



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 7, 2018 – Synopsis and Commentary

- At 5:00 pm the council interviewed Sunny Galbraith, Guy Tillotson and Gerald Glaser for two positions on the Local Task Force on Integrated Waste Management.
- ...
- All council members were present for both meetings.

Proclamations/Presentations:

- Eric Scott was recognized for 25 years with the public works department.
- [Kari Svanstrom](#) was welcomed as the new planning director. It remains to be seen how long that lasts if she, like her predecessor, the same annoying habit of adhering to the law.

Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- The first speaker spoke to the needs of displaced persons and made it known she was looking for a place to rent and started pitching her case until the mayor cut her off.
- Another speaker warned of the changes in the telecommunications act and then wanted to know if the Sebastopol police had been training with the Israeli police and visa versa. Oy gevalt!
- The [Sebastopol Chamber of Commerce](#) made it known that it has a new rack full of maps and brochures available to the public.

Consent Calendar:

- The Annual Performance Report on Sanitary Sewer System was accepted by the council. In the calendar year of 2017 there were only two overflows as compared to five in 2016. Your tax dollars at work! (5:0)
- The mayor will sign a letter to commit to being diesel-free by 2033 if we haven't [done something much worse to ourselves by then](#). (Approved 4:1 with Council Member Carnacchi in the minority and then (5:0) when he insisted on reversing his vote after discussion of the item below.) *
- Public Works wants to buy, at a cost of \$91,667, a Ford F-650 5-yard dump truck to replace the 1994 truck that is four years past its replacement date. And because of its old diesel engine, there are restrictions on how often it can be used. It's so environmentally incorrect that when the city hands it over to the auctioneer for sale it must obtain a certificate that it was sold outside of the State of California. Several times, using the phrase "**keeping people honest**", **Vice Mayor Hinton** wasn't having any of it. Has she sniffed out some **collusion**? Does she have secret photos of the Public Works Superintendent prancing around in an **ostrich skin coat with some Ford Motor company oligarch**? Will she be able to get the **guy who reads the water meters to flip**? Well, we'll find out after the elections because she was successful in delaying the purchase until then claiming it was too much to spend now. Maybe we'd have the

money if she could convince herself and two other council members that LED street lighting isn't dangerous and by now we would be saving \$26,000 a year on lighting bills. (*Approved 5:0)

- The city has contacted with [DC Electric Group](#) for a lighted crosswalk system at Bodega Avenue and Ragle Road at a **cost of \$177, 689**. But an old light pole that was to be reused proved unusable. The city will have to buy a new pole at the cost of **\$15, 575**. (Approved 5:0)

Regular Agenda Items:

- Sunny Galbraith and Guy Tillotson were appointed to the Local Task Force on Integrated Waste Management. (Approved 5:0)
- Citing increased construction and interest costs and an unforeseen extensive archaeological excavation, the Sebastopol Hotel project asked the city to reduce the following fees: reducing the water/sewer fees (\$109,369) reduced by 35% = \$71,090, the building plan check fee (\$80,020) by 50% = \$40,010 and the elimination of the project's transportation impact fee (\$57,673.29). The project also asked to defer development fees for one year after opening or three consecutive months with over 75% occupancy, whichever comes first and that the fees will be paid in monthly installments after the above date and over the course of five years. This was headed down [the long and winding road](#) to subcommittee but our de facto mayor, Council Member Gurney, muscled this one through, giving the hotel mostly what it asked for less the traffic impact fee reduction. What nailed it for the hotel was the claim it would be the **first net zero energy hotel in California**. (Approved 5:0)
- The council considered approving a designate to attend Caltrans meetings on the ADA pedestrian sidewalk improvement project. This *will* go down that long and winding road to determine just who will meet with Caltrans. In the meantime staff will schmooze with Caltrans in an attempt to soften them up. (Approved 5:0)
- Meg Mizutani of Sebastopol World Friends was approved as the next Locals Who Make A Difference Honoree. (Approved 5:0)
- **Mayor Slayter requested creation of a downtown parking subcommittee** and an affordable housing site subcommittee. But **Council Member Carnacchi** came fully armed to blow-up anything that even smelled like a Pine Grove. Much to his surprise, he discovered that the [Pine Grove Committee had already been clear-cut](#) without his knowledge. He was not amused. And Mayor Slayter's ideas about parking and housing also got axed, even though Council Member Gurney really wanted authority to ferret out affordable housing sites in town. Well, ya know, a Pine Grove by any other name would smell the same. (Tabled by the mayor)
- The council tried to settle on the language for arguments in favor of the ballot measures that will extend the sales tax and increase the transient occupancy tax. If this hadn't got going at 11:55 pm, it would have been funny. After about 30 minutes it went back to the committee where it started, who will take council member suggestions by email and finalize it themselves. (Approved 5:0)

Public Hearings:

- The council discussed changes to the zoning ordinance to bring it into compliance with the general plan but ran out of diesel and will start up again on September 4th.
- It also did the same regarding the zoning map.
- Ditto on annexation of the property located just south of the Tomodachi Park.

City Council Reports:

- **Oh hell yes.** It was only 12:20am.

Closed Session:

- The two items were anticipated litigation and significant exposure to litigation.

A Parting Shot:

- Several were needed and they ran the gamut. The Jack Daniel's didn't pack the muzzle velocity required after such a meeting. Czar's Gold Russian Vodka helped but the idea of running off naked into the desert to live with wolves still persisted. Don Julio 1942 changed that to spending the night watching the grinding and paving of downtown Hwy 116. The pleasant sounds and aroma eased my mind regarding recent events and encouraged me to put my clothes back on as it seemed to be distracting the fellow on the grinder.

Elapsed Time: 6:35 hours (6:00pm–12:35am)

Next City Council meeting is September 4, 2018, at the Teen Center, 425 Morris Street at 6:00pm.

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

John Necker

SebastopolCitizens.org