

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR Meeting of June 16, 2020

As Approved by the City Council at their regular meeting of July 7, 2020.

The public is advised that pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.5 all writings submitted to the City Council are public records and will be made available for review.

Please note that minutes are not verbatim minutes and are meant to be the City's record of a summary of actions that took place at the meeting. City Council video recording are kept for a period of one year from date of meeting.

Notice: All resolutions and ordinances introduced and/or adopted under this agenda are waived of all reading of entire resolution(s) and ordinance(s).

The Sebastopol City Council welcomes you to its meetings that are generally scheduled for the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month. Your interest and participation are encouraged and appreciated.

SIMULTANEOUS MEETING COMPENSATION DISCLOSURE (Government Code § 54952.3): Members of the City Council receive no additional compensation as a result of convening a joint meeting of the City Council and Successor Agency to the Former Community Development Agency.

SB 751 Legislative bodies of local agencies must publicly report: (1) any action taken and (2) the vote or abstention on each action taken by each member present for the action at a meeting.

\*\*\*\*GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20\*\*\*\*  
\*\*RE CORONAVIRUS COVID-19\*\*

CITY COUNCL MEETINGS WILL BE CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS WHICH SUSPENDS CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT.

*This meeting complies with the Sonoma County Health Officer's COVID-19 Order to Shelter in Place issued on March 17, 2020, and pursuant to California Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20 issued on March 17, 2020.*

**CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) ADVISORY**

To protect our constituents, City officials and City staff, the City requests all members of the public to follow the California Department of Health Services' guidance and the County of Sonoma's Public Health Officer Order for the Control of COVID-19 restricting group events and gatherings and maintaining social distancing.

Consistent with Executive Order N-29-20, in-person participation by the public will not be permitted and no physical location from which the public may observe the meeting will be available. Remote public participation information follows this agenda.

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NOTICE: All Resolutions and Ordinances introduced and/or adopted under this agenda are waived of all reading of entire resolution(s) and ordinance(s).

The Sebastopol City Council welcomes you remotely to its meetings that are generally scheduled for the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month. Your interest and participation are encouraged and appreciated.

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City Council Regular Meetings are available in real time and archived on Livestream. Important Notice  
The City of Sebastopol shows both live broadcasts and Video Archive of City Council Meetings over the Internet. Your attendance at this public meeting may result in the recording and broadcast of your image and/or voice.

- Here is the link: <http://bit.ly/sebcctv>

*There are times that the meetings may not be live streamed due to technical issues; if that is the case, the meeting will be video-taped and uploaded as soon as possible to the City Web Site.*

**6:00 pm            CONVENE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING by Teleconference Only Per Shelter in Place Directive**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Slayter called the regular meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present:** Mayor Slayter – By video teleconference  
Vice Mayor Glass – By video teleconference  
Councilmember Carnacchi – By video teleconference  
Councilmember Gurney - By video teleconference  
Councilmember Hinton -By video teleconference

**Absent:** None

**Staff:** City Manager/City Attorney Larry McLaughlin  
Assistant City Manager/City Clerk Mary Gourley  
Administrative Services Director Ana Kwong  
Bill Braga, Fire Chief  
Henry Mikus, Engineering Manager  
Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director  
Greg DeVore, Acting Police Chief

Mayor Slayter read a prepared statement regarding the process of the city council meeting.

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG:** Mayor Slayter led the salute to the flag.

**PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS:**

**\*Proclamations and Presentations have been suspended until further notice.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT** (At this time, members of the public may comment on any item not appearing on the agenda. It is recommended that you keep your comments to three minutes or less. Under State Law, unless otherwise permitted under the Ralph M. Brown Act, the merits of the matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon by the City Council at this time. For items appearing on the agenda, the public will be invited to make comments at the time the item comes up for Council consideration.)

**Public Comments Received by Email Prior to the Meeting:**

A copy of the emails submitted prior to the City Council meeting have been made a part of the public record. A list of emails received are as follows and were made available to the City Council as well as placed on the city web site from the following persons:

- zen destiny
- Eris Weaver
- Stephen Zollman
- Heidi Doughty
- Gerald Glaser
- Jasmine Lawrence
- Sam Judge
- Tom Conlon
- Christine Meyer
- Dena Allen
- Claire McDonell
- JoJo Sanders
- Sunny Galbraith
- Suzanne Lande
- Nick Sanders
- Kyle Falbo

Nick Sanders commented as follows:

- Discussed grievous wounds of slavery
- Wound has been covered for generations by a social fabric
- Aware that social fabric is ripping off and the toxic abscess of racism has come fully into fire
- In this moment I challenge you to find ways to be progressive leaders in a new era.
- Prioritizing social equity and justice
- Assertively find ways to better serve those in our communities who are vulnerable and who are fighting against injustice and institutionalized racism
- Time to grow
- City Council are our leaders – do it now

**STATEMENTS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BY MAYOR/CITY COUNCILMEMBERS FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA** (This is the time for the Mayor or City Councilmembers to indicate any statements of conflicts of interests for any item listed on this agenda) *There were none.*

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- The consent agenda consists of items that are routine in nature and do not require additional discussion by the City Council or have been reviewed by the City Council previously. These items may be approved by one motion without discussion unless a member of the City Council requests that the item be taken off the consent calendar.
- The Mayor will read the consent calendar items; ask if a Councilmember wishes to remove one or more items from the consent calendar; and then open public comment to the members of the public in attendance. At this time, a member of the public may speak for up to three minutes on the entire consent calendar and request at that time that an agenda item or items be removed for discussion.
- If an item or items are removed from the consent calendar, the item shall be placed at the end of the regular agenda items unless otherwise determined by the Mayor or Mayor Pro Tern.
- Council Members may comment on Consent Calendar items or ask for minor clarifications without the need for pulling the item for separate consideration. Items requiring deliberation should be pulled for separate consideration and shall be placed at the end of the regular agenda items unless otherwise determined by the Mayor or Mayor Pro Tern.

Mayor Slayter read the consent calendar.

Mayor Slayter questioned if any Councilmember(s) wanted to remove any item(s) from the consent calendar. There were none at this time.

Mayor Slayter asked for Public Comments: There were none at this time.

Councilmember Gurney moved and Councilmember Glass seconded the motion to approve Consent Calendar Item(s) Number(s) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Mayor Slayter re-opened public comment:

June Brashures commented as follows:

- Wanted to comment on Item 4
- Knows there are a number of elements around the budget
- Most seem fine
- Discussed portion for accepting supplemental law enforcement funds
- Appropriate to pull that from the consent calendar and add to agenda so it can be public what those funds are used for
- What is it we are agreeing to accept with those funds?
- A lot of interest right now about resources going to law enforcement
- A lot of interest and community engagement around that
- Hopes the item can be moved so that we can have a discussion among the Council and an understanding among the public of what the Council is doing in relation to that and what the implications would be for our community

Sequoia commented as follows:

- In agreement with speaker
- Think we should hold off on the specific part in Item 4 - supplemental law enforcement funds

Laura concurred.  
Kerrie concurred.  
Kyle concurred.  
Brooke concurred.  
Marsha Sue concurred.

Councilmember Hinton commented that the \$100,000 supplemental law enforcement funds were discussed and explained at the last council meeting and the information is in the minutes and indicated it would be good to mention the explanation again.

Mayor Slayter asked staff to explain the supplemental law enforcement funds.

Acting Chief Devore commented as follows:

- My understanding is that the grant comes through the Federal Government
- Supplemental funding to be used for payroll or personnel costs
- \$100,000 goes toward the salary of an officer
- Understands that payroll is the only thing that these funds can be used for

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- Would like to further the discussion on what the \$100,000 can be used for
- Exactly how can that be spent
- Be clear on that for the members of the public
- Should not so easily dismiss it with just a cursory review
- Requested Item Number 4 be pulled from the consent calendar.

Item Number 4 was pulled from the consent calendar.

Councilmember Gurney amended her motion Councilmember Glass seconded the amended motion to approve Consent Calendar Item(s) Number(s) 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6.

Mayor Slayter called for a roll call vote. City staff conducted a roll call vote.

VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmember Carnacchi, Gurney, Hinton, Vice Mayor Glass and Mayor Slayter  
Noes: None  
Absent: None  
Abstain: None

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

1. Approval of Minutes of the City Council Meeting of June 2, 2020 (Responsible Department: City Administration)

**City Council Action: Approved Minutes of the City Council Meeting of June 2, 2020**

**Minute Order Number: 2020-124**

2. Approval to Direct City Agencies to Review the Conflict of Interest Code (Responsible Department: City Administration)

**City Council Action: Approved Direction to Staff to Direct City Agencies to Review the Conflict of Interest Code**

**Minute Order Number: 2020-125**

3. Approval of Resolution Calling and Giving Notice of a General Municipal Election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, for the Election of Members of the City Council as required, and Requesting the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors to Consolidate the General Municipal Election with the Statewide General Election to be held on that date pursuant to Elections Code; and Approval of Resolution Adopting Regulations for Candidates for Elective Office Pertaining to the Candidate Statement of Qualifications and Requiring Each Candidate Filing a Candidate Statement of Qualifications Pay in Advance to the Local Agency an Estimated Pro Rate Share as a Condition of Having His/her Statement included in the Voters Pamphlet for the Municipal Election to be held on November 3, 2020).

(Two Seats: Councilmember Carnacchi and Councilmember Hinton)

Nomination Papers will be available once the nomination period has opened (not earlier than the 113th day nor later than the 88th day before the municipal election). Appointments will be required.

Nomination Period for City Council Candidates is Open July 13, 2020 – August 7, 2020. If 1 or more of the incumbents does not file by August 7, 2020 the nomination period will be extended for 5 days, until 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 12, 2020.

Who Can Run for City Council:

- Be at least eighteen years of age
- Be a citizen of the United States
- Be a resident of the State of California
- Be a registered voter for not less than 30 days preceding the date of filing candidate papers. Registration will be verified before issuance of nomination papers.

**City Council Action: Approved Adoption of Resolutions Calling and Giving Notice of a General Municipal Election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, for the Election of Members of the City Council as required, and Requesting the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors to Consolidate the General Municipal Election with the Statewide General Election to be held on that date pursuant to Elections Code; and Approval of Resolution Adopting Regulations for Candidates for Elective Office Pertaining to the Candidate Statement of Qualifications and Requiring Each Candidate Filing a Candidate Statement of Qualifications Pay in Advance to the Local Agency an Estimated Pro Rate Share as a Condition of Having his/her Statement included in the Voters Pamphlet for the Municipal Election to be held on November 3, 2020).**

**Minute Order Number: 2020-126**

**Resolution Number(s): 6298-2020 and 6299-2020**

- ~~4. Approval of Resolution Approving and Adopting Interim Fiscal Year 2020-2021 City of Sebastopol Budget; Approval and Adoption of Resolution establishing the appropriations limit for the City of Sebastopol for the 2020-2021 pursuant to Article XIII B of the California Constitution; Adoption of Resolution Approving Supplemental Law Enforcement Funds (SLEF); and Adoption of Resolution Amending City Council Financial Policy #69 (Finance Director)~~
5. Approval and Adoption of Resolution Authorizing and Approving the City of Sebastopol Current Pay Rates and Ranges (Salary Schedule)

**City Council Action: Approved Adoption of Resolution Authorizing and Approving the City of Sebastopol Current Pay Rates and Ranges**

**Minute Order Number: 2020-128**

**Resolution Number(s): 6304-2020**

6. Approval of Request to Solicit Bids for Remodel of Sebastopol Cultural Community Center (SCCC) Kitchen (Responsible Department: Engineering)

**City Council Action: Approved Request to Solicit Bids for Remodel of Sebastopol Cultural Community Center (SCCC) Kitchen**

**Minute Order Number: 2020-129**

**REGULAR CALENDAR AGENDA ITEMS (DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION):**

7. Report to City Council on Police Policy/Procedures/Protocols. The Mayor and Vice Mayor will provide an update for consideration of proposed actions and setting a Specific Date/Time for a Special City Council Meeting. (Responsible Department: City Manager/Agenda Review Committee)

Mayor Slayter, Vice Mayor Glass and City Manager McLaughlin presented the agenda item recommending the City Council receive an update on actions taken, proposed actions, and request to set a specific date/time for a Special City Council Meeting.

Mayor Slayter provided the following comments:

- Item brought to the Council by the Mayor and Vice Mayor
- Clearly a conversation that our local communities are all working on
- Things appropriately accelerated regarding this topic
- Wanting to be as responsive as we possibly could have been to our community
- Understands there is a national and international crisis which is actually significantly larger than any of us really understand or can fully comprehend
- Narrow focus of what is being proposed tonight initially
- Discussed locally, internationally issues that I am having problems with as pointed out by a member of the community during public comment, the difficulties are well beyond a small town
- We have systemic racism
- We have a significant issue with entire communities locked out of economic prosperity, property ownership, education, medical care
- It is everywhere and what we can do is begin and work very diligent on the issue – that is for many the number one issue
- In agreement with the Vice Mayor and we have both been working on a way to be responsive to our community
- We have, as evidenced, technical issues with these types of meetings and it is not how we want to do this but right now it is what we have to do to keep our community safe
- In our conversations it became very apparent very quickly that we needed to not just put an item on the agenda and say okay we're doing it, or say we will sign a pledge and then say we are done; that is inappropriate and is not being responsive and is not the work that really needs to get done
- We looked at calendars and realized we have an opportunity to conduct a meeting next week and one following – sooner than our next City Council Meeting

- We have next Tuesday open for a special meeting and that is what we are proposing tonight
- Looking at this we realized very rapidly that we do not know what we do not know
- What we need is an expert and advice on how to proceed with this topic
- It is certainly beyond my knowledge and as far as I know none of my colleagues work in law enforcement directly
- Trying to figure out how we can facilitate a full community discussion and how we would want to proceed with evaluation of how police services are delivered in Sebastopol
- The overriding thing that the Vice Mayor and I keep coming back to is that the police services as delivered in the City of Sebastopol need to reflect the values of our residents and of the City of Sebastopol
- Also, it is not just the police department but all City departments – it's the Public Works Department, it is the Building Department, it is all City staff
- Everyone needs to reflect the values of this community
- This is how we are able to have the community, the mutual respect between City staff and residents, and City staff to City staff
- Received a number of emails on item 4 (budget)
- Budget we are looking at is an initial budget due to COVID-19 emergency and the inability for us to accurately predict revenues
- We are looking at a flat line budget
- Taken last year's line item budget and basically copied it to this year with the exception of contractual obligations that the City has signed contracts for and are required to pay
- Discussed cost of insurance services and policies have increased significantly
- Discussed the police department's budget
- Is a little more than 10% increase but what we have is less than 3% of contractual obligations and the balance is insurance premiums that go to our insurance carrier for insurance costs
- It is not an increase anything other than a cost of living increase that is contractually obligated by the City to pay the people that work for the City
- That is the reason for the increase in the budget
- It is not to go out and buy a bunch of equipment; it is not to go out and double the personnel costs of the department
- That is very important to the Council and very important to the community at large
- The Vice Mayor and I found that we need experts or consultants to help us through these conversations that we need to have as a community
- Made phone calls and done research to find someone local, who is well respected and who is an expert in this subject matter
- Proposing to help us facilitate the initial meeting which we are proposing to be a week from tonight
- Somebody who we feel would do a wonderful job

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Thinking about what I was going to say this evening
- Usually I am used to talking – I go to a City Council meeting every two weeks and can talk forever
- Usually I am not nervous about it



- This evening I realized I was getting nervous and the reason why I am nervous is because I feel that the decision that we make out of this process can be a life or death situation for someone that is of color
- As a local elected official, I do not get to make or influence matters such as this very often
- We make decisions about land use policy; we make decisions about policies that are going to be proactive regarding climate change or carbon emissions and so many other things
- But all of those are us as a little City taking the right actions to be contributing to the big whole but they are just a drop in the bucket of what we are actually affecting
- But when we make policies that are regarding law enforcement and regarding policy, we are setting policies that can actually have a life or death effect on people
- If we do not take that seriously then we are derelict in our duty
- I do take responding to this current public concern about the situation extremely seriously
- That is why as soon as this started, as soon as the event with George Floyd losing his life, the Mayor and I and senior City staff started talking about this and said this is what we should do and put it onto a forward agenda almost immediately
- We did not reflect that – we did it almost immediately
- I want to say that I work, I have a job and I have had a tremendous number of emails from many people and I apologize for not responding to everyone but I feel strongly that the best most proactive thing I can do is try to figure out how to move forward with setting policy and making change rather than just grandstanding on social media or say a bunch of platitudes
- I do not think that is what this situation calls for now
- I think it calls for us figuring out a process to actually address the kind of things that are going on
- I have spent a lot of the past couple of weeks since the killing of George Floyd talking to people and trying to inform myself about things and figure out what would be a path forward for our City to figure out what to do
- I do not want to just pass a resolution and say we should not kill black people – but what are our policies we need to put in place to make sure people in our town are not at risk
- What are the policies we need to put in place to really be proactive about taking responsibility?
- In listening to different people, the problem is us and we are not taking responsibility for fixing it
- I really feel strongly that this is what we have to do
- I am the beneficiary of white privilege my whole life.
- I am not rich but it is still clear I have grown up in an environment where I get a lot of privilege
- I have access to a lot
- I have access to power, jobs, money, that other people do not have access to
- That is not fair and so I need to start taking responsibility for fixing things
- I have been a person who has been an activist almost all my life
- I started going to demonstrations when I was 15
- I really do not engage as much anymore but I think it is time that all of us baby boomers get back to taking responsibility for fixing this situation
- I really applaud all of you young people that have been out there demonstrating
- I applaud all the activism and the work that has gone into drawing attention to this extremely bad situation
- I have had some people say where is our City Council, why aren't we at the demonstrations
- I am a person who does go to demonstrations usually but we are still in the middle of a pandemic

- I am in an at-risk group which is why I am not out there
- I am really glad that you are all out there and that you are demonstrating
- We are in a pandemic and we need to remember that and that people need to make space
- I am grateful for the work of our Public Health Officer who has been frankly the victim of a lot of misogynistic and racist remarks when she has been trying to keep our community safe from a very terrible disease
- I am going to follow her directives and listen to her and the science that she tells us about and I am trying to take care of myself and everybody in our community to make sure we stay safe from the pandemic.
- Meanwhile, as an elected official my job is to try and implement policies that reflects our City's values
- I think that our City's values are about inclusiveness, neighborliness, equity, justice, fairness and just taking care of our planet, our community and each other
- That is part of what we are trying to do here today
- We are in a situation where there is a lot of change being demanded of us
- Change does not happen just merely by the government saying you have to change
- Change happens from grassroots
- Change happens from people
- Showing up for demonstrations, from people showing up at City Council meetings and it comes from movement and it comes from organizing
- All of why we are having this discussion here today is because of the organizing work that has been done by a lot of black leaders
- There is something terribly wrong with how we have been treating the black community and people of color
- It's not just bad education, inequitable access to health care – we can see that in the COVID numbers – we can see how disproportionately COVID is affecting people of color
- This is a life-threatening thing
- This is like when I drive to Los Angeles and I take a nap in an In an Out I do not expect to have someone open the door and yank me out and give me a sobriety test because I fell asleep while driving on the I-5
- That does not happen to me
- If I accidentally pass a \$20 bill that is counterfeit at the store no body shoots me
- This kind of behavior is unacceptable
- We all know that – our Police Chief knows that
- The question is what do we need to do to make sure these kinds of things do not occur in our community permanently that these kinds of terrible actions do not happen here
- The Mayor and I talked about this a lot
- We thought we needed to have more than just a half hour or 45-minute agenda item
- We are proposing to have a full meeting just addressing these issues next Tuesday
- It will be a several hour meeting to talk about these issues
- That meeting will be to educate ourselves, to help the City Council get educated about these issues and what are the actions that we can take to ensure that we do not have this kind of disastrous thing happen in our community
- This is education and discussion we are proposing for next Tuesday

- This is a meeting solely dedicated to this issue
- We further propose we engage a local attorney expert on law enforcement issues to educate us at this meeting and facilitate this meeting
- We then hope we can agree on a course of action
- We are not making decisions about those decisions tonight – but these are the kind of issues we need to examine next Tuesday
- The first is a proclamation asserting our values and asserting our commitment to equitable treatment of everyone
- We should discuss having a community round table to get input from the community, kids and other members of the community such as Latino community and minority community members, and Seniors
- Should we be reviewing our police policies and procedures in light of Sebastopol community values and law enforcement best practices and do we need to have a report prepared about it
- Should we have an internal police audit that audits our police activities, expenditures and compliance with existing policies
- Should we review internal issues that have led to disciplinary actions and the relationship between management and police staff
- For example, how much time the police department is spending on traffic enforcement versus domestic violence issues
- Should we review the criteria for recruiting for police chief or police officers and what do our police recruitment materials say and what do they look like
- Do we need to review and discuss what our police training, practices and what kind of training is our police department getting?
- Do we need more training?
- Is some of this training not good enough
- Do we need to review and discuss whether the City should have either a citizen’s advisory commission or citizen review commission?
- These are all issues that have to deal with law enforcement
- These are all things that are on the table that can be discussed next week
- We are proposing to have Jerry Threet who lives in Sebastopol help us with that
- He is an attorney, was the director of the independent office of law enforcement oversight for the County Sheriff’s office
- He has a great deal of experience in doing this
- He is currently the investigative officer for the City of Richmond Citizen Advisory Committee
- He has a lot of experience in this area
- He lives in Sebastopol and cares about this community
- He is about finding information that we all need to look at in an objective way
- He is not going to go in there to throw our police department under the bus – but we are interested in getting this information and he shares our community’s inclusive values
- He assisted Robert Mueller in a very complex criminal investigation when Robert Mueller was a Federal Attorney in San Francisco
- He has extensive experience
- I think he can be very helpful with us going through this process
- The Mayor and I asked him to help educate us about the issues we could be discussing

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- We are suggesting he put together an agenda of items to discuss, education of the issues, facilitation of a discussion among us to determine what actions we need to go forward with
- I have had a lot of letters from people saying we should defund the police, that we should stop having the police
- My answer to young people who are advocating for this, is that it is their job to organize
- If you have a solution or you have something that could be moved forward with, then you need to get the rest of the community on board with that
- The majority of our community is very seriously concerned with and wanting to support us having very proactive policies in place that will ensure that we do not have the kind of disasters that have been happening recently for people of color from other police departments
- If we are going further than that then you kids need to get out there and do some organizing
- What we need to do is come up with some really good policies
- We have some really good people in our police department but that does not mean we do not need to set standards and make sure that those standards are adhered to
- That is our proposal
- A special meeting
- Facilitation by Jerry Threet to help us
- First step is next Tuesday evening then after that we select the items we want to move forward with and then we further engage Jerry Threet to help us with those whether it be having a community roundtable or an audit of the police department

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- In discussion with other elected officials around the County and due to COVID-19 emergency, I am on a weekly meeting with the other eight mayors from the other cities
- This is a topic that came up at the last meeting and the difficulty that communities are having in even trying to organize and how to proceed and feeling like objectivity was not going to be a component because they were going to depend on somebody who may not have a fully objective perspective and that can come from any point on the compass
- For us to identify a local expert who is willing to help us who is objective, who is deep in experience, is really important and I feel we are significantly ahead of other communities just simply having identified somebody who can help us frame this discussion
- Also, what I am finding is all but the most staunch voices who are saying defund the police actually mean eliminate all law enforcement, this seems very strange to me
- The great majority of messages that I have received, email messages titled defund the police, goes to re-appropriating the funds and coming up with different ways to deliver the services that are more appropriate
- One of the things I have seen bandied around is that one in four 911 calls is not law enforcement or fire emergency, but is most often times some sort of social crisis or some sort of mental health crisis
- To have the conversation about how to better appropriate funds is different than just simply coming out with somewhat inflammatory defund the police
- Most of us agree that defunding the police may not mean eliminating the police but what it means is change the priorities and change the dynamic and deliver the services that are actually desired and needed in a way that is appropriate

- That is what we are proposing
- The Vice Mayor laid out our suggestion for the special meeting
- Discussed item number 4
- Asked if staff wanted to add to this item

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- Timing is really good
- Discussed the recruitment for the police chief
- Recruitment under way and then the pandemic hit, and we were following shelter in place orders and all of the other cities' police departments and chiefs have been extremely busy with other things and the recruitment was suspended
- Have an opportunity here to help educate any present or future candidates for the position as to what our community values are
- We can make use of this to assist us with the process
- Timing is good in terms of the administration of our police department and our allocation of resources
- Policies and procedures of our police department are being examined

Mayor Slayter asked for questions.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- How much is it proposed to cost the City for Mr. Threet to come and facilitate our meeting
- Is that coming out of the police department budget or will that be an expansion of the police department budget

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- City has not signed any kind of agreement because that was not appropriate at this point
- Not sure if Mr. Threet has provided us his fee schedule – I have not seen it yet – but I may have missed it in the 300 emails received today
- We are doing this in two stages
- First stage would be basically facilitating and educating us at our first meeting which would not be very much time at his standard billing rate
- City Manager would need to discuss that with Mr. Threet
- Second stage would be when the budget would be discussed as that may be when we know what the next actions would be and what the Council would decide to do
- First stage is within the discretion of the city manager and within his budget for consultants and is not an additional budget item
- If we move beyond the first meeting, we will need to look at that cost

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- There is funding in the City Council's budget for contract services and meetings
- There is funding in the City Manager's budget for contract services and meetings
- There is funding in the police budget as well

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- It is not unprecedented that staff consults with experts from time to time in the normal course of our business of helping to run the City
- That is done prior to the Council actually seeing an agenda item
- Agenda item has to be worked up in advance
- Plenty of discretionary sources of funding to get us through this one meeting
- If the meeting of June 23rd is approved by the Council, the Council should address future actions and it would be prudent to talk about a specific line item budget towards any additional work in the future as some of this work could be a significant additional expense
- We are okay to fund the consultant for the next meeting

Councilmember Hinton commented that if a meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday, a later start time would be preferred for that specific date.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- Thanked the Mayor and Vice Mayor Glass for the introductory remarks
- Very much in agreement with everything said
- Want to focus on questions
- Will there be a presentation by our Police Chief at these upcoming meetings?
- I am finding that our public very much needs to know that our department is transparent and that we have policies and training programs that are in existence that may be appropriate or may need to change
- I think that is a component of the education and information
- Will that be included
- Will there be some event orientation to the process to be followed at this meeting?
- It is going to be a bigger meeting than this one because we will all be on one topic - a very emotional and complicated topic and a very timely one that we are all compelled to address
- How are we going to sit down and talk together?
- Will there be an outline of what is going to be considered?
- Will there be rules to the conversation
- Are we having a formal Council meeting or a workshop?
- How are we going to do this and how are we going to do this in a zoom format?
- Would be helpful to the public to know how to fit in because it is all about community participation in our redefinition of police services
- Wondering how we approach the matter of an idea that has been mentioned by many people that I call the department of social service
- That is staff or staff members that may or may not use part of the police department budget and provide services to vulnerable people that are not typical police type activities
- Look at those who need to access food, housing, medical care, mental health care, education, training, meaningful work – I am hoping we can talk about that
- How is our facilitator going to get us through the many topics that I want to discuss let alone when we involve our community?
- In the pre COVID days, this would be a meeting we would hold in the Community Center and expect 200-300 people and we would be able to see each other
- That is completely different than this zoom format

- This format is restrictive
- It would be helpful to know from the facilitator on the way the next meeting will be run and how we will make this process work so that it is inclusive of all people and all topics because it is going to be a complicated issue that will take two meetings not likely one
- I do not see how we can do this in one night without getting over fatigued or overwhelmed with the topic area or stopping the conversation before everybody has said all they have to say
- Would like to understand the process
- We also need to do press work
- If this were put on a press release ten days or two weeks ago, we would have talked about this and people would have felt calmer and communicated without such urgency and distress knowing we were going to bring this forward
- Interested in hearing more about the facilitator
- First time I have heard his name
- If we have information on him, we can introduce him as well
- Transparent report of practices to the public
- Orientation of the facilitator
- How do we publicize this so it can be an effective meeting in a Zoom setting?
- Like to have a list in advance of topics to be discussed
- Would like to hear from the police chief about our use of force policy, our crowd management practices, what they think of as community policing, what kind of bias awareness training do they have; do they have training in de-escalation or restorative justice; do they do outreach; is there some citizen complaint process; how transparent is it
- Seeing this as two meetings

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Identified the difficulties that we have already identified with this format
- Agree it is not how we want to have to do this meeting
- Right now, the options do not really exist for us to have this meeting at the Community Center
- We have bandied other ideas about
- We are trying to come up with a way to hold a public meeting that is inclusive and transparent

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Point of tonight's meeting is not actually to go through all of these questions
- Process at this upcoming meeting is really about identifying what are our priorities to pursue and then do we need to have additional roundtable and what is going to be the format; where are they going to be and then publicize them
- Point of this agenda item was just to say we can't even have a discussion about what actions to take next because there is a long list of possibilities
- This next meeting is about getting that laundry list just as discussed
- We have talked with Mr. Threet about that laundry list as well
- What we want to do is have this setting to decide what course of action to take
- It will not be one meeting
- This is the first meeting in setting up what the process is going to be

- Rather than this being the meeting we publicize; this is how we decide to move forward to have additional meetings
- Are we going to have an audit?
- Are we going to have roundtables?
- Are we going to have a presentation from the police chief?

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- Not sure that can be done in one meeting especially starting at 7:00 pm and ending at 10:00 pm when people become less effective
- Willing to put two evenings into this so that we can be thorough and make sure we take the active measure of the community pulse on these issues

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- Asked a question of the police chief
- Utilizing the RIM software that the police department uses will you be able to go back ten years and look at every single physical arrest that was made and when (persons that were arrested and booked) and of those arrests how many of those arrests involved the use of a baton, the use of pepper spray, the use of a taser or those that were shot
- Is it possible to gather that data and how long would it take?
- Would like to have the same kind of information going back ten years as to how many traffic stops the Sebastopol Police Department made in the last ten years and from those traffic stops how many formal citizen complaints were filed from those stops
- That way we can have the actual data in front of us and look at it and see what we are actually dealing with
- Would be helpful to have that information
- Is this possible
- How long would it take?

Acting Chief DeVore commented as follows:

- Looking at around 1200 reports per year
- If going ten years would be more than 12,000 reports to go through
- Cannot get that by Tuesday night
- Would take more time than that
- Can get the information but would need to go through each record
- That would be difficult and take time

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- Discussing being diligent in our scheduling of the meetings to make sure we have all the information in front of us before we dive in completely
- Real critical piece so we can assess what is actually happening
- How long would this take realistically

Acting Chief DeVore commented as follows:

- Difficult to answer



- Nothing that has been done before
- Will need to go through 12,000 plus cases
- Can have the information within two to three weeks

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- Did not hear an answer to the question about whether you would be willing to have the facilitator offer an orientation in advance
- Thinking of an outline to this meeting and a press release saying this is what is going to happen, this is how it is going to be conducted and these are the rules
- Our public is very accustomed to making passionate speeches in three minutes
- If that is not the format we are going to be using and instead they are going to be putting green dots somewhere or taking an online simultaneous survey the public needs to know
- They need to know how to interact in this meeting so they can be most effective because the important thing for us is to understand the issue and receive the message so that we get our values coordinated with our services
- Would this be something the Mayor, Vice Mayor or City Manager would be willing to develop with him – an explanation of how the meeting is going to go so people understand in advance

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Have discussed the format
- Have Mr. Threet's resume
- Will certainly put together an introduction
- Did not have a press release as we did not have a special meeting date approved
- Would have been inappropriate
- Getting this on the agenda now
- Putting this together in less than three working days to get this to the point where we are now
- Would not have been a realistic expectation to do a press release

Councilmember Gurney stated she was discussing a press release notifying the public of the special meeting date.

Mayor Slayter opened for public comment.

Linda Collins commented as follows:

- Wanted to make comments in regard to our police department and our city officials
- In last two weeks we have had some protests, some marches in Sebastopol
- Proud to call Sebastopol my home
- The way it was handled, the way our City officials and or City police department responded, they listened very carefully to what the needs were for the moment
- Wanted to say thank you so much for doing what you have done

Jim Wheaton commented as follows:

- Wondering if the police chief can answer this question
- What statistics are kept currently

- Seen something in the past about police logs
- Instead of reinventing the wheel, is there some sort of automated reporting that is done by the State or the County or some reporting mechanism about use of force or arrests

June commented as follows:

- Glad the council is taking action and scheduling some time and that we are starting this process to delve into this topic
- Appreciate Councilmember Gurney's comments about the meeting
- Going to need many more meetings because there is a lot to cover and a lot of education to share
- Appreciate the Council realizing they do not have the full information and there is a lot that we all in the community need to learn to have an open conversation around this
- Knows Mr. Threet
- Very good person to deal with having a lot of ideas
- I would not say that he does not have his own perspective – I do not think anybody is neutral
- I think we recognize that nobody is neutral on this and that we have a clear understanding of what the processes are going to be
- I think Jerry will bring that to us and I think it would be great also to be sure we have people that are wanting to bring information about alternatives
- Alternatives to meet our safety needs besides policing as well as police reform, how do we reduce the role of police in our society and transition to a longer-term vision of community safety without oppression and racism
- Think with the laundry list of topics Jerry has, would welcome a facilitator

Claire McDonnell commented as follows:

- Would like to ask the Council to work to make sure that Tuesday's meeting includes diverse voices helping to lead the meeting
- Think having local social work experts engaged is necessary

Jann commented as follows:

- Agrees with Councilmember Gurney's comments
- Why wouldn't the details of this be part of next week's meeting?
- Like to just go down a list for the Mayor and Vice Mayor to review
- If Mr. Threet is brought in, he would need to follow that list

Desi commented as follows:

- Very important the youth of color are represented in this meeting
- Want to make sure that for next week we reach out to the community and someone could go and speak on behalf of people of color
- Make sure topic of police brutality is on the table
- Make sure there is a place for youth and people of color as well as space for representatives of law enforcement
- Never heard of Jerry Threet
- Do not think a lot of people know who he is
- Do not think that people attending the meeting have heard of him either

- We have no idea what he represents
- Is he reaching out to youth or people of color?
- Make sure there is space for us

Laura commented as follows:

- Want to express great disappointment that even after several requests to the Acting Chief of Police in Sebastopol they have failed to make a public announcement denouncing police brutality and standing with people of color and the black community
- I do not think it takes an expert to be able to make that statement
- Believe that as well for the City Council
- Glad to hear that you are considering a meeting
- Would suggest holding a listening session to make sure that you hear from community members and then go from there on how to take action
- A lot of people need their voices heard
- Need to know where our police chief stands and where the City Council stands on this issue
- Transparency should have happened by now
- We are weeks into this and it is really disappointing that a City that calls themselves Peace town has not been able to make statements against all off the civil unrest and injustice and everything going on in our country and denouncing that

Mayor Slayter asked staff to comment on the question of statistics.

Acting Chief DeVore commented as follows:

- Multiple annual reports that we do
- They cover a large range of topics
- There is not one specific report that would cover all the questions asked tonight (use of pepper spray, batons, etc.)
- One report would not cover that
- Would need to look at different reports to see what data is there
- Discussed timelines to do the reports
- Wants to ensure that it is crystal clear what we are putting out there – want to have transparency in everything
- Want to ensure all the data is there and that it is doubled checked

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Discussed comments made in public comment
- Made a statement at the start of our last meeting
- Did not seem controversial but some of the emails received indicates that not everyone feels the same way
- I think a majority of us that are in this meeting do
- I know that Councilmember Carnacchi had an open letter to the City Council that was published in the newspaper
- I know that the Vice Mayor has made strong statements

- Historically Councilmembers Hinton and Gurney have always made very supportive statements towards efforts that we are now undertaking
- Wanted to make sure that everybody is aware that those things have happened and if they have been missed then that is our shortcoming and we need to do a better job of getting our message out

Acting Chief DeVore commented as follows:

- Stated he has also made a statement
- Has spoken with the press
- Tries to return as many phone calls and emails as possible
- Been at the protests
- Been open with his feelings about the protests and what has been going on

Council Deliberations:

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Thanked the public for their actions during the protests as well as the police department
- In conversation with my eight counterparts and the difficulties that other cities have seen, my framing of it is that these are not protests, these are demonstrations of peoples deep held correct feelings and the peaceful demonstration
- Cannot express enough gratitude to these voices
- Bravo to everybody who is participating

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I have a Facebook page both for Council and private and I have posted on that
- Thanked everyone for being here
- Think this is the most participants we have ever had at a council meeting
- 57 people
- Public participation is the best and makes us hear what everybody has to say and is really good feedback
- Besides my supportive statement, because I was the former Mayor, the role of the Mayor and Vice Mayor are our frontline this year
- Thanked the Mayor and Vice Mayor for bringing the agenda item and starting the conversation
- Think it is more than one meeting
- Would like to see more than a Zoom meeting
- Would like to see if it can be done by social distancing if possible
- Many people on this call may not realize that I am a front-line worker
- I run an assisted living facility for the elderly
- Cannot responsibly put myself out in public in a close environment
- Want to put it out there that many people have certain situations why they cannot be out there
- Also sit on the budget subcommittee
- Reviewed the budget
- It is a flat line budget we are approving tonight

- Budget buys us the time to really analyze what the community values area and what we want to do moving forward
- Prepared for this meeting as I prepare for all meetings
- Requested a lot of information about finances regarding the police department and ten-year trends
- Can discuss that in the budget item
- Born and raised a Sebastopolian
- Now is the time to sit and listen to our community
- Looking forward to hearing more from the community
- Public meetings are the way to do this
- Hopefully will lead to a subcommittee because that is how we have to work through the Brown Act
- We can only have two council members together
- A subcommittee could then take the public information and drill it down to make recommendations to the full Council
- That would be her recommendation

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- Disclosed he met with former Police Chief Jeff Weaver and former Sebastopol Police Officer Dennis Colthurst
- Dennis is the only officer in Sebastopol history to actually use lethal force
- He has agreed to be part of the conversation
- Do not know how many people have heard him tell his story but it is very moving and is really powerful and shows the effect that when an officer uses lethal force, it really shows the effect on the officer
- Better to have this meeting in a public setting rather than Zoom
- Not sure how to accomplish that
- Should invite him at some point to be part of the conversation
- Would like any motion tonight to direct the police department to come up with the data that was requested

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- It is important we do outreach in advance of this meeting to make sure we can invite as many people as possible and have as diverse a range of views as possible
- Range meaning everything especially age in our community
- I think our community misses the youth voice a lot
- We affirmatively wish it were there and we miss it because there are a lot of older people here and elders of privilege
- Hopeful we can work with others to make sure that the youth show up and have that chance to speak their truth and offer their challenges to the community and to our government
- We are going to want to focus on reforming and reinventing our police services and potentially making structural changes in our government organization so that we effectively offer the services for people in need and for people who are pushed out because of injustice
- May not be what is traditionally called police services

- Think the creative mind will be really important and our network of potential people who could inform us on those sorts of social services would be really valuable if we could get them to participate as well
- Looking forward to the first meeting
- Available for more meetings – one chance is not enough
- Someone may have a commitment that they cannot make this meeting so I hope we can do both meetings and put some time into it

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Part of this conversation is talking particularly with our nonprofit partners which is who really provides the front-line services (social services) of all the things we really need that we have been asking the police to do
- I see where we are now because of 50 years of bad public policy
- We have been defunding and defunding mental health services, social services, services for homeless people, services to help people with education and get jobs
- As a result, the outcome of defunding all those things that we should have been doing for the last 50 years is now at a crisis and the situation has just been getting worse and worse
- I think when people talk of defunding that is really what they are talking about
- I heard a Police Chief from the south say that we are being asked to be social workers, we are being asked to be mental health workers, we are being asked to be counselors and that is not what the police are trained to do
- We need to re-fund all those things
- Hopefully the outcome of this movement is going to be more than just talking about what the police are doing but it's going to be about refunding the kinds of systems that we need to have in place and the community services so that we do not just become an authoritarian state that keeps trying to sweep problems under the rug
- We need our nonprofits and community services at the table
- This is larger than just us
- We are the smallest city in the county
- I am heartened that a conversation that the mayors are having is mirroring this conversation and that supervisors are interested in collaboration with the cities
- We need to look at it from a regional perspective
- Sebastopol is different than Sonoma but we need to look at this regionally and holistically
- I am heartened that we have a wide range of support for that kind of review
- It will not be the same for all communities but will be whatever is appropriate for that community
- Looks like we are moving forward with at least one meeting to set some expectations for that meeting
- The chat bubble has been very active and I am seeing a lot of really great suggestions
- As was expressed by my colleagues, in particular Councilmember Gurney, about the scope of the conversation, and all the topics that are part of it, the process for the first meeting is a facilitated conversation and figuring out where we need to go from there
- All the suggestions of voices we need to hear from – those are the people we want to hear from

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- What I do not want to do is set us up for failure and have the expectation that we are going to invite every single one of these people or groups of people to persons who are being suggested to talk with to this first meeting
- We need to create a set of parameters on how we are going to move forward having the larger discussion with all of these other groups and different representations
- I think the first meeting is really defining the process and the agenda and putting the calendar together so we can move forward

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- This is larger than just us
- Can provide the chat to Mr. Threet
- Do not want everybody to think that because those suggestions are not being necessarily initially followed up on for next Tuesday's meeting that in no way is this a value judgment on those things
- We want to talk about every one of those things
- We are trying to give everybody the opportunity to have time to have a conversation and figure out where we need to be
- June 23<sup>rd</sup> first meeting
- Scope of conversation
- Facilitated conversation
- Where we need to go from there

Vice Mayor Glass moved and Councilmember Gurney seconded the motion to approve the following:

- Special Meeting of June 23<sup>rd</sup> 7:00pm
- And directing the City Clerk to poll the Council for a second meeting date.
- Retention of Jerry Threet to make a presentation at the June 23<sup>rd</sup> special meeting

Discussion:

Councilmember Carnacchi questioned if the motion could include direction to instruct the police chief to come up with data as requested earlier in this meeting for statistics for the last ten years.

Vice Mayor Glass stated she would not want to piecemeal the information and the Council may discover that they want additional data or information pulled and not just this one thing.

Mayor Slayter stated he sees value in getting the information.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- Urgency to this and would like to suggest adding a second meeting date tonight
- Believe councilmembers may be available on June 30<sup>th</sup>
- Would like to reserve that date now rather than having a poll
- If we kick this over to July we are losing more time and drawing it out that much longer when I think we are quite interested in figuring out where we are and what action we may take and most importantly hearing from people
- Suggest a second date and reserve June 30<sup>th</sup>

Vice Mayor Glass amended her motion and Councilmember Gurney seconded the amended motion to approve the following:

- Special Meeting of June 23<sup>rd</sup> 7:00pm
- Special Meeting of June 30<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm
- Retention of Jerry Threet to make a presentation at the June 23<sup>rd</sup> special meeting

Mayor Slayter called for a roll call vote. City staff conducted a roll call vote.

VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmember Carnacchi, Gurney, Hinton, Vice Mayor Glass and Mayor Slayter

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

**City Council Action: Approved the following:**

**Special Meeting of June 23<sup>rd</sup> 7:00pm**

**Special Meeting of June 30<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm**

**Retention of Jerry Threet to make a presentation at the June 23<sup>rd</sup> special meeting**

**Minute Order Number: 2020-130**

Mayor Slayter called for a break at 8:03 and reconvened the meeting at 8:13 pm.

Before moving forward Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Going to share a message that just came in from our Sister City Organization
- It is a statement from Sister Cities International
- We have a wonderful Sister City organization in Sebastopol
- We have two sister cities – One in Ukraine and one in Japan
- Brief passage is from the Chair of that Organization- We are greatly saddened and angered by recent events in our country. Protests continue across the U.S. and around the globe highlighting systemic racism and prejudice.
- Another statement of values from an organization that as a community we hold in high regard

The Council discussed Item #4:

4. Approval of Resolution Approving and Adopting Interim Fiscal Year 2020-2021 City of Sebastopol Budget; Approval and Adoption of Resolution establishing the appropriations limit for the City of Sebastopol for the 2020-2021 pursuant to Article XIII B of the California Constitution; Adoption of Resolution Approving Supplemental Law Enforcement Funds (SLEF); and Adoption of Resolution Amending City Council Financial Policy #69 (Finance Director)

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- Questioned how the \$100,000 (supplemental law enforcement funds) could be spent
- Knows there are programs that the police department used to do
- It was in part funded with overtime
- Some of those programs were coffee with a cop, citizens police academy, and a midnight basketball program
- Those really engaged the youth



- Have been some requests for a student resource officer over the years
- Wondering if the money can be spent for those purposes

Acting Chief Devore commented as follows:

- Supplemental law enforcement fund is specifically to be used for paying for an officer's salary
- \$100,000 does not fully cover the salary of a police officer – but pays for a majority of it – an officer costs more than that
- What we have always done in the past is we have taken the lowest priced officer, usually the newest officer, and put it towards that person's salary because it covers more than an officer who has been around for years
- As long as the funds are being used for salary, it could be used for a school resource officer
- We do not have one right now but would be willing to discuss that

Mayor Slayter opened for public comment.

June Braschures commented as follows:

- Wanted to say that additional item caught my eye
- Discussed the police department budget
- Think as we talk about what policies do we need to meet the needs of the community and our values, one of the biggest policies we can do in relation to policing is the budget
- The number one thing that we heard mentioned is that a fourth of the calls coming into 911 may not be appropriate for police
- So if we look at our budget and a quarter of the calls that they are going out on would be better provided by other services of the City, that would be the type of calls to look at the budget and say maybe we should be shifting a fourth of the fund to some other City services and relieving the police of being called out for things they are not trained for and are not appropriate for so that they can focus on other parts of their job
- Transition to making it vibrant and safe so that we would need a lot less of these services
- That would be over time and would take a long time
- We understand it is a long process but I think we need to start now
- People have woken up to this moment to start and not repeat the destructive patterns
- Pause now and look at where we put our resources would be why I think the council was wise to recognize that they do not know and need to find the services and what other communities are doing around the police budget ow that the community has woken up so that we can make better decisions
- Need more time to get more information before we roll ahead with patterns in the past that have not served our full community
- I think our community is aware of things in this moment that they were not aware of prior
- Took a lot to get to where we are but a lot of us were not fully informed
- We are in this moment to reevaluate the way we are doing things and pause and go forward in a different manner

Claire McDonnell commented she had sent an earlier email as part of the public record.

Council deliberations:

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Most people are aware that the City of Sebastopol does not have social workers
- Another indicator why this needs to be looked at regionally from a regional perspective
- Need to look at these types of services and ways that they can be delivered
- Cannot flip a switch and put up a finger and immediately alter long-standing contractual obligations to methods that are sometimes dinosaurs but left with the legacy of decisions before us
- Appreciate all the comments

Administrative Services Director clarified that item number 4 did not include revisions to the City's purchasing policy as that was an error on the agenda title.

Mayor Slayter moved and Councilmember Hinton seconded the motion to approve Item Number 4 with the corrected agenda title.

Mayor Slayter called for a roll call vote. City staff conducted a roll call vote.

VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmember Carnacchi, Gurney, Hinton, Vice Mayor Glass and Mayor Slayter

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

**City Council Action:**

**Minute Order Number: 2020-127**

**Resolution Number(s): 6300-2020 and 6301-2020 and 6302-2020 and 6303-2020**

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/PRESENTATION:** (Please Note: Although informational/presentations items are routinely informational in nature, some informational items may contain request for actions such as support, direction to staff, follow up, or receipt of item based on the presentation/information provided.)

8. Informational Presentation: Presentation from City of Sebastopol Community Vitality Consultant CoMission (Presenter: Craig Litwin/Johnny Nolen)

CoMission representatives, Craig Litwin and Johnny Nolen, presented the informational agenda item.

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- With this abbreviated presentation, wanted to add a couple of things that were kind of not referred to
- CoMission received a large percentage of participation in this survey.
- I think the survey was not just timely, but it was statistically valid and gives the Council a real good feeling citywide of understanding what the businesses went through and are going through, during the pandemic.
- The other thing that was maybe not mentioned was that in the course of doing this survey, there was a methodology used which divided businesses who needed direct assistance to reach out to

CoMission with form filling out or other challenges that they found in their day-to-day operations of their business where they needed help.

- They got a number of responses for that and gave direct aid to at least a half dozen businesses and potentially more to come.
- There was actually hands-on assistance given to those businesses.
- The work that was done by the business community in its first meeting last Thursday should be extremely valuable for helping our businesses to reopen in the coming days and weeks -- specific events proposed, publicity for those events, and the themes that should be presented to maximize the consumer response.
- This was work that was done - could have been done in a month or two but this work was amazingly, to me, done in one meeting thanks to getting all those different stakeholders in the room, so to speak, all at the same time, representing all business interests in our city.
- I think that work was immensely valuable.
- Councilmember Carnacchi was there representing small businesses.
- Linda from the Chamber.
- Debbie Ramirez.
- Everett Hernandez.
- Representative from the Sonoma West News.
- Yolanda from the Barlow.
- Carla from the Farmers Market.
- Rei Blaser from the Downtown Association.
- This group came together on short notice and hit the ground running last Thursday.
- So that was, again, direct assistance to our actual businesses in a time of need, right here, right now, that I think has been immensely valuable.
- That could have been the subject of its own agenda item.
- As the Mayor indicated, it's the time where they can answer questions at this point. Whether we get direction for possible future actions tonight or whether that comes back at a subsequent Council meeting would be up to the Council.
- This work is way too involved and necessary, in my opinion, to be the subject of only one Council meeting.

Mayor Slayter asked for questions.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Questioned the type of help provided to the businesses
- What was the direct assistance to the businesses?
- Was that helping them with filling out PPP applications, or what kind of help were they needing

Craig Litwin commented as follows:

- Applied but were rejected for incomplete or incorrectly filled out applications.
- Some of them just were having difficulty understanding how the PPP forgiveness works because it's one thing to get the loan; but really, they were concerned that they would accidentally do something wrong and have to pay that back.
- I helped a couple businesses set up parameters to make sure that they get full forgiveness.

- All of them also, this assistance with funding flowed through into interpreting the reopening guidelines, the safe practice guidelines, that they were getting ready to implement.
- All six of them were successfully getting funding.

Mayor Slayter questioned the survey and asked if that was online and sent to all businesses.

Mr. Litwin commented as follows:

- We did originally get the business license contact list from the City and sent it out to that.
- We quickly realized that many of the contacts on there were outdated; we began an outreach campaign to call local businesses, running down the main business corridors by phone.
- Then in the final week, we passed out fliers at the businesses that were open in the downtown area.
- This campaign by phone and the final stretch of the fliers allowed us to introduce ourselves, our project, as well as the general intention behind the Sebastopol Vitality project to the business operators in our community, which was a really positive experience.
- I have to say that one thing that was really surprisingly gratifying about it was the immense amount of relief and assuredness that came with people understanding that the City of Sebastopol was funneling resources and attention to help them during this time of need.
- I think in the isolation, a lot of people began a narrative of being alone and left to fend for themselves; and this brought a lot of hope to the people that we spoke to.
- It was the first wave when the email went out and got about 60 responses. Through the course of the phone outreach and the live outreach, we were able to get that to 160 responses.
- A 10% return rate on surveys to a list this size would be a great response. I really wanted to get above 150. I was hoping for 200, but I'm really happy with 160.
- Of the 900-ish business licenses in the city, 600 had e-mail addresses. We had basically a 600-item list to work with; 60 would have been the 10%, and we more than doubled that.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Knowing that somebody who is a skilled tradesperson or a general contractor, doing a job in Sebastopol-- in order to get a building permit, you need to get a business license.
- We probably have a fair number of folks who may not be actively conducting business in the city of Sebastopol yet are holders of a business license.
- I think that the response was pretty good.

Mr. Litwin commented as follows:

- There was another response that was pretty good as well, which was approximately half of the respondents had heard of the City's existing website for support information on COVID; and we were able to bring awareness to the others about what's already in existence.
- It is a grind to talk to each person and keep bringing awareness to it and point to what exists.
- As we find other resources, we continue to share those as well - like the small business support networks that are out there.

As we identify these different opportunities of support, we can point people in that direction and then focus on the next poll and vote, so to speak, to continue with this triage.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Discussed reopening safety issues.
- What are you thinking about working with the business community?
- What are you thinking about with this Safety-First campaign?
- I know you said you were thinking about doing a logo to place in business windows so that people know that businesses are adhering to safe practices, so people will feel safer about patronizing our local businesses.
- How are you going to publicize that?
- Are you working with the Chamber and other people to get the word out, or what's up with that?

Mr. Litwin commented as follows:

- As it stands with any communication that's going to go out about the shop safely and the Sip and Savor Sebastopol campaign for July, there will be a weekly communication that will be put out as far as events, updates, and new information.
- That will be distributed to each of the business leaders to distribute to their list.
- Then we're amassing any other individual or entity who is willing to also distribute.
- We plan to do Facebook ads.
- We are hitting a stumbling block in that there just isn't a lot - there isn't any budget that we've identified so far to do things like print signs.
- To look at this like a political campaign or a marketing campaign, which essentially it is, it would be nice to have some lawn signs and things like that but those cost money. The assets cost money, and it's something that we're just going to have to kind of get everybody to scrape together and see what we can do.
- So that part has been a little challenging; but all in all, the promotion just electronically is what we want to lean on because it's the most affordable.
- In some of the responses we found, there are quite a few people that don't have the Internet.
- We have to really think about that, especially in the community of elders.
- There will be some challenges in that way.
- I think we'll need those visual effects, but we have the press - again, with the Sonoma West willing to do features - and, really, we're open to more concepts and would invite them.
- Any ideas that you have like this, you can send them to CoMission group.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- Thanked CoMission for the presentation
- Discussed taking the survey
- Wanted to see what was there - thought that was beneficial
- Disappointed she didn't get a chance to read the detailed report that was sent out at 4:30 p.m.
- Hopes to be able to read that.
- With that said, I do think this needs to cross over to another meeting because we didn't have the info out to Council or staff, except for the brief presentation tonight.
- Discussed the budget - what could come next, based on how much budget is left.
- I'm curious; what is the budget number left at this point?
- It's June 15th; where do we sit?

Mr. Litwin commented as follows:

- We expect to have some budget going into July, but we'd have to go light into July at best to maintain that continuity.
- We'd have to look at a budget increase here at the next Council meeting ideally in order to see July through in a fully robust fashion.
- I think that we should have approximately \$10,000 left when we go into July; but I won't know for certain until we finish the June invoicing, and things change daily as far as what the priorities are.
- It's hard to pin that precisely, but we're estimating approximately \$10,000 going into July.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- Discussed the \$10,000
- If we had interest to direct that \$10,000 towards other priorities how do we go about doing that

Mr. Litwin commented as follows:

- Take direction from the City Manager on what the priorities are
- Discussed the report - because we just closed the survey last week, at the beginning of last week, and needed the time to crunch the numbers and put it together -- that this report would be late.
- We wanted to get it hot off the press to you so you can have as real-time information as possible with, again, the intention of creating a study session or some sort of Council feedback loop where we could get greater direction from the Council.

City Manager McLaughlin commented that the City Council should focus on the event for July but could discuss during deliberations.

Mr. Litwin commented as follows:

- To articulate that a little bit more, we agree. It is in motion. There's a whole crew of people working on that.
- What we're kind of up against is from a marketing and a political campaign standpoint, really the next best step is to tell all the residents, hey, this thing is going on. What are you interested in seeing? Would you support this business working with this nonprofit?
- If this business gave 10% to Hunger for Children, would that make you more likely to support it?
- Did you know that this is happening in Sebastopol next week?
- We could use it as not only an informational opportunity but a marketing opportunity, so they really kind of go hand in hand.
- But that's a pretty tall order to put together that sort of information, or that sort of survey, for the residents.
- That said, we also need to leverage more work. We can't just pay people to do all the work. We have to get volunteers involved. There's just too much to do.
- So we feel strongly that the survey for the residents is a key part of July working so well for this business launch because we want to get those folks involved, and the best way to do that is to ask them if they're interested in helping and then facilitate them doing the work.

Councilmember Carnacchi questioned if the City could get a list of the names of the business respondents so we have an idea of what section of town they came from and kind of an idea of who is actually being responsive to the poll?

Mr. Litwin commented as follows:

- Can formulate a formal reply to that, which I will send through to the City Manager who will send to the Council.
- We're being very cautious not to share proprietary information about layoffs and different positions that some of these businesses are in.
- Want to make sure that we offer that correctly; but, yes, we will answer that question.
- As far as the parts of town that are represented, there is a full report that goes over that. So that will give you a better idea of the demographics for that.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- CoMission has a graph of the areas of response - 50% more or less downtown and the Barlow and then the North and South ends.
- Is there a launch date for this program - Shop Sebastopol Safely?
- Discussed timing of CoMission budget, our budget, the workload that you have ahead, and how do we coordinate all that.
- When is your anticipated launch date in July?

Mr. Litwin commented as follows:

- We are launching on July 3rd, on our normal day for celebrations and our Independence Day.
- Instead, we are having an Inter-Dependence Month.
- Also, since you just asked the question, I've been thinking a lot about the great work you've done over the years, Councilmember Gurney, with the Sebastopol Walks program.
- Each of you has done incredible work in different areas. I'd like to invite each of you to just consider the different ways that you may be able to contribute to this effort as far as volunteers and bringing your resources, bringing your talents, bringing your passions, and bringing your networks to bear.
- The response for people to sign on to this Letter of Support has been so fast. People are so ready that I think if we just create the container and invite people, we're going to see the most incredible cooperation we've ever seen in town here.

Mayor Slayter opened for public comment.

Staff read a comment from Jann Eyrich:

- How are you forwarding your recommendations to the City, especially regarding financial assistance in the form of low or no-interest loans along the Healdsburg model
- Discussed July 3rd, Inter-Dependence Month, and questioned what that actually is

Staff read a comment from Sequoia:

- This is my comment.
- I am glad the Council is working to help local businesses.

- I support the idea of a poll to the residents of Sebastopol as well.

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- Discussed the loan program
- Idea has been promoted by Councilmember Hinton
- Staff is committed to looking into the loan program similar to Healdsburg
- Will return that as an agenda item to a future City Council meeting

Council Deliberations:

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Huge thanks to staff
- Working on all these items that are popping up that are enormous and world changing
- Having the support of the staff and their abilities to respond to these issues is not unnoticed
- Staff's work is really appreciated

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- As the City Manager mentioned, I think that's on the Council agenda on the forward calendar.
- So as long as it stays on Council agenda, the City staff is going to be helping me work up something for that meeting for consideration for the full Council.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- Thanked CoMission for their excellent work, and I want to thank my colleagues on the Council for all of our discussions about how this contract position could be put together to be meaningful to our community.
- We're seeing that meaning right now in a pretty desperate time.
- I was very impressed with the fragility of our businesses. When you think 100% are face-to-face, especially in our downtown, that's very challenging for everybody; and it's important for us to support them.
- What I would prefer in our calendar is to have CoMission go forward with the work with the nonprofits and get the recommendations there, get the resident survey done, come back to the Council. I don't know if you can do this, this fast -- but come back to the Council in July with a budget request. That's going to be important because our Budget Subcommittee will be meeting in August and September for the ongoing budget; but we, very likely, I think, will want to help CoMission keep going right now because July and August and September are really critical times.
- We can't wait to figure out the answers to every budget question; and we already know that our business community needs help, our nonprofit community needs help.
- Our fund base needs to be energized and be generous.
- We have a whole lot of work that needs to be done right now.
- Just like with the earlier item, I don't think we can wait around for weeks.
- We've got to keep you busy, keep you funded, and keep you going so that we can do the help that we want to offer.
- I'm really impressed with your work product



Councilmember Carnacchi discussed the Sip, Savor, Sebastopol program.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- Had a meeting with the SDA Board.
- There was some talk about the idea of actually putting some tables in the plaza for some outdoor dining.
- The Grange has already at their meeting agreed to loan 8 tables and 40 chairs if we want to use them for some outdoor dining. I think that Sebastopol Hardware has agreed to go ahead and provide the cable locks to lock the chairs and the tables together and the spray bottles to keep the tables clean.
- I think that if we could coordinate with the restaurants doing volunteer cleanup each day that we could have a nice program, a lunch program, maybe a dinner program.
- We could paint circles that are spacious or delineating the space between on the pavement perhaps in the plaza.
- There seems to be some interest in this.
- What do you think about moving that as part of your mission?

Mr. Litwin commented as follows:

- Think it's a great idea.
- I had an early conversation with the owner from Jasper's, who has the coffee shop there in the plaza who offered to do tables as well.
- I'd also had a conversation with Lawrence Jaffe from the Grange about the tables
- Another example of where we need to bring volunteers together.
- We need to have some structure like we put for the surveys and for the business outreach organization effort.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- A lot of the time, I'm kind of a data junkie. But yet people don't think that much of it – just that the City is collecting a lot of data – so what
- A lot of the time, that's the kind of information we need if we as a City, when we're applying for grants – such as when we're applying for regional grants from places like MTC/ABAG, when we're applying for money from the State, we can show quantitatively what the impacts have been to our community.
- That's going to put us in a much better position as we apply for bailout money, et cetera, as these programs are going to keep happening over the next two years probably.
- It's going to give us the information at our fingertips so that we are in a good position to look for funding for special ways to recover from all of this.
- It's also really useful information for us to plan what we should be doing as a City - how we need to respond, the kinds of businesses we have, what their issues are.

Mr. Litwin commented as follows:

- I want to offer, as a resident of Sebastopol not as a consultant, I'll call each one of you and have a nice hour-long conversation just as a concerned citizen to solicit input and creativity.

- We're really giving everything we can. There are a lot of things that just aren't making it on the clock, yet we're thinking about it night and day.
- This is the most important work we've ever done as a company.
- I will be reaching out to each one of you to solicit any ideas that you have.
- As soon as we have structure to have a forum or a study session, we're willing to do that.
- Whatever we can do to go faster, that's what we're going to figure out.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- The Agenda Setting Committee is in close consultation with the City Manager; and the City Manager is directing the work of CoMission - So there's a direct link of communication.
- The timing of these things and when they show up on our agendas - those things are considered and dovetailed as rapidly as they can possibly be
- Look for it on an agenda coming your way very soon.

Mayor Slayter thanked CoMission for the presentation.

**City Council Action: None Required. Informational presentation only.**

**Minute Order Number: 2020-131**

**PUBLIC HEARING(s): NONE**

**REGULAR CALENDAR AGENDA ITEMS (DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION) CONTINUED:**

9. Discussion and Consideration of Approval for GoSonoma Act Expenditure Plan of the Sonoma County Transportation Authority as required by Public Utilities Code section 180206(b).  
(Requestor: Suzanne Smith, Executive Director of SCTA/RCPA)

Councilmember Gurney presented the agenda item recommending the City Council approve the GoSonoma Act Expenditure Plan of the Sonoma County Transportation Authority as required by Public Utilities Code section 180206(b). The council at their May 5, 2020 Council meeting, was in consensus to move this item forward for the November 2020 election. Tonight's item is to update the City Council on the item.

James Cameron, SCTA, made a presentation to the City Council.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- Think Sebastopol is really competitive - will be competitive under this program because when you think of us as an older city, every project we want to do is going to improve roadways -- pavement, grading, drainage, all of that -- improve sidewalks, put in bike lanes, make our whole roadway system complete for everybody.
- I think we're in there, and we can be really strong in the future under this program.

Mayor Slayter asked for questions.

Councilmember Carnacchi requested information on the polling.

Mr. Cameron commented as follows:

- The poll itself is going to be conducted by DMC.

- The statistically significant pool of candidates will be between 500 and 600 that will be randomly-selected voters within Sonoma County.
- There's an extensive questionnaire that's being developed that will mirror the poll that we did before.
- The big difference in the poll before is that we did a split sample in the poll before that looked at both 1/2-cent and 1/4-cent.
- We did not have strong support for the 1/2-cent, whereas this poll will not be split.
- It will all be to establish the willingness of voters to approve the 1/4-cent moving forward.

Mayor Slayter opened for public comment. There were no public comments.

Council Deliberations:

Mayor Slayter commented that the Council discussed this previously and was supportive and asked by a straw vote if the council was supportive again. The council was in consensus to move forward.

Councilmember Gurney moved and Vice Mayor Glass seconded the motion to approve the GoSonoma Act Expenditure Plan of the Sonoma County Transportation Authority as required by Public Utilities Code section 180206(b).

Mayor Slayter called for a roll call vote. City staff conducted a roll call vote.

VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmember Carnacchi, Gurney, Hinton, Vice Mayor Glass and Mayor Slayter

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

**City Council Action: Approved the GoSonoma Act Expenditure Plan of the Sonoma County Transportation Authority as required by Public Utilities Code section 180206(b).**

**Minute Order Number: 2020-132**

10. Discussion and Consideration of Comment from the City of Sebastopol on the Public Notice for PLP13-0023; 5300 Sebastopol Road, Santa Rosa (Responsible Department: Planning)

Planning Director Kari Svanstrom presented the agenda item recommending the City Council Consider Approval of Transmittal of a Comment Letter to Sonoma County PRMD Regarding Revised Referral for PLP13-0023; 5300 Sebastopol Road, Santa Rosa.

Mayor Slayter asked for questions.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Questioned if staff has looked at the water calculations
- The water usage calculations seem to be vastly underestimated.
- Think they're based on them saying that they would do 20 washes a day, 220 days a year.
- Questioned why someone would build a wash and only use it 220 days a year; and would a typical carwash only do 20 washes a day?
- That doesn't make any sense.

- Suspect the amount of water they're going to use is actually significantly understated, and they're running off a well in the Laguna.
- What's it going to do to their neighbors' wells?
- Questioned if staff has reviewed that
- What impact does that have on the groundwater sustainability planning that's supposed to be going through in that plane? Think it is really a significant amount of water.
- Discussed the zoning and stated it does not seem to be anything to do with permitting gas stations.
- Do not understand why there's a proposed gas station at that location when I don't see that the zoning supports a gas station.

Director Svanstrom commented as follows:

- Did see that in the Public Comments and did a bit of research on that today.
- There's usually in zoning a clause that says, "and other similar uses if deemed so by either the planning director or the body that is reviewing the application."
- My understanding is that that somehow was applied to this; and I know Mr. Hastings is here, so I may actually ask him to address that question as well
- I did go through the Zoning Code, and there certainly are other zones which specifically state gas station. A gas fueling station is listed as a use.
- It's not like Chimera, an artists' workspace cooperative, where it's such a unique use that it's not listed, which is usually what those catch-all categories are for
- If someone comes up with a use that no one's seen before, how do you categorize it?
- In this case, the County's Code certainly has gas stations as a definition and listed in many of their commercial districts as either permitted or permitted with a use permit.
- It does not show up in this zoning classification, under either the permitted or the permitted with use permit.
- I think that's absolutely a question that should be asked, and we can write that into the letter as well. I don't understand why the County would be considering putting something as problematic as a gas station in an area that's not even zoned for it.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Had the same question about the water use.
- It seemed a little low
- On page 71 of 94 of our Staff Report, this is talking about community separators.
- As I understand it, this is a parcel that is in direct adjacency to a parcel that is considered a community separator; but for some reason, this particular parcel is not included?  
Is that accurate?

Director Svanstrom commented as follows:

- It's the second bullet point.
- It actually says, "in the area of the parcel designated as a community separator." That's something that I can certainly look further into.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

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- Regarding Emergency Service Provision, I know that the City of Sebastopol has responded many, many times for collisions that have occurred at that intersection because we're the closest, and at times quickest to get there, do we see that changing. I don't see where that change is.
- I imagine we would respond, under our cooperative agreement, if something did happen at that particular location.
- I think we would be the closest agency. That would be typical.

Director Svanstrom commented as follows:

- No reason to expect that anything would change from where we are now.
- The fact that the collision information that was provided indicates that there's about a 2-5 5 times state average for intersections like that - rate of collisions at that intersection.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- Has a question about the storage tanks.
- Those were supposed to be above ground
- Does staff know how many gallons they are and how many tanks there are

Director Svanstrom stated she does not have that answer, however, if the Council chooses to ask the applicant to address some of those questions, he may be able to answer some of those at least but I believe that they are slated to be above ground as to that part of your question.

Mayor Slayter commented

- Discussed the site plan and stated these are located basically at the rear of the site by the Joe Rodota Trail.
- Discussed the Council's previous comments on having adequate screening between the use and the trail and stated it doesn't look like there's a whole lot of room for that given the Site Plan at this point.
- There are three tanks that from their size on the Site Plan, I assume they're 12,000 gallons each.
- There are three tanks for fire suppression/water storage.
- Those are slated to be right next to the trail and the fuel tanks are just beyond that between the trail and Highway 12.
- There's a miniature tank farm here.
- The fire suppression water tanks are probably 15 feet across and 8 feet to 10 feet tall, something in that from the way it looks here on the Site Map.

Mayor Slayter opened for public comment.

Sunny commented as follows:

- Does not support this project and encourage the Council to send a strongly worded letter against it to Permit Sonoma.
- In addition to all the environmental issues pointed out, she has never had to wait in line for gas in Sebastopol.
- Buying gas is kind of a zero-sum game.

- If this new gas station is put in, it's going to draw people away from buying gas in Sebastopol; so that's a loss of sales tax revenue.
- People are driving quite a bit less because we've all learned how to use Zoom and people are transitioning away from gas-powered cars.
- Encouraged the Council to send a strongly worded letter opposing the project.

Woody Hastings commented as follows:

- Coalition Opposing New Gas Stations, a local organization that formed last year – have about 120 people on our mailing list.
- We've gathered hundreds of names on a petition opposing this particular gas station.
- Generated over 120 letters – Over 120 letters have been submitted, over a dozen from local Sonoma County-based organizations opposing the project.
- Thanked the City of Sebastopol for its past couple of letters. Think there have been two in the past and the current proposal to send another letter.
- Think it matters a lot.
- Discussed the proposed letter – is a good letter – could be strengthened
- Touch on what was mentioned earlier about the initial findings from the County were not only that there's a zone change required for this but they had said that to do this you would need a general plan amendment for the County in addition to the zone change.
- Understanding from looking at the history was somewhere around 2016, a unilateral decision for a new interpretation of the zoning code was made by the planning director.
- I think there's ample reason to challenge that interpretation.
- It is zoned "M3" for limited rural industrial uses, and it's a real generous code. There's a long list of permissible uses.
- Would argue that these are uses that we need for food security and other sort of human-needs kinds of things - shops and growing things and processing and canning of foods, things like that.
- Those kinds of uses are needed.
- In our research, we cannot find any other instance where a commercial retail thing -- like a gas station and carwash and all that, minimart - has been permitted in an M3 zone.
- At the tail end of the City's letter, it is mentioned about the County's long-standing sort of sustainability ethic and goals. I think that the County just last September adopted a Climate Emergency resolution, and it really asks them to look at everything through the climate crisis lens – that trail of devastation from the use of oil and gasoline impacts communities of color and low-income folks around the world.

Staff read a comment from Carrie Wheaton:

- She agrees with the comments and the good point about the tax revenue being pulled away from Downtown Sebastopol and haven't downtown businesses been hurt enough

Council Deliberations:

Councilmember Carnacchi questioned when the hearing date is.

Staff stated July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Councilmember Carnacchi questioned if we could have staff attend that meeting.

Staff stated it was her intent to attend the meeting and the Mayor stated it was his intent to attend the meeting as well depending on his schedule.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Discussed reading the county file
- Wonder if this is actually going to happen on July 2nd because the hearing is currently on hold.
- There's a balance due on the account, and I don't know if the hearing is actually going to move forward.
- Discussed this as an open public meeting that anyone can attend
- Discussed mitigation measures for water, there's verbiage that says the County may adopt additional measures - "Additional measures to reduce water use may be adopted." May does not mean anything.
- Discussed the MND and what appears to be a misrepresented use of water; and if they build the project and it uses three or four times the amount of water that they stated, that's a problem both on the withdrawal from the aquifer as well as what happens to the wastewater because they are not on public sewer.
- Is the septic appropriately designed to handle that quantity of wastewater that can't be mixed with human waste?
- The County is saying that they only may need to increase measures instead of shall increase measures, that means nothing. Would like that to be included in our response letter.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Can't believe this project is still moving forward.
- Can't believe that there would be a thought of changing the zoning and even a general plan amendment for something that is a gas station and RV storage in the middle of the Laguna.
- Don't even understand why this keeps being here - bad chemicals and gas tanks and all of that stuff in a flood zone
- Do not understand why this is even moving forward.
- We need to send a strongly worded letter to the County

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Suggested that the Planning Director has been collecting notes and will modify the draft letter.
- Since it has my signature on it, I will also review it and make revisions beyond anything that for some reason the staff might have missed, which is just impossible for me to predict and understand how that could even be a possibility.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- Think this is an inappropriate location and such an incompatible project.
- I don't know how it keeps going.
- We've got environmental reasons, traffic reasons.
- It's a big interruption of recreation and transportation on the bike trail, this community separator issue.

- We don't need the business; we've got plenty of gas stations as it is.
- When you think of the County going through this climate crisis lens on all decisions, you wonder, what are they thinking?
- Support a strong letter of opposition

Councilmember Gurney moved and Vice Mayor Glass seconded the motion to approve Transmittal of Comment Letter to Sonoma County PRMD Regarding Revised Referral for PLP13-0023; 5300 Sebastopol Road, Santa Rosa.

Mayor Slayter called for a roll call vote. City staff conducted a roll call vote.

VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmember Carnacchi, Gurney, Hinton, Vice Mayor Glass and Mayor Slayter

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

**City Council Action: Approved Transmittal of Comment Letter to Sonoma County PRMD Regarding Revised Referral for PLP13-0023; 5300 Sebastopol Road, Santa Rosa.**

**Minute Order Number: 2020-133**

11. Discussion and Consideration of Sebastopol Solid Waste Collection Services Annual Rate Adjustment and possible Franchise Agreement Revisions by Recology Sonoma Marin (Responsible Department: Engineering Manager)

Engineering Manager Mikus presented the agenda item recommending the City Council Consider Sebastopol Solid Waste Collection Services Annual Rate Adjustment for Recology Sonoma Marin.

Celia Furber, Recology, commented as follows:

- Waste Zero Manager
- Recology is honored to be the solid waste service provider for Sebastopol.
- Sebastopol is a community that shares our sustainability values and often sets progressive examples for neighboring cities to follow.
- It's always a pleasure collaborating with Henry Mikus, other City staff, Councilmembers and, of course, Sebastopol community members
- Recology is a 100% employee-owned company, and we hang our hat on our commitment to the environment and landfill diversion.
- Over the past two-and-a-half years, we've made a great deal of progress with landfill diversion in Sebastopol by getting schools set up with robust compost and recycle programs that the kids are involved in; working with businesses to reduce their garbage and take advantage of our free compost and recycle programs; volunteering at the Farmers Market and other events regularly; and even sponsoring the Reusable Utensils program at the weekly Farmers Market.
- Recology is also an essential business, having provided uninterrupted services, including recycle and compost, during the floods in Sebastopol in February of 2019; the fires and the power shutoffs in October 2019; and, of course, during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.



- We're proud to provide our critical services during these challenging times; but it's worth noticing that we've been financially impacted by COVID along with so many others, mainly due to businesses suspending services with us. That's impacted us financially.
- Walked through the rate proposal and ask for consideration of passing the additional rate increase effective July 1st.
- We respect the direction Council decides to take this evening.
- Our primary objective is to be a good partner with the City, and we'll support whichever decision is made.
- Basically, we have two very old trucks that we inherited from the Ratto Group that are currently servicing Sebastopol. They need to be replaced in order to meet California air quality carb standards. They will be replaced with biofuel trucks that are clean, quiet, and have a reduced carbon footprint.
- The rate increase that we are requesting would go directly toward the expense of replacing those two trucks.
- Recognizing the state of the current economic climate in conjunction with the rate increase, we are offering a 15% CARE discount for Sebastopol residents who may be experiencing financial hardship. This would be a long-term relief program for the community.
- To simplify what this rate increase means for the average resident in Sebastopol, the rate for a 32-gallon garbage cart, which is the most popular garbage cart size in Sebastopol, would go from \$21. 24 per month with just the small RRI increase, the refuse rate index increase. It would go from \$21. 24 per month to \$22. 76 per month with the additional rate increase that we're proposing. This is really a difference of \$1.52 per month. If that customer with that 32-gallon garbage cart were to apply for a CARE discount because they're in financial hardship, the rate would actually be lowered to \$19.35 per month, which is \$1.89 less than that \$21.24 amount.
- We believe that we're offering an overall benefit to Sebastopol by securing funding for new clean trucks and offering a long-term care relief program to the community.

Mayor Slayter asked for questions. There were none.

Mayor Slayter opened for public comment.

A member of the public commented as follows:

- Supports the rate increase.
- Does not mind at all paying \$1.52 more a month.
- Primarily commute by bike these days through town through our new bike lanes. Have had to breath a lot of Recology truck fumes on my way to work, and that's significant. That impacts my health.
- Knowing that we would have a clean-burning truck that I could ride behind, good for my own health
- For this COVID-19 crisis, it's a respiratory illness; anything we can do to support cleaner air in our community is a big deal.
- Love that they are offering the CARE program. That's going to let people save more money than they do now. If this rate increase can be implemented, people that are having hardship can apply for that.

- Recology has been an amazing community partner.
- Provided free signage and utensils to the Farmers market and Analy High School and Apple Blossom
- Every single community thing that I've done to reduce waste, I've partnered with Recology; and they've been amazing and so generous.
- Just like we need to support our other local businesses - and I'm spending all my stimulus relief check on local businesses and nonprofits - we need to support our local hauling company that's been so supportive to our community.
- Highly urge you to approve the rate increase.
- Recology has also been amazing on our Zero Waste Committee, helping us implement the polystyrene ban.
- Any of our Zero Waste work that we do in our community, we couldn't do without Recology and we weren't able to do this when Ratto was our company.
- Urge the Council to approve this very small rate increase, which also includes relief for people that can't afford that rate increase.

Linda Collins, Chamber of Commerce, commented as follows:

- Question on the CARE program.
- Is that just for residential, or is it for our small businesses as well who have really suffered through the pandemic?
- Recology has been a great partner in our city.
- Ambrosia has been phenomenal, helping out at all the different events. She is so patient with people, explaining what can be recycled, what needs to go in the compost.
- Appreciative of to have her as a partner in our community.

Council Deliberations:

Councilmember Gurney questioned what is the guarantee that the purchase of the new trucks will go to the Sebastopol routes rather than somewhere else.

Celia stated the trucks will be used specifically for Sebastopol and stated the old trucks would be retired as it would be an environmental issue.

Mayor Slayter asked if CARE was only for residential. Celia stated that is correct.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- We would need to be negotiating like a new contract probably starting at least in 2022 at the latest
- Does anything beyond just the RRI increase require a renegotiation of the contract
- Are the errors in the contract
- Are these changes allowed if they are not listed in the contract?

City Manager McLaughlin stated they are not in the contract and that he researched the question about whether there were legal issues in terms of increasing the monthly rate to cover the truck expenditure; and there are no legal issues with that.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- Agree with staff about going ahead with the approval of the rate increase minus the trucks because I have a hard time when we put on hold indefinitely buying trucks for the public with our tax money.
- Have a hard time buying trucks for a private company and asking our residents to pay for new trucks for a private company when we've already put a moratorium on any new vehicles for the City.
- Our receptacles on Main Street, those are completely contaminated. Even though we have two distinguished, one for recycle and one for trash, they are constantly contaminated.
- Recology is only sending a smaller truck and they all are going into the same landfill.
- Symbolic gesture because all of that is going into the landfill.
- If we were going to ask for a rate increase of any sort, we should think about how we could get better receptacles to get the public more aware and have a better segregation of the recyclables and the waste in the trash cans on Main Street.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- As the Council, we can tell staff that we are interested in new trucks; but maybe right now, that needs to be wrapped up in the greater conversation of the entire franchise agreement, i.e., the contract being renegotiated and empowering staff to go forth and negotiate on behalf of the City.
- We could simply approve the RRI only with that instruction.
- We could approve the RRI and move forward for the remainder of the contract knowing that there are rules and laws that will be taking effect at the state level regarding waste.
- We need to be responsive to those; we cannot ignore them. They come into an action before our franchise agreement is expiring.
- We're in a place where I think it makes sense to address the franchise agreement; and, honestly, I really would like to get rid of those dirty old trucks. They're an environmental nightmare, and that's not who we are.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I tend to agree with you that maybe what we need to do is approve the RRI, if I'm using the right acronym there, and ask our City Manager to start working on the negotiations of our new franchise agreement and that that should include the truck issue.
- We can't just say we're going to be all in favor of less air pollution and carbon reduction and this and that if we don't try to insist that we get better trucks and every place we possibly can.
- The way that franchise agreements work is something like a garbage hauler is basically a monopoly business.
- Part of having these set rates is based on what their expenses are.
- A really bad example of that is actually PG&E. They get their rates set based on what their expenses are, and that's how we end up with the bad rates.
- But in this case, this is a company that I feel like they are investing money wisely.
- They are an employee-owned company, and they are trying to be really good environmental stewards.

- We want to encourage these new trucks, and maybe our City Manager can put that in the mix of this negotiation

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- Agree with comments
- We're on hold right now for those kinds of big expenses, and we should roll that into our new renewal and franchise deal.
- Would love to have new trucks, and my first thought was, "Great, quieter, energy-efficient trucks."
- Think it is a bigger conversation, and we should roll it into our contract.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- Appreciate Councilmember Carnacchi's comment about how we are doing without and this private business is wanting to pass along an expense to our citizens.
- Think as environmental stewards, it's our responsibility to act from those values and go for this change in the garbage trucks now because if they're needed now to have a more sustainable future for us, why delay a year?
- If the need is now, I think it's more appropriate for us to take the step.
- I don't think it's a hugely burdensome increase.
- I think that's going to be doable for most people and maybe not even noticeable; but they will probably notice the new trucks and the more compatible trucks on the road than the old ones that we have.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- In looking at this, I can see the benefit to keeping rates as stable as possible.
- But in conversation with a couple of business owner neighbors who know residential folks and they have the small sleeve 20-gallon version; and nobody seemed to think that the increase was significant.
- Having the improved trucks, the quieter trucks, is good
- The noise and the pollution from those trucks is a very real thing.
- Concur to authorize staff to move forward with a new franchise agreement because there are services available that our residents are not able to take advantage of. I would like to offer those kinds of services that would require a renegotiation of the franchise agreement. It's time to address that.
- We can also get moving on improving our current state of affairs environmentally and from a noise perspective with the new trucks.
- I think that that's important for us to do. It's a very modest upcharge, and nobody that I spoke with seemed to have a significant difficulty.

Vice Mayor Glass moved and Councilmember Gurney seconded the motion to approve the Sebastopol Solid Waste Collection Services Annual Rate Adjustment of approximately 1.7% by the City's Franchise Solid Waste Collector/Hauler, Recology Sonoma Marin; approving the three corrections, and the TSD final step time frame and not approving the 13.5% rate adjustment for trucks.

Discussion:

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- Okay with approving trucks now
- Want to make sure that when we negotiate our contract that we're getting some kind of benefit because we're going ahead with that now versus later.
- Want to be really tough about that contract negotiation because I think we're going out with a trust and a partner, and I want to make sure it comes back to us.

Mayor Slayter called for a roll call vote. City staff conducted a roll call vote.

VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmembers Gurney, Hinton, Vice Mayor Glass and Mayor Slayter  
Noes: Councilmember Carnacchi  
Absent: None  
Abstain: None

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- Okay with the item except for the trucks.
- Do not see how you're justifying paying for trucks for a private company and not paying for trucks for our public services.

**City Council Action: Approved Sebastopol Solid Waste Collection Services Annual Rate Adjustment for Recology Sonoma Marin.**

**Minute Order Number: 2020-134**

Per City Council protocols, the Council must be in consensus to continue the next item as the meeting has gone beyond the 10:30 pm end time. The Council was in consensus to continue with the meeting.

**CITY COUNCIL REPORTS:**

12. City Manager-Attorney/City Clerk Reports (Continued):

- Provided updates on status of activities related to COVID 19 Pandemic.

**Reference Order Number: 2020-135**

13. City Council Reports/Committee/Sub-Committee Meeting Reports: (Reports by Mayor/City Councilmembers Regarding Various Agency Meetings/Committee Meetings/Sub-Committee Meeting /Conferences Attended and Possible Direction to its Representatives (If Needed) on Pending issues before such Boards)

Vice Mayor Glass reported as follows:

- Continuing to work with Health Action - reimagining what Health Action can be.
- We've talked about having the name turn into Health Action Coalition.
- Been working with the people in the group and with people outside the group to try and redefine who the governance of that organization is going to be once the hospital district goes away.
- Now got agreement that Linda Hopkins' Office is going to participate; Tim Miller from WCCS; Ellen Bauer from West County Clinics; two seats for business members; two seats for disadvantaged communities; a faith-based seat .
- Discussion is whether or not the organization is going to take some money from the health district, and there's still controversy involved with that.

Councilmember Gurney reported on the new boardmember for the community center.

14. Council Communications Received: There were none.
15. Future City Meeting Dates/Events (Informational Only): (See Agenda Below City Web site for Up to Date Meeting Dates/Times)

**CLOSED SESSION:** This item was cancelled.

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

~~(Prior to adjournment into Closed Session, the public may speak up to 3 minutes on items to be addressed in Closed Session).~~

~~**ADJOURN INTO CLOSED SESSION**~~

- ~~16. Convene Closed Session Pursuant to (Gov. Code section 54957  
Public Employment: Title: Police Chief~~

~~**City Council Action:** None Taken. Item Cancelled.~~

~~**Minute Order Number:** 2020-136~~

**ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING:**

Mayor Slayter adjourned the meeting at 11:05 pm. Meeting was adjourned to the City Council Special Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 7:00 pm (virtual meeting).

Respectfully Submitted:



Mary C. Gourley  
Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, MMC