

Sebastopol City Council Meeting – April 7, 2015 – Synopsis and Commentary

All council members were present.

There was a prior closed session concerning possible litigation (one case). Nothing to report.

Public Comment (AKA Open Mike):

This was mostly comprised of the cause du jour, a thinly disguised blanket condemnation of police in general. There was **much applause** supporting this, despite **Mayor Slayter's** request to refrain, lest it discourage others from voicing an opposing opinion. Of course he was ignored because that is exactly why they were doing it. They weren't doing it at **10:40 pm** because by then, these stalwarts of democracy were long gone, at home with their feet up, drinking a beer and watching the Giants lose.

Proclamations/Presentations:

- April was declared [Child Abuse Prevention Month](#).
- April 19-25 was declared [National Crime Victims' Right's Week](#) in Sebastopol.
- April 12-18 was declared [Week of the Young Child](#).
- A certificate of appreciation was awarded to resigning Design Review Board member, Robert Beauchamp.
- A certificate of appreciation was awarded to Helen Shane for her dedication to the City.

Presentation of Years of Service Awards were given to:

- Thomas Leach – 5 years
- Mary Gourley – 20 years
- Michael Elson – 25 years

Consent Calendar:

- The **Community Center remodel** was approved. It's scaled back from the original design and includes a redesigned entry/reception area (that will take part of Classroom 1), and upgrades to the restrooms to conform to the ADA. The estimate was \$110,00 but the low bid by A.E. Nelson of Rohnert Park was **\$120,300**. The contingency allowance will cover the difference.
- The continuation of the agreement with the County to administer our **Mobile-home Rent Stabilization Program** was approved. The City doesn't have the staff, expertise, or money to do this so it's farmed out at the rate of **\$95.00 per hour** with the expectation not to exceed 80 hours. County Counsel services will be billed at **\$223.00 per hour** with the expectation not to exceed 90 hours per year. In the past three years, the **average expenditure has been \$500.00**. These funds used to be paid from the now defunct Community Development Agency. Now they come from the General Fund. **Council Member Glass** was reassured by the City Manager that, while not perfect, this was a typical and best way to manage the mobile-home rent issues. The City owns the mobile-home park leaving town to the east on Hwy. 12. Do you ever wonder how much we are making on it? Yeah, me too. Email someone at the [City](#) and let us know.

Informational Items:

- There was the yearly report from [Ives pool](#). It remains a marvel of operation—open 360 days a year, 15.5 hours a day, and has taught over 2,000 children how to swim.
- There was also a report on Palm Drive Hospital given by CEO Ray Hino and Board Member Marsha Sue Lustig. Trying to understand this odyssey is like trying to understand the alliances in [Yemen](#). The five hospital board members we elected to the [Palm Drive Health Care District](#)

will be absorbed by eight people supplied from the [Sonoma West Medical Center](#) to form a board of thirteen—that's more than what's needed for a good basketball pickup game! So it looks as if we will now have two boards running the hospital. **Why do we need all these people?** Anyway, according to the presentation, this whole idea has to sit up and walk by April 27, 2015 or it will flat line forever.

Discussion and Action Items:

- The progress of the proposed bike lanes was detailed by city consultant, Geoffery Rubendall. The plan is for the Class 2 paths to extend from the north end of the city limits on Hwy. 116 to Cooper Rd. to the south. The Council voted 5:0 to press ahead and also apply for a grant from the good folks at [Active Transportation Program](#).
- The [Peace Wall](#) is back but has waddled out of the Mario Savio Free Speech Plaza and plopped down on the grass by the Rialto theater. Both **Mayor Slayter and Council Member Eder**, while admiring the concept, opposed the wall because of its design and the potential of conflict over adding names to it in perpetuity. And evidently there exists an earlier proposal for something else there. The Council was asked by a member of the public to wait for that and then choose between the two. **NOT!** It passed 3:2. Will we ever have enough peace in **Peacetown, USA?**
- The Annual Level of Service Report came in. Among other things, water and sewer flows were down from last year, there were more fire calls (60% were medical), school district population continues to fall and four bulding permits for dwellings were issued. Well, that adds up. **Welcome to Oldtown, USA!**
- Parklets, (**AKA partying in parking places**) continues to be pursued. While the idea to continue passed 4:0 (Councilmember Jacob was not present for this vote), concern was expressed about liability and safety, especially from **Council Member Eder**.

A Parting Shot:

- Well, two of the presentations were very interesting. The fellow who blasted the Council in a [public letter](#), misrepresented himself on his application for the Board, and was not present at this meeting, received a **certificate of appreciation** anyway. So *this* is how you get one of those things. Does that mean if you just term out no one loves you?
- And the person who was the driving force behind the **CVS debacle** that ended up costing the City around \$800,000, whose tactics did much to divide this community **AND DID NOT STOP CVS**, was given a **certificate of appreciation** too.

Elapsed Time: **4:40 (6:00 pm -10:40 pm)**

John Necker