



Sebastopol Citizens

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

Sebastopol City Council Meeting March 6, 2018 – Synopsis and Commentary

- All council members were present

Proclamations/Presentations:

- The week of March 18-24 was proclaimed National Surveyor's Week.

Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- The same old moth-eaten specter of EMF that seems to haunt these meetings was conjured up by the usual mediums, but this time with different props. One of them had this nifty little black box that emitted snaps, crackles and pops. He ostentatiously scanned the room with it before the meeting, warning the believers away from different “hot spots,” then played it at public comment. Unbeknown to all present, the muted [B.S. detector](#) in my pocket was pegging at the same time – detecting the real threat in the room.
- Another speaker condescendingly lectured the council about its insufficient appreciation of the police department.
- Complaints about perceived shortcomings to the changes at Hwy. 12 and Ragle Rd. were voiced by a fellow who hasn't yet discovered you never get everything you want in politics.

Consent Calendar:

(Council Member Carnacchi abstained voting on the pot item on the grounds he wasn't present at the last meeting. But there was probably more to it than that. He also voted “no” on the IPA run. All other council members were good to go with all items below.)

- The council approved the start of the annual lighting assessment for 2018/19. After the assessment it will come back before the council for approval. While the council probably will approve it, less likely will be the approval of some who regret the council's banning of LED lighting that costs the city approximately \$54,000 per year – [and that started in 2015](#).
- The new and improved pot ordinance was approved. Many will be pleased that they no longer have to fake symptoms of the Bubonic Plague to get stoned but may amble into one of our non-formula stores and buy their weed. Perhaps there should be a gathering on April 20 at “Door To Hell” at 4:20 pm where there will be a mass public tearing of the “medical marijuana” cards issued by doctors who slept through the ethics lecture at medical school.
- The council authorized staff to file a notice of completion for the work done by [Earthtone Construction](#) that improved the Village Mobile Home Park manager's building and at the same time acquired the more tony name of “Park Village.”
- Approved were the job descriptions and salary ranges for accounting supervisor and facilities maintenance worker.
- A temporary use permit was granted to [The Barlow for a 10K race](#) on April 14 with an “expo marketplace” on April 13. This was a successful event last year.

- Red zones were approved on Morris Street so the city can access the new trash cans. Apparently a path by the [old cement plant](#) is being used to dump trash and the cans will save the culprits a walk. Another zone was approved on [218 Keating Avenue](#) to improve the visibility of delivery trucks leaving Rite Aid.
- Approved a letter of support for [Proposition 68 and Proposition 69](#) and one opposing [SB827](#).

Public Hearing:

- More “Cost Sharing” compliance issues between CalPERS and the police officers association were addressed. **Mayor Slayter** said staff promised him “this will eventually come to an end.”

Regular Agenda Items:

- The Planning Commission approved an [Anytime Fitness gym at 131 South Main Street](#) (the old Round Table Pizza.) It was approved on a 5:2 vote. That approval was appealed by an individual and local gym owner on a number of issues. The council agreed and **overturned the Planning Commission’s approval**. It cited parking issues, general health and safety(?) with **Council Member Glass** implying that the Planning Commission was led to approve the application – although she didn’t have the courage to directly name the sinner who did the leading. There were other diversions, but the real reason was they didn’t want a chain store downtown with a corporate logo hanging on the wall competing with the existing workout businesses. For you who cannot afford the fees of the current establishments, [you may want to try this three minute workout](#) – but be careful.
- The council discussed and approved “declaring the City of Sebastopol an [International City of Peace](#).” Of course they did.

City Council Reports:

- Some members of the public have complained about PG&E’s billing method. It seems PG&E is only required to read **analog meters** every two months and then bill the average monthly usage. The council is planning to call PG&E to task. You can avoid this problem by getting a “smart” meter but then risk having that fellow from “public comment” show up and declare your house a hot spot.

A Parting Shot:

- Is it even possible for this place to be more peaceful? You got your nuclear free zone, peace poles, peace monument in the plaza, the Peace Wall across the street and we are already Peace Town, U.S.A. If we become anymore peaceful we run the risk becoming comatose. In fact, that may have already happened in a few areas – especially in the area of critical thinking.

Elapsed Time: 2:50 hours (6:00–8:50pm)

Next City Council meeting is March 20, 2018 at the Teen Center, 425 Morris Street at 6:00pm.

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

John Necker
SebastopolCitizens.org