

## Sebastopol City Council Meeting – October 7, 2014 – Synopsis and Commentary

All Council members were present.

There was another closed session from 5-6 pm dealing with (wait for it!) the CVS lawsuit.

### **Proclamations:**

Years of Service awards were given to Nathan W. Sutton (15 years with Public Works) and John G. Lites (25 years as a volunteer policeman).

The City also proclaimed:

[Chamber Awareness Month](#)

[Domestic Violence Awareness Month](#)

[International Walk and Roll to School Day](#) (Oct. 8)

[Freedom from Workplace Bullies Week](#) (Oct. 19-25)

### **Public Comment: (aka open mike)**

Alas, except for a report on the library, it was the same old, tired dog and pony show. We did get a detailed report on one of the persistent speaker's dental problems that were undoubtedly caused by EMF.

### **Consent Calendar:**

All were approved without discussion excepting #8, which was pulled by **Council Member Eder** because *one* citizen apparently asked him to do so.

- Approval of an agreement with RBF Consulting to conduct a **closed circuit inspection of all sewer mains**. They will produce an evaluation and recommend repairs that take priority. Your sewer fees will pay for the \$505,047 cost.
- Two seats on the **Planning Commission** will expire on December 31<sup>st</sup>. If you live in, or own a business in the City, you may apply. Applications will be available on the City website from October 16<sup>th</sup> through December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **The Design Review Board** also has two seats that will expire at the same time. There are several requirements but you shouldn't sweat that too much. [Last time](#) two applicants were seated on the board even though it was discovered **they misrepresented themselves** on their applications. **Vice Mayor Slayter voted not to seat** them but **Mayor Jacob** and Council Members **Gurney, Eder** and the late **Michael Kyes** all voted to seat them. So give it a shot. You may not get caught or, more likely, this Council won't care if you are overly frugal with the truth.
- The City is cleaning up some paperwork as a result of Governor Jerry Brown having harpooned all the redevelopment agencies.
- The City approved moving ahead with the first two years of the Ground Water Management Plan at a cost of \$3,000 per year, paid for by your water fees. [Click here for details.](#)
- The Barlow still has some work to accomplish to satisfy City requirements. If that work cannot be completed by the agreed upon date of October 17<sup>th</sup>, the City will grant an extension, with

certain provisions.

- The City approved a resolution amending the job descriptions and salary ranges for the Assistant Planner and Administrative Assistant, added a salary range to the Fire Chief classification, created a Senior Administrative Analyst description and salary range, and added a salary range for the Finance Director. The cost for the above is \$18,359 for the rest of the fiscal year. This money will come from the general fund. \*

\* This discussion generated only questions about the transparency of the increases that had everything to do with wonky *City Speak* and nothing to do with subterfuge. Any member of the public who thinks differently should attend more City Council meetings and watch our **overworked and underpaid staff in action**.

#### **Informational Item:**

[The User Fee Schedule](#) amendment was approved. These are fees designed to reimburse the City for some of the services it provides.

#### **Discussion and Action Items:**

A resolution establishing criteria for installing artwork or monuments on City property was sent back to staff for wordsmithing. **Council Member Gurney** worried that some of her colleagues were smithing it to kill the “Peace Wall” project for the Mario Savio Free Speech Plaza. It's unclear if the resolution will also cover **painting big birds in the street**.

#### **CVS**

The [CVS issue appears settled](#) but with this Council you never know. Since it **takes only three votes** to formalize this, it will be interesting to see who maneuvers to vote last. With three “aye” votes, the others can claim to be the only Council members who voted “nay.” **And check this out!** CVS will pay the City a total of **\$150,000** for a traffic signal synchronization study and payment of Small Town Sebastopol's attorney costs. And if there is any loose change left over, the **City and Small Town Sebastopol jointly have discretion as to the use of all remaining funds. Hey, sue the City and make a buck. Ya gotta love capitalism!**

Another closed session, this one regarding litigation and something to do with public employment recruitment.

John Necker

Duration 3:30