



Sebastopol Citizens

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

Sebastopol City Council Meeting June 7, 2016 – Synopsis and Commentary

Robert Jacob is on extended leave. All other Council members were present.

Mayor Gurney announced the death of Mel Davis, Sebastopol City Manager from 1965 to 1993. He was an all around good guy.

Proclamations/Presentations:

- June 20, 2016 was declared [Ride Your Motorcycle to Work Day](#). Evidently somewhat of a biker himself, **Council Member Slayter** read a declaration that was infused with all the politically correct language about how motorcycles use less energy and parking and a myriad of other global saving measures. He never mentioned mining the ore and collecting and transporting all the other items it takes to make what is almost always an optional means of transportation. Also not mentioned was the fact that only few could pass the noise ordinance in this town. [Come on, it's okay to just have some fun now and again.](#)

Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- A mom worried about the condition of one of the play structures at Ives Park. Public works will look into it.

Consent Calendar: (All consented to without comment 4:0)

- The [Political Reform Act](#) requires the City to review and update, if necessary, its conflict of interest code every two years.
- Some City housing ordinances were adopted as required by State law.
- The Municipal Code was cleaned up.
- The property at 7765 Bodega Avenue was approved for rezoning.
- A dining patio for Round Table Pizza at [775 Gravenstein Hwy. South](#) was approved.
- Two legal claims against the City were rejected.
- Geoffrey Skinner was appointed as an alternate to the Planning Commission.

Informational Items/ Presentation:

- 42 property owners have been notified they must clear weeds from their property and 41 have already complied. Number 42 is in the process of renting a chipper. A chipper? [That's a big weed!](#)
- The annual Street Lighting Assessment was approved at the **rate of \$20.16** per equivalent single-family dwelling—a **total of \$110,050**. The rate remains unchanged. If the Council hadn't rejected the installation of **LED lighting**, in three years that number could have been [cut nearly in half](#). Pandering to special groups is [often not tasteful](#).
- The City Council reviewed the [proposed budget](#). The Fire Chief was hoping for **\$192,000** for

extra staff that would **reduce the average response time** from eight minutes back down to four. He will have to wait a little longer.

- The Capital Improvement Plan for the fiscal years 2016 through 2021 was also reviewed.
- The Council approved charging for electrical use at the three electric car-charging stations in the parking lot near the Rialto Cinemas. **The rate will go from zero** to \$2.00 for a connection and \$1.00 an hour after that up to four hours. That rate will cover City costs.

Regular Agenda Items:

- The new Urban Growth Boundary petition moved ahead. Due to expire at the end of 2016, the new UGB will endure until the end of 2041—if approved by the voters. According to the City Manager, the new petition is “**nearly identical to the current UGB.**” Until 2041, only the voters can repeal it.
- The Council amended its calendar and formed an **Independent Charter School Committee** to meet with school officials. It continued to oppose the move of the school to Hurlbut Avenue, just outside the city limits, even though the City has no jurisdiction there. So here's another perfectly legitimate business wanting, this time, to *move out of town* so all the kids can be on one campus that isn't covered with asphalt and will have a big garden. **Mayor Gurney** even expressed some concern over a **potential lawsuit** by the school. What!?! [More details from Amie Windsor at the Sonoma West Times and News here.](#)

A Parting Shot:

- During the UGB discussion, we discovered that there are about 4,300 registered voters in Sebastopol but only 60 to 65 percent actually vote. Last election 3,219 ballots were cast. Come on, we can do better than that. If half of those who didn't vote did so, one wonders what the outcome could be. Vote early, vote often.

Elapsed Time: 3:45 hours (6:00–9:45pm)

Next City Council meeting is June 21, 2016 at the Teen Center, 425 Morris Street at 6:00 pm.

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