and built for **skateboards**. If the big city thrill seekers to our east want some rad wheeling, they are welcome to use our Green Mile (aka bike lanes) because no one else is using them – with the exception of a few west county motorists who are convinced they were built solely for their driving pleasure.

Consent Calendar: (Approved 5:0)

- The council received the annual sewer system performance report.
- The council was asked to provide letters of support for:
 - [SB 54 reducing plastic pollution.](#)
 - [AB 342 restricting oil and gas leasing.](#)
 - [SB 210 smog checks for medium and heavy duty vehicles.](#)
 - [AB 857 supporting public banks.](#) (Scroll down to page 3.)
- It looks as if Greg Jacobs is going to be the next victim of the Locals Who Make A Difference Program.
- A clerical error on the salary schedule was corrected.
- Participation in the [Mayor's Clean Air Day](#) was approved.
- The council received the Planning Commission's work plan. And if you want a hint as to what the council thinks of the above Planning Commission's work, all of whom were appointed by the council, [click here and scroll down to "Public Hearing."](#)

Public Hearing: (Passed 4:0 Mayor Hinton was recused.)

- The council passed a 45 day moratorium prohibiting any new non-hosted vacation rentals that would be rented for more than a total of 30 days a year. A non-hosted rental is one in which the property owner does not live while it is rented. The 45 days will give staff time to craft a more nuanced ordinance covering all aspects of short-term rental within the city limits. This may cause grief to some but it also may prevent my cousin Zeke and aunt Beulah from moving in next door to you and partying with some of their friends from [The Island of Dr. Moreau.](#)

Regular Agenda Items:

- The previous report on the financial well being of the city's water and sewer system was conducted in 2012. This year's report by [Willdan Financial Services](#) is the latest update and the city started the public process of increasing the usage rate. The city is prohibited from charging more than the costs of supplying water and sewer services. Since expenses have gone up and maintenance and upgrades to the systems are scheduled, the city has little choice but to raise rates. [You may see the report details here.](#) Page two outlines the process and pages 31 and 32 show the proposed rates and their relationship to some other cities. It will be back.
- The mayor received voting instructions regarding various other agencies to which the city belongs. The only thing of interest here is the on-going contest of wills between **Mayor Hinton** and the person who really runs this town, **Council Member Gurney**. When the mayor proposed a position for an alternate member on the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Council Member Gurney didn't object to an alternate but objected to nearly everything else about it. From the cheap seats she seemed mostly intent on doing it as long as the process was different than the one the mayor proposed. In the end the mayor prevailed on a 5:0 vote. Council Member Gurney's prolonged and failed attempt to impose her will on the mayor and the council could answer her musings as to why these meeting take so long. Bet it won't.

City Council Reports:

- Here's how to survive, mentally, physically and spiritually, the dreaded city council reports: first, focus on some defect on the back of the chair in front of you and develop a theory about how it got there (chips and scratches are good), then think of something less painful, like the last time you hit your thumb with a hammer--a serrated framing hammer, a 21 ounce serrated framing hammer--and then feel the glow of redemption as you realize that when you meet St. Peter at those famous gates, they will swing wide for you and he will say, "Pass ye unto to here sinner, and thou hast sinned mightily, thou hast also atoned for thy transgressions at those damn city council meetings."

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

Next City Council meeting is September 3, 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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