

## CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

### MINUTES FOR Meeting of October 14, 2020

As Approved by the City Council at their regular meeting of November 17, 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 COUNCIL 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.*

**Anyone using abusive, vulgar, offensive, threatening, or harassing language, personal attacks of any kind or offensive terms that target specific individuals or groups will be muted and removed from the meeting.**

6:00 PM Convene Special City Council Meeting (ZOOM VIRTUAL FORMAT)

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Slayter called the Special meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Mayor Patrick Slayter – By video teleconference  
Vice Mayor Una Glass – By video teleconference  
Councilmember Michael Carnacchi – By video teleconference  
Councilmember Sarah Gurney - By video teleconference  
Councilmember Neysa 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  
Engineering Manager Henry Mikus  
Fire Chief Bill Braga  
Planning Director Kari Svanstrom  
Police Chief Don Mort  
Public Works Superintendent Dante Del Prete

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT (for items not on the agenda).**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

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:

Kate Haug	Securing a bond to create affordable family housing
Kate Haug	Affordable teacher and staff housing in downtown Sebastopol
Cathryn Couch	Community Benefit Grants – CERES - support the purchasing of food for Sebastopol clients in our Healing Meals for Healthy Communities program.

**STATEMENTS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BY MAYOR/CITY COUNCILMEMBERS FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:**

Vice Mayor Glass stated she would be recusing herself from a portion of the community benefit grant discussion on the agenda related to the Sebastopol Center for the Arts.

Mayor Slayter stated he would be recusing himself from a portion of the community benefit grant discussion on the agenda related to Rebuilding Together.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:** None  
**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/PRESENTATION:** None  
**REGULAR CALENDAR AGENDA ITEMS (DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION):** None

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. Public Hearing – To conduct a Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2020-2021 City of Sebastopol Budget (Responsible Department: Administrative Services)

This item is for City Council Review and Consideration of the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-21, conduct a public hearing, and provide comments and directions to staff on budget allocations for the fiscal year. Under the new budget, some costs are being reduced to each budget line items, some new services are being proposed and some are being delayed to the mid-year budget review to allow the City to have additional information on potential revenue impacts due to the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic.

Administrative Services Director Kwong presented the agenda item recommending the City Council Review and Consider the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-21, conduct a public hearing, and provide comments and directions to staff on budget allocations for the fiscal year. Under the new budget, some costs are being reduced to each budget line items, some new services are being proposed and some are being delayed to the mid-year budget review to allow the City to have additional information on potential revenue impacts due to the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic.

The budget subcommittee provided comments.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- What we're looking at now is a change between the interim budget that we did, that we adopted a few months ago, versus our updated work product.
- This is the budget versus last year's budget.
- These are changes we've made since the interim budget that we adopted.
- I think that probably both Councilmember Hinton and I were tearing our hair out, thinking we should be having a decrease in expenses, given how serious our revenues are, and somehow, we ended up with an increase in expenses.
- I wanted you to understand where those came from.

- Sometimes when you look at the budget, I find that I can't see the forest for the trees
- In the staff report, it says we're increasing what the interim budget was, we're increasing that by about half a million dollars, around \$500,000.
- Where did that come from? Around \$200,000 is related to Public Works and of that, it's actually capital outlay, it has to do with \$110,000 that we're spending on the Community Center.
- There's also \$80,000 for, I think, Public Works manholes -- I think they're smart manholes
- The thing with the Community Center that always makes my mind get a little confused, we're spending the money on the Community Center now, but a lot of that money came in in prior years from insurance reimbursements
- Although we can only account for things in the current year, we did receive some money in prior years to compensate for these fixes that we're doing to the Community Center, at this point we're going to be executing on those fixes.
- That's about \$200,000 of the \$500,000 increase we're looking at.
- Then additionally, we needed to spend money for the police communications system that is a new state requirement. That was an increase.
- We're spending about \$40,000 on the audit, and another \$40,000 on CoMission. That's another \$80,000 that went up.
- We also put in a \$25,000 placeholder in the budget, hoping that we can start working on creating an interface between our police department and some kind of social services that we can use for helping our police department with mental health crises homeless intervention that would really help our police department if we had access to social workers and mental health workers.
- Those are all the reasons why we have gone up, actually, by \$25,000.
- We went through on the community grants, there was this huge ask by the community for support for our nonprofits that was over \$200,000. We've never had an ask that big before.
- Councilmember Hinton and my strategy on that was to try to ask our existing nonprofits that had gotten funding in the past to take a 20% reduction in what we were providing to them because we have had about a 20% reduction in our revenue.
- The other thing was, some of the new asks, we really tried to focus on our small, local nonprofits as opposed to some of the big guys that were asking for money.
- We felt that the little guys really have a problem with revenue and with support and these are the nonprofits that are the backbone of our town.
- Let some of the bigger cities in the county give more money to the big guys.
- We felt that we need to support our local people.
- In that case, that accounts for the difference between the adopted budget and this new revised budget.
- In summary, we can't keep going like this.
- I am incredibly happy that we were so thrifty in past years because we have such a big reserve.
- We're not in dire straits. I'm sure there must be other cities that really are in dire straits.
- However, we have our reserve now down to 22%.
- It was up more around 60% a couple of years ago.
- We're still healthy enough at 22%, that's considered really good for most cities.
- If you look, we're operating at a \$2 million deficit, that's pretty scary.
- I don't know when and how that money is going to come back to us.
- We have to keep thinking about how to develop our tax base and our tax sources and be supportive of our businesses.
- It's hard to see in the midst of COVID, how that's going to happen. It's going to be really hard.

- I think the results of what happens in November is actually going to have a really big impact on how much money is available to state and local government for COVID recovery and for economic recovery on a local basis.
- I just want to call your attention to page 6 of 72 in the staff report.
- Our expenditures in 17/18 went from almost \$9 million to \$11 million to getting up to once again \$11 million and now we're actually down to \$10.7 million.
- Our revenue has gone from \$9 million to \$10 million to almost \$11 million and now down to \$8.5 million. That drop is depressing.
- We were on a pretty good trajectory until this year.
- If you take a look at the revenues, there's a big drop in TOT money as well as sales tax.
- We're seeing the results of COVID, and its impact on tourism and also sales tax.
- We're going to have to really take a look at where we are at midyear review, again, in January.
- Predicting what is going on now is like we're in uncharted territory.
- We can't completely predict what our revenues will look like, what will happen next. How much will we be able to open up, will we be able to have tourists again, is it safe to have tourists again?
- We'll be looking at it in January.
- Things are going to be pretty bad probably up through at least the start of the next fiscal year, which will be July of 2021.
- We're going to all have to keep our thinking caps on and try and be proactive with ways to do things.
- We may also have to be looking at how can we, what can we cut?
- In a tiny city the size of ours, that is a tough thing to figure out.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I can't quite recall, but I think we spent upwards of 15 to 20 hours in subcommittee meetings, going over line by line, and talking to department heads about everything we could cut.
- My hopes were high when we started the meetings.
- As they went on, it showed we really run lean as a city. There wasn't a lot of fat to cut in that arena.
- It was highly difficult.
- In addition to the things that Vice Mayor Glass outlined, we came into the budget with adjusted wages for our city staff and adjusted health insurance rates.
- Those are things we promised last year when we went through negotiations at the end of the month, and they took effect starting July 1st.
- Every department budget included an uptick because all that was based, pre-COVID, obviously.
- Our staff is working harder too
- It's just the way it is, but it does add to the bottom line.
- When you go department by department, it all adds up.
- We have been really good about putting aside money that we were saving for a rainy day, and luckily, we have that.
- I just want to reiterate, as we can see this City really relies on sales tax revenues.
- When you look at revenues from 18/19 in the \$4 million revenue line, now we're down almost \$900,000, and we're in the \$3.1 million line, right there is just revenues that I don't know when they're going to come back.
- They would be coming back slowly. That's if things open up, and when they open up.

- I'm not sure the Mayor's process tonight, but I would assume that we would go through department by department.
- I do have some of my own questions that I want to ask as we do that.
- The budget process was a long one, it took over a month of us having subcommittee meetings in addition to our other commitments.
- That's all the comments I have, and I'll wait to weigh in on the budget by section.

Mayor Slayter opened for questions.

- To start us off, I think I'd like to ask just a couple of general questions that may help inform members of the public who aren't down in the minutiae of this.
- On page 4 of 72, 2021 preliminary general fund revenue budget at a glance.
- We need to make sure we're looking not at the column directly to the left of the highlighted column, which is the budget, the temporary budget, the interim budget we passed a couple of months ago. We look at the next one over to the left, 19/20 estimated actual.
- Where our revenue was, and that is not yet audited, so this is the estimated actual of \$10,841,200. The proposed revenue is \$8,633,400. That is a decrease of \$2.2 million in revenues.
- Those are the two important numbers on the revenue side. I think we all need to be cognizant about.
- The very next page is the budget at a glance, how does the City spend the money?
- What are the expenditures?
- Again, it's useful to leapfrog over the adopted budget and look at the two columns over, the '19/'20 estimated actual to the 20/21 proposed. The difference is less than a million dollars.
- There's the deficit.
- One final overriding question that may be informative for everybody, other than the CIP, and those are items that, some are planned, some are COVID-based are there any large equipment purchases, vehicles, tractors, fire trucks, but as far as I can tell, none of that has been planned for this fiscal year?
- Everything that was due to be aged out, I think we're going to suffer through at least one more year of.

Director Kwong commented that there is no plan for vehicle replacement for 20-21.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- When we get to Fire department budget, I would like to talk about that.
- There were some needs requested.
- We didn't initially recommend any.
- I think the full Council might want to look at that when we get to at least one of the department budgets.
- I will be speaking when we come to that point in the presentation.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- I'm wondering if you had differences of opinion that you want to let us know about, or perhaps when we come to the department by department, they will become clearer with your comments?
- I don't know if there's anything, any tension in your conversations that would help us if we knew about them before we start talking, then we know what we need to clear up.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I'm happy to address that.
- I think the only thing that we did have some questions on were a couple of community grant items.
- On those we didn't make a recommendation, we brought to the full Council for full Council discussion.
- Those were bigger pieces, and they were highlighted in the discussion when we get there.
- I did some research after our subcommittee ended, and I want to make comment on one of the sections with new information.
- It wasn't that we, I believe, had any disagreements in other areas.

Vice Mayor Glass commented that was the only arena where we disagreed and didn't come to a consensus was the community benefit grants.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- We also have a couple of extra budgetary things that have happened since the subcommittee ceased their work for this document.
- One is the item from last week that we were talking about with the artists support lottery, the Public Arts Committee request.
- That was an additional \$2,000, and my suggestion was that that be considered during the conversation of the community benefit grants.
- That still feels appropriate to me, knowing that it's not a community benefit grant, but it is in the spirit of things, where that conversation belongs rather than in the discussion of the Planning Department's budget.
- Even though they are the gatekeepers of the public arts fund, I think spiritually that's where that belongs.
- The other item is the costs for some infrastructure and equipment for the proposed parklets.
- That is planned as an expenditure in the Public Works Department.

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- The parklets are not in anybody's budget. That just came from the last meeting. We need to discuss that.
- If Council chooses to fund that tonight, we need to have an adjustment to the budget that was presented. Departmentally, that would be in the street budget for Public Works.
- I would think that would be an appropriate place for this parklet to be.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- We have already looked at general questions and introductory statements and explanations by the Administrative Services Director and the budget subcommittee.
- We have the information here for the transaction and sales tax, and general fund revenues detailed.
- This is just sort of overarching information.
- We'll start at the general fund transfers if anybody has questions about that category? This isn't a huge component of the budget. It always seems to raise at least a few questions. Then discussion of the Reserves
- I want to ask a question about the second row proposed assignment to CalPERS Reserve.

- They're recommending a \$1 million transfer to that fund for our future pension liabilities, it's page 12 of the PDF under the General Plan reserves category. I would like to verify that there is a proposed \$1.0 million dollar transfer

Director Kwong commented that the City is transferring out - it is a minus, and there is no proposed transfer.

Mayor Slayter questioned if we are at \$2.74 million now and for and at least until the next time we talk about the budget?

Director Kwong stated that is correct.

Councilmember Gurney questioned if CalPERS money set aside is earmarked so we can't tap it?

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- No, the City chose not to do that in case we need it.
- Like a lot of cities have, you hire a firm, and they lock it up, but then they charge you a bunch of money to lock up your money which doesn't seem like a very good idea.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- We didn't make very much in interest, as I recall.
- We researched that, and it would have been better to just tag it and set it aside, and track it like we've been doing, and use it when we need it.
- That's what we've been doing.
- It's in the general fund, but it is an earmark set aside for this purpose.
- It would need to be a significantly darker and rainier financial day for me to have any comfort, particularly in that fund.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- We're not actually tapping the CalPERS account, we're tapping the other part of the reserves.
- It really is earmarked, it's just not locked up.
- All reserves in the CalPERS are in there.
- We can say we've been on-track with our set asides until this year.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- The City has been aggressive
- We've been ahead of schedule.
- If you look at what we've been doing, we've been setting \$1.0 million aside for the last three years.

City Manager McLaughlin commented that he wanted to make sure the Council understood that even though it's not restricted, it still takes definitive council action to reach any reserve designated.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Yes, we have been aggressive in putting the money away.
- As aggressive as it's been, it's been barely treading water.
- That's just a problem that is getting worse, system wide.

- It's not of our making but becomes our problem.

The Council went through each department page as follows:

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Page 22 of 72.
- Detail sheet, Administrative Services.
- This is in the first line, fund salaries, staffing is 4.0 full-time employees equivalent?

Director Kwong stated that is correct.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- I see by the box at the bottom, which I'm really happy to see is a little bit easier to find, as it was very hard to find historically. Thank you for that.
- We're 4.0 historically, and we're still 4.0?
- I see a 30% increase in salaries.
- I know there's been some rejiggering of things, can you provide a little bit of clarity on that for us?

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- The department does have two positions that are vacant. They are being filled by consultants.
- You can see that salary and benefit has been reduced because in the estimated 19/20 estimate actual, those two vacant positions were filled up by consultant costs.
- The increase to the proposed is just to realign the four positions that were allocated to the department in position control.
- The contracted services are truly contracted services such as HR and I.T. outsourcing.
- There are other services, for example, the maintenance of the software.
- When COVID hit, and each department has to scramble to figure it out, what exactly are we going to spend for 19/20, I don't have those two positions. I have contracted services for those two positions.
- I aligned them to have the actual costs, and then I reduced the salary, because we don't have the position, we don't pay those positions. It's kind of like a wash if you will.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- My question more accurately would have been, looking back over the entire row, the number has jumped around significantly over the last three, four, or five years.
- The question is that you're stabilizing staffing and you're also therefore stabilizing salaries and the need for outside, nonemployee contract people to do the work?

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- Stated that is correct.
- Getting with the correct staff for this department.
- Trying to stabilize staff and figures.
- There is light at the end of the tunnel.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Discussed the Building Department.

- For the benefit of our public we had our Building Official retire as of December.
- That is unfilled and we're contracting with an outside firm that is providing those services in a contract way.
- As I understand it, the benefits and salary of an employee and the cost of a consultant is close to being a wash, or a slight difference one way or the other.
- At this point, given the lack of building activity in the City, maybe the appropriateness of having the contract person taking care of those services right now, that's kind of an explanation.

City Manager McLaughlin commented that we've had nothing but good feedback for the consultants that we've been using. Steve Brown has been the designated Building Inspector going out. We've had quite a bit of activity. Darrell Phillips is the principal consultant, and there has been nothing but great feedback in terms of the services and we're not proposing any changes in that area.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- This is on the detail sheet for Engineering, budget expenditures.
- I'm curious, when we look at the benefits category, why did that particular department see a doubling of benefits from 19/20 estimated actual to the proposed for 2021?
- I have a different number in my spreadsheet I'm holding in my subcommittee folder.
- It may be an error.
- I'm sure it has to do with the overlap anticipated between the retirement and the new hire.

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- \$80,000 is just assuming we were going to have contracted services for the rest of the year
- Then we changed that and we no longer wanted to outsource and that we are going to hire behind the retirement.
- That is the overlapping of when you budget for a position, you are not sure if there's going to be a candidate coming from another agency, where they may be a classic employee.
- You assume you will get someone at a higher cost, so there's the overlap in benefits.
- The difference between the two can be drastic.
- It could be 12% versus 33% of their annual salary costs.
- This almost \$150,000 number is accurate.

Councilmember Hinton questioned can you explain number 3 about keeping flat for Russian River Watershed in the Engineering budget?

Director Kwong commented originally when we were looking at the line item, we reduced it down a little bit for the Russian River Watershed annual payment. Then it got back up to the proposed amount.

Engineering Manager Mikus commented as follows:

- I don't recall any change. There's an error in a sub-note there.
- There's no change at this point.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- There might be rebates, it depends on how the year goes.
- Originally, we had the consultant line item much, much larger because that was the way we proposed to go at the time the worksheets were developed for the Council subcommittee to review.

- That was then directed by the subcommittee to be greatly reduced because of the change in plans where we are recruiting a civil engineer.
- However, at that time the benefits line item was considerably smaller.
- I can understand perhaps an increase in that from the fact we have gone from a consultant to hiring a civil engineer.
- It shouldn't be that large, necessarily.
- I would recommend that staff tag this one for review subsequent to the Council meeting.
- We originally had \$120,000. It was reduced to \$40,000.
- That looks like an error.
- At the time when we did that, the benefit item was actually reduced from the adopted budget.
- It was lower than that. I think that needs taking a look at.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I started looking around at some questions we had at budget subcommittee level because there was a request and discussion of possibly a new fire replacement vehicle for one of our fire engines.
- Public Works Superintendent Del Prete keeps a list of all our vehicles that the City owns.
- Vice Mayor Glass will remember we were talking about mileage versus usage versus how old they were.
- We didn't recommend a fire truck replacement for the 1990 Pierce fire engine.
- My understanding is that it's a type 1.
- I understand due to these latest fires that are mostly caused from vegetation, that we actually received money for our engines being out, and that we have maybe not the oldest by year because it's a 1996, but we have a type 3 fire truck called on our spreadsheets the international fire ladder, that we bought for \$12,000 and has over 100,000 miles on it, and we're actually using it during these fires, and the City is receiving some income on it.
- I also have become aware that it doesn't have air conditioning, which seems extremely unhealthy for the firemen out on the vehicles so I would like to find out about that.
- I might want to suggest or think about with the entire Council that maybe that's something we should do a set aside
- I understand we bought it used.
- We might want to look for another used vehicle that won't cost us the same as a brand-new fire engine would but would be safer for our firemen.
- Could Chief Braga answer some of those questions about income?

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- I did not get the vehicle sheets.
- I don't know if other Councilmembers have them as well?
- You may be looking at something that the rest of the Council does not have benefit of.
- I just pulled down from my shelf last year's paper budget, and I'm looking at the vehicle sheet for the Fire Department.
- From your description, you said a ladder truck and a type 3 international.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I'm not talking about the ladder truck at all.
- We had a request to consider a brand-new fire truck to replace the type 1 1990 Pierce fire engine.

- That's our backup to the 2011 that we did not recommend.
- However, there is also a 1996 international type 3 that we spent, according to the records, \$12,000 on.
- This was just an internal document that I became aware of that I requested from the Public Works Superintendent, who is the keeper of this, earlier this week.
- That is the one that I understand is out on fires or has been out on fires recently.
- I understand we get some reimbursement for that.
- I'm curious about reimbursement and whether we might want to consider setting aside some funds for replacement since it has over 100,000 miles on it.

Chief Braga commented as follows:

- The 1996 international is our type 3.
- The type 3, if you were to see the Cal Fire engines drive through town, they're the short wheel base.
- They stand very tall.
- They are truly the off-road wildland firefighting engines.
- We did purchase one some years back from Marin County Fire at their Woodacre Station.
- We purchased it, obviously used, for \$12,000 but we had to put another \$18,000 into it.
- The value of that engine is about \$30,000, which was still a steal.
- To replace a type 3 brand-new, a type 3 engine like what Cal Fire is driving around today, they're up in the \$400,000 range to replace that.
- It's an old engine, it has no air conditioning. It has extreme heat that comes through the floorboard area, the firewall area.
- This is normally the first engine that is requested to go out of county on these strike teams.
- We will be paid for this engine.
- That was going to be a topic of discussion.
- I'm glad it's brought up tonight.
- It was something that I was going to pursue with Council and management on taking the funds that we have earned and putting those towards a replacement type 3 engine.
- We won't get enough to buy a brand-new one.
- We definitely will have a nice little chunk of money coming from the state for us using this fire engine.
- I'm not sure where it is on the list that the Public Works Superintendent keeps up.
- The other apparatus we have on the list is the 1994 international.
- That's our medical rescue vehicle. The number on that is 8330. It's not a fire engine. It does not carry water. It's a rescue vehicle.
- That is coming due to replace also. The motor is very tired.
- The whole engine basically, and the whole body is tired at some point, and that's why we have that vehicle replacement list.
- At some point in time that is going to have to be replaced.
- The priority today, especially now that we're helping other communities, is to get a newer wildland firefighting type replacement engine.
- I think that's going to be our focus, at least initially with the funding that we're going to be getting from the state as a reimbursement for us using this fire engine.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- When you say we're getting some reimbursements from the state, the firefighters get their stipends out of that also?
- What sort of funds are we looking at?
- Are we looking at ten bucks or a million bucks?

Chief Braga commented as follows:

- The firefighters' salary is paid also by Cal Fire.
- Then on top of that, we get daily funds for the use of our fire engine.
- It is \$2,000 a day for the use of our fire engine to go on these out of county strike teams and even in county, like the Walbridge fire.
- So far, we are probably looking at \$80,000 coming our way from the State.
- I was hoping to request that when that money does get reimbursed to the City, that it goes into a special deposit account that we can use for an engine replacement, instead of it ending up in general fund and I'll never see it again.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- I think this is a really interesting development that is brand-new to at least three of us, I would guess.
- Since we're on the weird, compressed budget timeline of COVID, I anticipate that our mid-year budget adjustment is going to feel like it's next week, honestly, the way that these things go.
- Suggested holding this for discussion at the mid-year budget adjustment, because we already have a budget that's drafted with a certain set of parameters.
- To inject such a large item with such unknowns around it is a little premature.

Vice Mayor Glass asked if we are getting reimbursed on any other engines?

Chief Braga commented as follows:

- Stated yes.
- The other engine, which we call a type 1 engine, those are the larger fire engines, they are not off road.
- Those are the ones that we use for structure protection, when we go out on strike teams, we'll be sent up into a community, residential, and park the engine, pull all the hoses and get ready to save a home, or to save an entire street or court.
- We also get \$2,000 for that engine.
- If we combine the two, and take that money, I think we can do fairly well.
- During the mid-year budget review, I was hoping that we could somehow find some more money and potentially buy a brand-new type 3.
- If not, if we can find a used one that has air conditioning for these firefighters who really struggled heat-wise, basically living in a fire engine that's a sauna
- That's my goal, that's what I'm hoping for, that we can get that replaced.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Where in the revenue budget do we put these, quote, reimbursements?
- Because what these reimbursements are really, what they should be going against is what we're accruing as vehicle expense.

- We have this reserve, what we're trying to work towards is having the reserve be informed by the massive spreadsheet that Superintendent Del Prete has which is telling us how much our vehicles are actually costing us per year.
- It seems like where that revenue ought to go is into that reserve, the offset.
- My question to Director Kwong is, right now, when we get these kinds of reimbursements, what account does the money go into?

Director Kwong commented when we do get reimbursement for the fire engine that went out to battle fires, if it's a straight one on one reimbursement, if we spend \$1,000 on vehicle maintenance and they reimburse us \$1,000, it goes back to the vehicle line item to offset, if it's one to one.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- This is like a rental, though.
- They're borrowing our truck

Vice Mayor Glass stated the City is not billing them for actual expenses.

Chief Braga commented as follows:

- There are no vehicle expenses when we're out.
- All the fuel is paid for by the State.
- If it breaks down, there are certain line items that the state pays for.
- If it was wear and tear, like tires, we pay for the tires.
- Otherwise, it's more like a rental.
- The State is paying us, for us to use this fire engine.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- What's happened in the past.
- I just became aware of this, and that's great, we found money that we can help our firemen buy a used, new used engine, but what happened in the past fires, in the past years?
- Where did that money go?

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- It ended up in the general fund.
- The general fund is \$8 million. Where in that big pile of money was it allocated?
- It sounds like it is just going as an offset against maintenance expense.
- If the state reimbursement for the use of the engine, it would go into one of those intergovernmental line items as reimbursement, or would it be in the revenue side?
- It doesn't offset because we don't do net accounting.
- We don't net it into the vehicle maintenance because we don't know how much gas we use.
- I agree, that's where I think it should be.
- Now I think when we go to mid-year adjustment, we're going to know where it's hiding and then we can start adding it all up and say, where can we spend it, and we're going to know that it came from fighting fires, and we're going to have a good idea that we want to spend it in that arena.
- If I recall, our fire department is paid from the general fund
- I was just going to say, we do not have a revenue section under fire.

City Manager McLaughlin commented on page 6 of your packet under operating revenue on the intergovernmental is where the monies we receive from the use of the trucks go.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- There are some large figures.
- At mid-year adjustment, we're all going to be looking at that category.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- The money that comes in that category, let's be sure and tag it really with great big letters that this is fire reimbursement, like we have for flood reimbursement.
- We need to be able to look at the details on what these reimbursements are for and think about allocating it to what they're supposed to offset.

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- Any reimbursement from the State, the Federal, or the county goes to the intergovernmental.
- I would like to make a statement to clarify the comment that was alluded to that the general fund is some kind of a black hole where things go in there and disappear. That is not the case.
- Each revenue the City received is truly called out for what it is, it is going to the appropriate line item in the general fund.
- Again, it's not a black hole.
- I'm just saying that something goes to a general fund, appropriately categorized.
- I just want to clarify again that revenues coming into the City and they are correctly categorized when we do know what they are.
- Most money that comes from the state such as reimbursement from the fire, use of fire engines, \$95,000 that comes from the C.A.R.E.S. Act, those are housed in the intergovernmental line items.
- They don't disappear. We don't use them to go into fund balance.
- That's why the transfers probably look a little funky to the non-finance people.
- We have the money, it's sitting in fund balance, which is unassigned reserve.
- Now, once a year over, we haven't used that, it goes into fund balance.
- As it allows us tapping fund balance for those expenditures that are happening in this coming year which the budget position is in a deficit.
- There's always this notion that revenue goes to the general fund and it disappears.
- That is truly not the case.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- We just would like a breakout of the intergovernmental.
- We get COVID money.
- We want to know, is it designated to business relief or?
- I thought we did that previously because that's where the \$1.5 million that came in for flood relief was.

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- If you do look under intergovernmental, they fluctuate quite a bit, because it depends on what kind of money we get from the state and the county and grants.
- Any grant we would be applying for, they would be housed in there.
- They don't go into miscellaneous.

- Miscellaneous would be something really off the wall, if we can't account for what they are, then it would land in there.
- I can look up in miscellaneous and can give you some examples.
- Most of the revenue that comes into the City, we know what they are and they are being categorized appropriately.
- The term general fund is being used very loosely.
- Sometimes there's misconceptions about the general fund. Department heads tend to think that if their department generates income, it's the department money. If it goes in the general fund, the department doesn't know what happened to it.
- To be clear, it's not the Department money, and it's never their money to begin with.
- It's always general fund money, and they are being categorized appropriately.
- It's not some black hole where Finance has control of the money.
- It's the City's money.
- I just wanted to clarify that.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- I have one additional question about the fire truck replacement and Cal Fire and how they cover every cost while our apparatus is out.
- This may come across like I'm trying to be sarcastic, but what happens if it gets stolen?
- Does anybody ever steal a fire truck?

Chief Braga commented as follows:

- I've been doing this for 36 years.
- There's never been one case, at least with our strike teams, that we've been involved with in county or out of county where a fire engine has been stolen.
- I can't speak on behalf of every strike team in California.
- At least the ones that we have been active in and involved with, never one time, never.

Mayor Slayter questioned what about equipment such as generators?

Chief Braga commented as follows:

- How it basically works is, the fire crew is with the engine, 24/7.
- When they're on their rest period they're either at a base camp or if it's a local fire, they get to bring the fire engine home, which is here, Sebastopol, and we get it ready for the next day's 24-hour period.
- If they're in base camp, somewhere out in the boonies, they are with hundreds of other fire engines and fire personnel pretty much protecting your own equipment.
- But again, we've never had that issue, even with equipment.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows

- It's so unfortunate that we have to think about wildfires as a revenue stream.
- I really wish that we were not having this conversation about how much the reimbursement is going to be from the state because of all these just horrific events that we're undertaking.
- I have one additional question about the fire category, the fire department budget.
- I think this is probably going to be for City Manager McLaughlin because he is our City Manager and is the chief of staffing.

- I'm curious, down in the staffing of FTE categories, I see there's now a 3 instead of a 2 on the detail page for the budget expenditures.

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- That's an error because originally the fire department did request one additional FTE which got carried over even though we did not recommend it
- That's just a clerical error.

Vice Mayor Glass commented I would just like to encourage staff, which would be Director Kwong, Chief Braga and Superintendent el Prete with his wonderful vehicle list, that when we come back to mid-year budget, which I think is approximately two months away, or 2 1/2 months away, that we take a look at the list of all the vehicles in the fire department, and look at how much revenue we're bringing in for the rent on our vehicles and then take a really good look at how we might allocate some of that to purchasing something new with an air conditioner.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- Since we have gone a little past questions, maybe this is a time, or I can come back to it, but had I had this information, I would have recommended a set aside as a placeholder, because I don't think we'll be able to afford a new vehicle, but I would like us to be looking for a possibly used vehicle.
- Since we've been reassured that we're going to get \$80,000 times two vehicles which equals \$160,000 in reimbursements, I would really feel comfortable tonight, since we didn't recommend vehicle replacements and we do have money in the fund, to do a placeholder for at least part of the money.
- Maybe they will have found a vehicle and we'll know more at mid-budget review time.
- I would like to get that process started.
- I think it's a safety issue, especially without the air conditioner.
- It makes me really nervous going into fire season.

Chief Braga commented as follows:

- Unfortunately the second fire engine, the type 1, did not spend the same amount of number of days out on the strike teams as the type 3 did.
- The type 3 actually spent an additional 15 days in the Klamath National Forest.
- Our type 1 didn't go there, only the type 3.
- I can provide an estimated dollar amount that will be coming back from the state for both fire engines being out.
- It's not going to be \$80,000 times two.
- It will probably be between \$100,000 to \$125,000, which is still a nice chunk of money.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- I would rather look at this when all of us have the vehicle replacement list.
- We're only waiting two months.
- We've got the account, everybody's eyes are on it, we know Councilmember Hinton's suggestion, which is a good one, we know what the Chief is thinking.
- I think we can do it in January and keep moving.

Vice Mayor Glass commented that meanwhile, the Chief can be keeping his eye out for how much these kind of vehicles cost and what's on the market.

Councilmember Gurney commented the Council would need the vehicle replacement list, that's another thing for next time.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- Discussed the police budget.
- I have a couple of questions about the funding sources.
- I'm on the staff report, page 34 of 72.
- In a couple of questions, it shows an estimated \$48,000 on that.
- Can the Chief explain the fines and forfeitures?

Chief Mort commented as follows:

- I can't speak for the forfeitures.
- The fines are going to be moving violations, your parking citations, all issued ticket citations are coming in, court-imposed reimbursement to departments.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- Then in the same column there under funding sources, the Responsible Beverage Service Program was a fee that we charged to those that are serving alcoholic beverages in Sebastopol.
- Is that program still operative, are people still taking that training that they're paying for?

Chief Mort commented as follows:

- The program is in hiatus because of COVID but we do have staff that is able to do that training when it's up again.
- I don't have in front of me a list of the people taking the training.
- We'll do that once we're able to get that up and running again.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented that the increase of the \$25,000 that is the set aside may be for a mental health person to come on and represent the police department, am I understanding that correctly?

Vice Mayor Glass stated that is correct and that the budget sub-committee provided that recommendation.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented setting that aside, is there room in the current budget without that additional \$25,000, once we finally get a grip on COVID and get back to normal activity, does the police department have enough funding in their current budget to fund community outreach type programs such as the basketball program over at Brookhaven and some of the other things that we had talked about previously?

Chief Mort commented as follows:

- Currently, if you look under miscellaneous supplies and services there's funding for some of those programs already set aside under this budget.
- Whether we extend those funds this year depends on COVID and so forth.
- Off the top of my head, we set aside \$1,000 for midnight sports.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- It's good to know there's funding available for that.
- That means we can reinstate those programs, it would be really helpful to the community.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- We're going to need the community to be interested.
- The academy didn't enroll last time when it was available.
- Nobody signed up.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Wants to work on not just a police academy, but a citizen's academy that educates people about the entire City.
- Nobody is doing any kind of academy right now, other than online and I'm not sure that's the experience that's worth the difficulty in starting up.

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- Just for the benefit of the full Council that was not on the budget subcommittee, the budget subcommittee does a line item by line item analysis of each one of the expenditure lines.
- They have the worksheets that actually are used by the department heads to break it down like the chief was discussing.
- The reason we put the subcommittee process together is so the full Council doesn't have to spend three or four or however many council meetings doing that.
- The budget subcommittee does that.
- We do not supply those worksheets as part of the budget package that you get at approval time.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- I have one final question with regard to the audit that's taking place.
- That is covered, that's already in the budget, correct?

Chief Mort stated that is correct.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I would imagine when we get to the point of hiring or having a new police chief, I would imagine that that person will want to review the budget and take a look at all of these programs and try to figure out how to probably rearrange or maybe re-envision, for one thing, the set-aside amount to help with social services and mental health that perhaps will be a contract with an outside nonprofit and other kinds of training and interface, outreach with the community.
- I would think that would be something the new chief would want to take a close look at and probably make a report to the City Council about a new vision for how the department is going to be interfacing with the community.
- That would be well-timed if it happened at the mid-year budget.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- I've got a couple of questions on the contract services line I know our contacted person doing the review, I believe we approved up to \$40,000.

- That other 20 thousand dollars, is that where the potential for a mental health professional, is that where that lives, in that line item?
- Are the interim chief and lieutenant positions, they're not employees, they're contract employees or contract people?

Director Kwong stated they are on payroll as contract employees.

Mayor Slayter commented in regard to the responsible beverage program, sort of a parallel path is the tobacco retail license, where does that live?

Chief Mort commented as follows:

- It's not currently shown.
- I would have to defer on where that will go.
- That's the study we're working on right now.
- I was hoping to bring it back to Council next week but unfortunately the work with the consultant is not done, so the revenue from that is not listed in this at this point in time.
- That would be in the mid-year budget review.
- That's not represented then in this budget.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- I'm looking at that line item for contract services
- It shows an increase from \$154,000 to \$224,675.
- Will you explain a little bit about what contracted services those are, aside from the auditor, or is that pretty much the auditor expense?

Chief Mort commented it's the auditor and the \$25,000 set-aside, that's \$65,000 between those two right there.

Vice Mayor Glass commented I think that the Chief already pointed this out, I just wanted to reiterate that the TRL has both expenses but also revenue associated with it.

Councilmember Gurney commented the TRL is designed to pay for itself in a way.

Vice Mayor Glass commented that it's still revenue and expense. The County is giving us grants to launch it.

The Council discussed the contract services account.

Director Kwong explained the account as follows:

- The contracted services have contracted services.
- They have the internet, the network, and the technology maintenance in there.
- The mitigation programs.
- The responsible beverage.
- They also include the recruitment cost.
- In addition to that, there is the animal control contract services as well.
- That's all lumped in to make up that \$311,000.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Discussed the detailed worksheets.
- Discussed the summary sheet as we have, on page 36 of 72, the facility maintenance line.
- I see a marked percentage increase in that line item, so I can certainly understand there's something going on.
- Can you tell us what that is?

Public Works Superintendent Del Prete commented as follows:

- It's the Fire Department dry rot repair.
- Zero waste upgrades that we've still been trying to implement at City buildings and some other miscellaneous items.
- Most of it is for the Fire Department which had an unknown leak that was leaking inside the wall so we're in the process of fixing it right now.
- It's part of the gutter system.
- The way it was construction in the previous remodel was done with the internal built gutters that were covered over.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- One other question on page 41 of 72.
- This is the parking lot detail sheet.
- Electric vehicle charging stations.
- I thought we had shifted, the first couple of years those were installed, at least in the lot across the street from the Police Department, that the City was covering the cost of the electricity and then we changed over to what the users were paying.
- That's been my understanding.
- I see this \$6,200 figure for that, and I'm curious about that.
- Is this for the utilities?

Superintendent Del Prete commented as follows:

- Stated that is correct.
- That also includes street lighting and other things that are not metered through the charging.

Councilmember Gurney questioned if it is not just for EV charging.

Superintendent Del Prete commented:

- No, the EV is being offset by usage being paid by the card pay system.

Councilmember Gurney stated it would be interesting to know if we're actually recovering all the cost. She stated that people want more EV charging stations.

Superintendent Del Prete commented that he is currently working on that right now, he has applied for a grant in process.

Mayor Slayter stated the grant that Sonoma Clean Power promoted and facilitated was fully subscribed in 20 minutes.

Superintendent Del Prete stated the City is on the list.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- This is just a general question that comes up because I'm seeing in every department there is a line item for telecommunications.
- I would understand that the Police Department and the Fire Department might have separate needs with regard to telecommunications.
- Can't we lump all the other departments into like a family plan or something?
- Is there a reason why it's broken down where each department is paying, or does the city get one bill for all the departments and then divides that up amongst the budgets?
- I'm curious about that.

Superintendent Del Prete commented as follows:

- Can only speak for the public works budget and perhaps add some information.
- The telecommunications are broken down among several things.
- It's not only cellphones but it is other phones for the offices.
- It's also lumped into that, I actually do well level monitoring that utilizes a cellphone head data to transmit that.
- The emergency pager system for standby personnel is lumped into telecommunications.
- I believe all the other departments are on one Verizon government plan for cellphones, which provides substantial government rebates.

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- To add to the public works superintendent's comment about what's in the telecommunications, all the fiber and the internet that the city has, it's also in there as well.
- The new telephone system we have for City Hall, fire, and public works is also in there.
- As far as one vendor for all, I don't think that's feasible, because different vendors provide different services.
- We try our very best.
- For example, our copier, as leases are becoming expired, we're going to group them to one vendor so it's easy to manage.
- We're getting there.
- What's in the telecommunications service is the internet and the telephone and cellphone and all that is related to telecommunications.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- We have a deficit, so our fees are not paying for the cost of operating both our water fund and our sewer fund.
- We're operating at a minus.
- How we make that up is we take money out of the general fund.
- That's in the budget somewhere else, where we're offsetting out of the general fund the loss that we're experiencing in the water fund and the sewer fund.
- We just had an audit of our fees.
- I think we just finished resetting our fee structure.
- Have we finished doing that yet?
- I lose track.
- If so, can we recapture or is it proper to recapture those offsets through the fee structure?
- Was that done?

- Let's say the last three years, we were subsidizing our water fund by let's say \$100,000 a year, even though it's way more than that, but let's say it's 100,000 a year, then can we recapture that \$300,000 three-year loss in our new fee structure?
- That's what I'm asking.
- Did we look at recapturing our losses?
- Or are we only looking at capturing, making things balance in the current year?
- Now I'm looking and we're still losing money.

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- That is a legal question that he would need to review.
- I would have to research it.
- I don't think that the fee study was designed that way.
- The fee study did not go back and reimburse to the past.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- I've got a big note here about following the rate stabilization efforts, what did we do wrong?
- We need to ask the question as we move forward.
- Are we repeating the same mistake, which is to get in the hole even though we had a rate study to get us out of the black hole, right?

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- During the presentation, staff had mentioned the California River Watch effect.
- Staff had mentioned that there was an effect on the wastewater by California River Watch.
- Can you explain what that was?

Superintendent Del Prete commented as follows:

- It's a settlement.
- There were items of action in the agreement.
- Some of those action items were increased frequency and monitoring ratings.
- In that agreement there was increased maintenance, needed measures, or identified measures that would increase our ability to reduce future spills.
- Some of those are, as mentioned before, we call them locking manholes, it doesn't let the floodwaters in.
- The idea is to get as many manholes as possible in the floodplain with steel covers which will keep the stormwater out.
- They are also what we call smart covers in the field, I think that's a trade name.
- It's a monitoring device that you can put in remote areas that aren't often easily accessible, they're battery powered, and they're bolted underneath the manhole lid.
- They're a high level that you can put in logical areas within your system that would be a good indicator, an additional alarm system for your sewer maintenance that would let you know we're experiencing a higher level than normal and we need to get somebody out here and check it out.
- It gives us not eyes but ears underneath the manholes in the system that will give us time and alert us to hopefully respond and stop it before it overflows the manhole.

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- One page back, water fund, the answer is, you can build into your rates future service delivery charges and current.

- It does not look like you can go back and recapture the old.

Mayor Slayter called for a break at 8:01 pm and reconvened the meeting at 8:11 pm.

Mayor Slayter opened the public hearing.

Kyle commented as follows:

- Sebastopol's revenue is expected to drop over \$2 million over the previous year.
- To see this City take a stance of business as usual, knowing how much of a hit revenue will take, and the current budget, let's be clear.
- This is an avoidable draining of a reserve that represents half of the general reserve.
- One more year, and it will be zero dollars, nothing left.
- Increases that are actually contractually obligated.
- I want to know, from what I gather, they're more inclined to pass that off to staff.
- Passing off the responsibility to an outside agency.
- It sounds like the City needs to work on its negotiating skills when it comes to salaries and benefits.
- Instead of relying on consultants, maybe the City could stop using outside recruitment agencies to acquire hires, where the outsourcing is prone to artificially inflating salary ranges.
- Let's take the City Manager, for example.
- Salary increases of 10%, another 6%, and there's a 350% increase in additional contracted services, increasing from \$40,000 to \$150,000.
- Assistant City Manager, 6% for 2019, 15% for 2020.
- Let's talk about the reserves.
- It's important to watch what this Council does in terms of special reserves or just the general reserve contributions, when 15% of our City's revenue has been stashed away, but one-third of our streets are rated as very poor.
- The City is stockpiling money, but significant parts of our revenue can be used.
- We need to think about the liability of any vehicle damage as a result of poorly maintained roads.
- I'm perplexed by the decision to present the budget in a manner that shows percentage increases based on the previously approved budget from the summer.
- I want to jump to policing.
- 9% increase in salaries, then 11% from '20 to '21.
- In total, an increase of over \$1 million in policing in just the last two years.

Susan commented as follows:

- Thank you for letting me read into the record the remarks on behalf of Catherine Couch, who was here for hours and we had to do a little tag team shift.
- I appreciate the opportunity to share.
- Please forgive me if the remarks do not represent the earlier discussion, but what we wish to say is, the Ceres Community Project is deeply grateful for the budget subcommittee's recommendation of \$8,000 to help our meals for healthy communities' program.
- The funds are vital to provide a community service that people need because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We're delivering approximately 2 1/2 times as we were in mid-March.
- In Sebastopol, we've delivered nearly three times as many as this time last year.
- We've tripled the number of clients served.

- All clients have at least one serious health condition.
- The support we provide is key to them staying healthy and safe at home.
- We were founded here 13 years ago, working with a small group of volunteer youth in the kitchen of the Sebastopol Community Church to cook meals for four community members and their families who were dealing with serious illness.
- Now, settling in to what was our flagship kitchen, near the fire station in 2011.
- That same year, our vision to create an organic garden on the grounds of the O'Reilly complex, and over the years we've empowered thousands of young people in our kitchen and garden, where they've learned how to cook, grow, and eat healthy food, gained self-esteem, and committed to careers.
- With this community benefit grant, it will carry your love and support as we deliver nourishing meals in the months ahead.
- Thank you for partnering with us so we can be there for them.

Diana commented as follows:

- I recognize the issues we're facing are very challenging, and will continue into not just this year, but the years after.
- I want to applaud the Council for trying to balance the need for quality services in this very difficult time, but also recognize that there's a need to reassess and try to get balance in the budget.
- That's what I see happening here.
- The commitment I've seen from Vice Mayor Glass, Councilmember Hinton, and others, I think, reflects a recognition that we're going to be trying to get everything lined up so that we do not have to dip into those reserves.
- We have hopes for additional revenue down the line.
- I don't see this Council dismissing the reality of the challenges we face.
- I see this Council recognizing that the challenges have got to be faced without getting desperate.
- Providing some stability for us because we do want our quality services.
- Let's recognize that when all of us look through the budget, we know a lot of what we're seeing is people.
- It's the cost of people that appears to be around 60% to 70% of this budget, and the people we have in this city are working their fannies off.
- The effort to protect what they're offering to our town and to maintain quality services is something we need to take to heart.
- Thank you for the balance of quality services, trying to hold tight now, understanding that we do have stability and we need that as a community.
- Understanding that we all know that we may have to tighten our belts a really long way in the future in order to make it work as we move into this difficult time.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Slayter closed the public hearing.

#### Council Deliberations:

The Council discussed the Community Benefit Grant Program.

Mayor Slayter recused himself from the discussion on Rebuilding Together.

Vice Mayor Glass opened for questions.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- I'm just wondering how much of the activity that is being supported by the grant money is dependent on COVID disappearing and allowing people in a congregate setting to hammer side-by-side.
- The same question with the music festival, all of those.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- This was a huge part of our discussion throughout the community grants.
- We are basically giving the money with the caveat that they have to be able to hold the event, right?
- Community grants are for an application where they indicated what they would do.
- If they don't do that, we would not be issuing the community grant this year until it can hold an event.
- Some of the community grants you see recommended at lower, or are maybe not recommended, is because we weren't sure they could hold the event.
- That's part of the process, that's my understanding.
- Not everything is an event.
- For example, Rebuilding Together, they are fixing things.
- It may be that people are going to do that in a socially distanced way.
- There will be one person who works on it rather than a group.
- We really asked the applicants to rethink what they're doing so either they have to hold the event, or they have to do whatever it is that they do in a way that is viable for the COVID situation.
- Mr. Music is doing some things in a virtual space. He's rethinking, he's thinking outside the box, and being virtual.
- There is quite a number of our applicants that are doing things in different ways.
- That's what we've responded to.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- We know these are all likely to fly.
- If they don't, for whatever reason, then the money won't be disbursed.
- In previous years I've gotten a binder with all the applications and that didn't happen this year.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Just to reiterate, we had already mentioned that we tried to focus on our local smaller nonprofits as opposed to providing funding to large nonprofits that have multimillion-dollar budgets that service a much bigger area.
- Who would those be in our applicant pool?
- Actually, Food for Thought was one of those.
- We'll get to that when everybody is back.

Councilmember Hinton questioned if the Council received copies of the community grants.

Councilmember Gurney stated she did not receive copies of the applications.

**MOTION:**

Councilmember Hinton moved and Councilmember Gurney seconded the motion to approve the community benefit grant for \$2,800 for Rebuilding Together.

Vice Mayor Glass called for a roll call vote. City staff conducted a roll call vote.

**VOTE:**

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

Noes: None

Absent: Mayor Slayter

Abstain: None

**Minute Order Number: 2020-212**

Mayor Slayter returned to the meeting.

Vice Mayor Glass recused herself from the meeting for the discussion on the community benefit grant for the Sebastopol Center for the Arts.

Councilmember Hinton discussed the three categories for funding requests as follows:

- \$2,000 was requested, which we recommended for the Sonoma County Art Trails.
- That project cost \$77,000 total, and they requested \$2,000 from us.
- The Center for the Arts requested funding for a documentary film portion, we recommended \$5,000, they are hoping to do documentary films in the park next year.
- We think that is a viable proposal.
- For the documentary films, we recommended \$5,000 and I think it costs them \$5,000 in screening fees so I think that is what that goes to specifically
- The last thing is their climate program and that is already going on right now.
- The documentary films will happen next March, hopefully.
- Originally, they had a budget of \$16,000, but that included receptions, which during COVID are not happening any longer.
- They have other sources of funding as well.
- They have a series that is called Art at the Source.
- Staff and labor costs for five, teaching materials for five, travel, advertising and promotions, \$2,500.
- I believe the budget subcommittee is recommending \$2,500 for advertising and promotions?
- We don't understand, what is the program?
- Are they doing classes, lectures, artwork related to climate change?
- They're doing a 2021 program designated to the topics of environment and climate change.
- It just says they're going to have a combination of visual artists, poets, musicians, and dancers with the courage to reflect and expose the dangerous effects of climate change on the Earth and its resources.
- Details for application, to engage in parts of this year-long event, inviting speakers and specialists, et cetera, and they are just talking about this as a theme that they want to do.
- They've made a recommendation to support that along with what we thought would be aligned with the values of the community.
- The request was for \$5,000, and we recommended \$2,500, that's where that comes in.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- I'm particularly interested in the last part.
- Looking ahead, we have a climate action subcommittee that is soon to be empaneled and others, and they don't have any budget to do any actions.

Councilmember Carnacchi stated he concurred that the money would be better spent to give to the climate action subcommittee if they wanted to request the money.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- I didn't say it shouldn't be given to them.
- I'm just noting we have big groups of people that we're giving responsibility to with no money to do anything.
- We either have to kind of scrape the money together out of somebody's budget, or I don't know.
- However we do, if our subcommittees did want to propose an activity that cost money, they would have to come back to the Council and ask, I guess that's the kind of the situation we're put in.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- Maybe those groups can coordinate with the Center for the Arts and do something?
- This is the grant process for the nonprofits.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- There is teaching materials, promotion, experts on climate change, and travel.
- Can we make it a condition, I think there should be some interface, if they're paying travel expenses for experts on climate change, it seems like it's a waste if they're in town not to interface with this committee.
- I don't think that they thought the way this was presented would necessarily be the way this would happen, or that it might even not happen.
- I don't think there's experts coming to town, and I don't think there will be a reception next spring, but that is just me at this point.

Councilmember Hinton commented that we're basically giving them seed money, if they can find something useful to put it to within the parameters of this application, if they can justify the expense.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- I would say that education towards climate change is something that is readily in parallel with widely held community values.
- I'm comfortable with taking the \$2,500 suggestion and seeing how they can multiply that with their program.
- There are other potential grantees that might also be willing partners.
- We're not a member of Sonoma Water but they also have climate change grants.
- Sonoma Clean Power is working on microgrant programs.
- There are other ways this can be multiplied.
- Personally, I'm comfortable with all three of the suggestions.
- Art Trails, the incredible difficulties that they've had through COVID, this is such a minuscule ask towards the administrative costs on the program that bring visitors to our region, and they're doing it online now. It's community vitality, in my opinion.

- The documentary film fest, figuring out how to do that socially distanced, in person in the park or whatever would be a ray of hope for our community.
- I'm comfortable with these three funding levels.

Mayor Slayter re-opened public comment on this item.

Kyle commented as follows:

- I just want to clarify a few things on the numbers.
- 44% is being funded.
- If we eliminate all of the lines that are not being funded at all, then we're looking at about 63% funded.
- If you look across the board, there are cuts at every single level except for the farmers market, which is getting an extra \$2,000.
- One thing I'll notice, when we talk about the Sebastopol Center for the Arts, there are three separate proposals, which give us an average of 80% for that particular Center for the Arts.
- Across the board for those that are being funded, we're looking at a 63% funding level on average.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I wanted to reply to the speaker a bit.
- It is true that 80% was our ballpark, but as we took things item by item and went through the applications thoroughly, we did make adjustments on that if we felt like, "a," their event couldn't happen, or, "b," like in the case of the farmers market, we funded some things at 100% because we know the need is there.
- We did look at this in a variety of ways.

**MOTION:**

Councilmember Hinton moved and Mayor Slayter seconded the motion to approve the community benefit grant as follows for the Center for the Arts:

- Documentary film festival, and the climate change as indicated on our proposed budget funding for 2021 in the amount of \$2,000, \$5,000, and \$2,500.

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

**VOTE:**

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

**Minute Order Number: 2020-213**

Councilmember Carnacchi questioned why the farmers market asked for \$2,000 and got \$4,000, I'm curious what the reasoning was for that.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I think what we decided about the farmers market was that it was providing Cal Fresh.
- Everybody that is getting unemployment is coming down and using their card to use it for fresh produce and they're trying to double that effort

- In conversation with them in the interview, it became clear that they really needed more support, that they're struggling right now.
- Considering all the other food organization requests that we had, and that's a consistent theme, we really thought, especially when some of the larger organizations that we weren't sure we needed to fund because we just looked at their massive budget, and here we have our little farmers market in our own town, that is serving our community, they were asking for the same amount, even though they needed more money, than the same amount that they've asked for every year.
- We kind of went back on a recount, and said, oh my gosh, there are so many people out of work that are relying on those cards.
- We wanted to support that effort.
- That's where that came from.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- In particular, we want to see people out of work eating healthy food instead of going to grocery stores and eating fast food.
- Discussed more usage of cards.
- The farmers market tries to match it by adding a subsidy to those cards.
- Cal Fresh matches up to \$10 in purchase.
- During the pandemic, there's five to ten new customers each week over last year using the Cal Fresh cards.
- The \$4,000 goes to the Cal Fresh program and the farmers market is administrating it.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- If anybody is listening who is food insecure, please contact the Redwood Empire Food Bank, the wonderful work that they do to provide free and very healthy food at a number of locations around the county, you can go and pick up food for your neighbors, friends, and family members.
- It's not just one serving.
- If you need food, you can get a carload of food.
- They're a great resource.
- Curiously enough, they're not on our list, they got a free plug.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- I'm grateful that the Sebastopol Sea Serpents put in an application.
- It may be that this youth program was hardest hit by the denial of the permits for the fireworks.
- I don't know, but because this is a youth-centered activity, I'm glad to see some support going to them through a community grant.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Yeah, it's a youth centered, healthy activity that can be done at appropriate social distance.
- I'm in complete agreement with you, Councilmember Gurney, that's well worth our efforts.
- As promised, we will discuss the additional \$2,000.
- We talked about this last week.
- The \$2,000 that was going to come from the public arts fund, the request was for an additional \$2,000 from the general fund, not from the public art fund, correct?

Staff stated that is correct.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- In the context of where we are, I went through and looked at which line items got 80%, I saw it was used as a rule of thumb, but it's not really strict.
- If the Council were looking at that 80% as a guiding principle, then logically it would also be applied to this request.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- As I said earlier, we looked at what we've given them in the past.
- We looked at what has changed during COVID.
- As an example, Mr. Music, right off the top, he requested 25, but we have given him 12.5 in the past.
- Because we don't have music in the park, we recommended 10.
- Vice Mayor Glass and I did a thorough vet, we spent an entire half-day on these applications.
- It was an 80% rule of thumb, but with consideration to the full application.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Speaking of Mr. Music, looking at what it is he is going to continue to do in a virtual environment, and what he cannot do now that he cannot do it in the park, we looked at his request along with the goal of reducing by 20%.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- My goal wasn't to rehash Mr. Music, the question was, do we want to apply that same guiding principle to the \$2,000 in artists' support, and grant \$1,600 instead of \$2,000?
- If we're going to do it, let's go for the \$2,000, that's what they asked for, and what they thought was a viable proposal.
- The question is, does it fit in here, philosophically?
- I believe it does.
- I would suggest if we're going to take money from some category, like Mr. Music, for \$1,500, a whole lot of people in this community got a whole lot of community activity, 8 or 10 Wednesday nights in a row.
- That went to benefit a lot more people than whatever this \$10,000 will do that's virtual.
- I'm just saying, a lot of people will go to those virtual concerts.
- Without seeing the application, I know he applies and he applies big, but I don't want to cut his either.
- I'm just saying, in terms of benefits.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I just wanted to address virtual versus brick and mortar kind of events.
- I think one of the difficulties we're really having, and we're all struggling with is how to remain a community when everything is virtual.
- Everybody is more engaged with watching movies on Netflix, looking at the national news, all of these kinds of big, global, or national venues.
- I'm really enthusiastic about the things we're doing locally.
- You get to see your neighbors, you may not have seen them in months.
- They've been hiding out, and if you do see them, they're wearing a mask.
- I think these virtual events are really great.

- They're doing something to keep the glue of our community together, and to get us to still see our neighbors and to be engaged with each other.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Comment for the Public Arts Committee, the benefactors of the grants to support artists, if those artists feel the largesse to help us out in some crazy way, we're all ears.
- I think it's the community spirit.
- It's neighbors helping neighbors.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- Mr. Mayor, I didn't think that's where you were going with this conversation.
- I'm hearing you were interested in adding in the \$2,000 as a community grant.
- You had suggested that way of looking at it.
- That's where I thought our consensus was.
- We had agreed upon the \$2,000, broadly, in this category because it made sense to have that lumped together with this.
- You're concluding that we would modify the budget with plus \$2,000 for the public arts committee grant.
- As we go into this next year, there's the possibility that some community organizations will want City involvement in the way of a sponsorship, help with something, a free rental, or whatever it might be.
- The ones we're familiar with are the bicycle coalition, they often come in the spring with activities in the summer or the next fiscal year where they need publicity materials or whatever the money would go for.
- This previous spring, I submitted an application for this apple fair, the cutest little fair at the park, a lot of the coverage that it's gotten was taken off the agenda because we were dealing with emergency items at the time.
- There was a thought that perhaps it wouldn't happen, and it wasn't urgent until later.
- I mentioned the climate action subcommittee coming up.
- In terms of the concept of community grants, I just want us to recognize now that we may have more asks that come in, in the next months of this budget, particularly heading into winter and spring that we'll just need to consider, I guess.
- A conversation had been had, and I do not remember my counterpart in the conversation, but the idea of having a sponsorships category with a figure of historical information that would inform a rough budget amount to start with, so we are budgeting for those exact kinds of expenses that happen every year.
- Every single time, they're an individual agenda item, which they probably, for daylight, need to be, but to have them already budgeted for

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- In all the craziness of doing two budgets, and then probably what will be yet another budget in the cycle, I think that idea has not manifested itself yet, but I will ask staff to consider that as a line item and try to figure out where it fits and include it certainly in next year's fiscal year budget.
- If it makes sense to include it in a budget, that we do so there.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- I think that's good.
- I support doing that.
- We're ready, and if we don't use it, we may have money to build up the fund, we could put it into grants.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- I just wanted to maybe bring to our attention that I've heard, it's been pretty regular lately, that it's just a minuscule drop, and many nickels make a muckle.
- All those little things, they all add percentage points to our budget.
- We should be aware of that.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- That's an excellent argument for having a sponsorship line item that we operate from, so it's not that constant drip, and it's better planning on our part.
- Staff has recorded that suggested change.
- We will take that up when we take action on this item.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- The line item there for contracted services shows an increase of \$67,000.
- Where do we anticipate that?
- That's on page 16 of 72 of the staff report.
- Right under salaries and litigation, there's contract and services, a line item.
- It's for an outside attorney, I'm imagining.

City Manager McLaughlin commented this budget has been flat in previous years, proposed reducing it, then we put it back to where it was in previous years.

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- The increase to the contracted services in the City Manager and City Attorney budget is due to Council action, if my memory serves me correctly, it was an additional budget towards the small business loan program.
- That's the business loan program and CoMission.
- Part of that was that, and another \$12,000 for COVID response.
- Holly Hanson has been helping the City out with COVID response, she has to do the outreach.
- That's another \$12,000 towards that \$67,000 that you see in the increase there.
- CoMission's budget is also listed in this account.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- I was a little bit surprised by the overall increase, we are facing uncertain times.
- Is there any way to trim that down to below 10%, and bring that in line with other departments?
- I'm talking about the total overall.
- We have the contract services item, which is again the lone program in CoMission, it's a very substantial dollar figure and I think that likely makes up the bulk of the increase.
- It shows an increase of 91.5%.

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- That is for the new telephone system.

- That encompasses more than just one line item on the following page, which is the detailed report.

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- That is several items in one.
- They include office supplies, other miscellaneous expenses.
- Lawbook is also in there, the annual lawbook update that the City Manager has a subscription to.
- When we look at the litigation expense line item, it's generally less than budgeted.
- With litigation pending, it doesn't mean that it will be expensed in this year.
- We have considered reducing it because we had come in under budget on several occasions.
- But this year, we've got too many legal matters.
- The timing also isn't under our control, exclusively.
- Usually that line item will remain at \$75,000.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Discussed the elections expense.
- Discussed the historical data.
- Questioned if the \$15,000 is a reasonable number, or if it should be increased?

City staff stated the number is accurate as it was provided by the County.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- Is it more expensive when there are more seats available?
- Is there a difference with the cost between three seats and two seats?

City staff stated the difference in cost is minimal for two seats versus three seats.

Mayor Slayter discussed the building department and commented:

- I've had casual conversations, and again, I don't remember with whom, about re-envisioning Building down the road when we need an actual employee again.
- He discussed rolling that perhaps into planning or, you know, some other vision of that.
- Questioned if the City Manager has any input on Planning and how that department might be morphing?

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- Part of the vision we've had for quite some time is an expanded city government building where we could have a number of departments under one roof.
- Right now, there would be a challenge in doing that because we're stretched for room in City Hall.
- Otherwise, in one larger facility, it would make a lot of sense.
- It's nothing that is represented here in the budget.
- It was a what might this look like in a few years kind of a question.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Correction to the full-time FTE notation on the bottom of page 32 of 72, a typo.

- I think that our discussion earlier about the reimbursement from the State, and making sure that we're able to track that, and certainly pegging that for a higher level, more detailed discussion at midyear is a really great suggestion.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I just wanted to say, I would feel more comfortable having a placeholder in there for that vehicle.
- I understand we're just three months out.
- Since we don't have any targeted money set aside, I would bring that forth.
- It sounded like I don't have consensus for that move from the Council tonight.
- I do think it's really important to make sure that we lay this in, especially considering that it sounds like we're going to have budget reimbursement to fund that.
- Had I known what I know now, just doing some research, I would have recommended this at the budget subcommittee level to have a placeholder in this spot.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- I think it's real strategic to speak up for the Fire Department right now.
- But I don't know what the Police Department, what the Public Works Department needs.
- We did review every department.
- Talking about the reimbursement moneys, and we talked about moving that conversation to June.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I didn't realize we had a vehicle that was in the shape it is in the Fire Department.
- That wasn't presented to us with that information at the time.
- I think it would be imprudent, I would feel like I was not making an informed decision one way or the other.
- I have last year's vehicle schedule and no assurance about how much reimbursement is coming in.
- To have a place holder, hopefully it's more than we think.
- I think waiting three months and being fully informed for me is the right thing to do. Especially because there may be conflicting policies.
- How do we know what decisions we're balancing right now?
- On this side, I'm going to get together with my other budget committee member and we also happen to be on the fire long-term staffing committee.
- Maybe we can do some of that pre-research and have that all laid out so we're prepared the next time in advance.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- As a hypothetical question, if between now and the mid-year budget adjustment, if our truck is out on a call and it completely breaks down beyond repair, will the State pay for a new one?

Mayor Slayter stated no.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- How does that work?
- Would they pay what the value of it is?

Chief Braga commented as follows:

- Stated no.
- I was just going to say that unfortunately, we wish that would be the case, it's the smaller items, like if the fire engine breaks down during a firefight, then the State would reimburse, but if it's wear and tear, drivetrain, tires, wheels, motor, the City is on the hook for that, not the State.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I feel kind of distressed to hear that our firefighters are out there in really, really hot weather in an un-air-conditioned truck.
- I am very concerned about that.
- I am really disappointed I didn't have this information back when we were working on the budget, why does an individual have to do research to find this out?
- I would like more complete information going to the committee.
- I'm really looking forward to Superintendent Del Prete's wonderful vehicle spreadsheet so we have a lot more detailed data on the mileage of all of our vehicles, what year they are, so we have a better feel for where we are with all our vehicles, where we should be investing, et cetera.
- That has relevance to the Fire Department, the Police Department, and to the climate subcommittee, so we'll all be fully informed.
- I am really heartened to see the budget committee recommending funding for a mental health professional, however that takes effect.
- I think we are in an incredibly opportunistic place with our Police Department, with the opportunities presented with a new full-time chief and the review that we'll benefit of from Jerry Threet.
- Also being able to lean on the decades of experience from Interim Chief Mort.
- I am so heartened about the future of our Police Department in relation to our community values and everything that our community loves about our Police Department.
- We've got a long history of that, and I think that we are in a great place to springboard to an even better relationship here in town.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- I had a question on one of the line items on page 35 of 72 of the staff report.
- There was a couple of questions there.
- One was, the last four digits are 4510, conference and training, it's about ¾ down the list.
- It shows that the adopted budget for 2021 is \$25,000.
- The proposed budget is actually reduced to \$7,000.
- I'm wondering why training and conferences have been reduced by such a number.

Mayor Slayter stated that is due to COVID.

City staff stated we are not going to be going to conferences so we reduced it across the board for everyone, including City Council, yes.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- The last four digits are 4515, meetings and travel.
- That one shows for 2021 an adopted budget of \$3,000.
- The proposed budget is \$25,000.

That can't be caused by COVID.

Staff commented as follows:

- Those two categories over the years, they kind of flip-flop a little bit.
- Conference and training pretty much covers the cost of registration.
- If you have to travel to Los Angeles for a conference, it should land in meeting and travel.
- This year we realigned conference and training and meeting and travel.
- There are travel classes when the department has to travel somewhere else.
- I don't think they do that via zoom, or at least that's what I was told about the subcommittee meeting.
- Unlike other training that City staff have, public safety may have to be on-site.
- We put it there for now, and then they'll look into it and see what they want to attend. Their training is not via zoom.
- I remember that they had, because of certifications, some of our officers had to go to specific training, and they're far enough away that they can't like commute back here.

Councilmember Carnacchi requested examples of trainings.

Chief Mort commented as follows:

- We sent a new instructor up to a firearms instructor course.
- You obviously can't do firearms on a Zoom meeting or webinar.
- The tuition came out of 4510.
- The travel, hotel, and food came out of 4515, if I got my numbers correct.
- The other expenses are, if you do enter this and do an assessment of all the training needs right now, which for emergency vehicle operations training, you can't do that via Zoom.
- Arrest control, tactics training, those are the training topics they entail going outside of the area.
- We always look at trying to stay within our region, even the State of California requires you stay in your region as much as you can versus travel.
- Right now we're very limited on resources.  
Those are some examples when we're traveling out of the area

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Referred to page 32 or 35 of 72.
- It's the detailed budget expenditures on 4330, miscellaneous supplies and services.
- That too has a marked increase.
- I assume that the City is responsible for firearm training supplies, is that where that lives?

Staff stated the increase for that is for the protective window film, the intercom, and locking system for the lobby.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- I guess my larger question is where do firearm training supplies, i.e. ammunition, where does that reside in the budget?

Chief Mort commented as follows:

- It's in the category that you're talking about, it's in that same category.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- For our public, what's the City's policy on firearms?

- I know there are different categories.
- There are different sizes, and for transparency sake, I'm interested to know how is that handled?
- I know that individual officers have particular preferences, can you fill me in on all that.

Chief Mort commented as follows:

- Right now, the policy is the officers are allowed to purchase their own gun.
- The City does not purchase handguns.
- They reimburse the officers for purchases of a handgun.
- The handgun has to be a recognizable handgun that is approved by the department firearms training instructor.
- We do have people carrying different types of weapons, .45, Glocks, Smith & Wesson, and 9 millimeters.
- Right now, the policy is officer's choice, that is reimbursed once they purchase the item, the item belongs to them.
- It's registered in their name.
- A new officer comes on, they get hired, we have an obligation as a City to provide them a service weapon, not for them to bring one in.
- To say they maybe already have multiple weapons that they are buying as their new service weapon, I would have to poll the staff to ask that question.
- I think there are some discussions that I'm having already.
- Part of my assessment is, how are they handling the issuance of weapons and whether we want to move to a different strategy.
- I do have some thoughts on that.
- I'll be discussing before I leave the City, and with the new Chief as well for further discussion.
- One of the items, for example, we may give them a stipend, but at the same time I can state in the policy here is the weapon and you do have to buy it.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- I can assume there are probably multiple mutations of policies as to how this gets handled from community to community.
- I also fully recognize that it is a bit of an uncomfortable question to have to ask and a much more difficult and uncomfortable question to have to answer.
- It's a really important question.
- I think it's important for us to have that information.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- It did come to the budget subcommittee's attention about a year ago that the City does not have a policy that limits how often that stipend can be used.
- It was such that people could buy another weapon every year.
- The budget subcommittee asked that there be a policy to do something about that.
- Then we had a change in chiefs.
- I'm not quite sure how that landed through that whole process.
- I think that Councilmember Hinton and I were both very surprised to find out we didn't have a policy that said you can buy this for this amount of time, and then you can't go out and use it every year.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- I think I am satisfied for the purposes of our discussion this evening on the budget and this particular line item.
- What I would also like to ask is that staff flag this and work on this with the new permanent chief.
- I'm sure that there will be a number of other policy changes that will be coming for Council discussion, community discussion, and approval on not just this, on all manners of things from the Police Department.
- This is something I think that is really important.
- You put your money where your values are.
- I think that this is putting a lot of money towards something that we don't have a lot of daylight on.
- I'll just ask staff to follow up on this and make sure that the Council is informed and that we do develop a policy that is reasonable for our law enforcement professionals.
- This isn't about being stingy, this is about being appropriate.

Chief Mort commented as follows:

- I was just going to add the answer to a question there.
- I wasn't here before when the discussion of multiple weapons came up.
- The way the current M.O.U. is, it's a one-time purchase so they can't come back a year later, or two years later and say they want to purchase another gun.
- It's a one-time shot.
- That was changed with the last M.O.U.

The Council discussed parklets.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- The cost of the parklets, and the information that was provided to us in the very front end of the agenda showed \$4,000 for a one-time purchase of eight five foot concrete K-rails and a \$3,000 per month rental fee for plastic water-filled K-rails for the proposed duration of the parklet project.

Superintendent Del Prete commented as follows:

- I believe this may be on the high side because the design that will be approved by Caltrans might be slightly different, requiring less devices.
- I feel comfortable with this dollar amount, we have to purchase the concrete barricades because they don't rent the short ones that we can move with public works equipment.
- We need the smaller ones to be able to move with our backhoes.
- We don't have a larger excavator.

Mayor Slayter questioned if that is the reason for the five-foot rather than the six, ten, or twenty?

Staff stated that is correct. He also discussed the weight distribution, rental fee, and larger tractor. He stated that Paul Fritz has provided some design and we are going to be presenting a plan. Engineering is going to present a plan for approval from Caltrans with potentially less of these, which may get approved and therefore lessen the cost. The proposed cost would cover the safest version we could possibly fit out there. With \$4,000, and the potential for three months, that would total \$13,000.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- Staff is suggesting \$13,000 now.
- Does that include the possibility of all four parklets that we discussed?

Superintendent Del Prete commented as follows:

- That is enough devices for all four, and this is all pending Caltrans' approval.
- There is another way you could possibly look at this is, I have enough money to upload this cost on the front side if it's approved by Caltrans and come back mid-year for reimbursement of the actual costs.
- I do have enough money in the street fund to get through the proposed time frame of setting these devices up.
- We can wait until Caltrans does approve the design, whichever one they approve.
- Then we'll rent and purchase enough devices to assemble what's approved.
- Then I'll have an actual cost that I can come back mid-year and ask for the actual cost and reimbursement to my street fund.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- We were looking for a pilot project that would get us through, let's just say January 15<sup>th</sup>, through the holidays.
- you could manage all that, and we could put it at the mid-year budget adjustment.
- From now through January 15<sup>th</sup> to go through the holidays.
- we could enjoy these through the holidays.
- It's a pilot project.

Staff stated if it were \$13,000, I could manage that until mid-year because that \$13,000 is what I'm proposing to update another crosswalk. I never start those early in case there is expensive items that come up mid-year. I always try and do those crosswalks towards the last quarter of the budget year.

Mayor Slayter commented:

- We had a conversation about public outreach.
- We received some emails from some of the business owners.
- Is the plan to do public outreach to all the business owners that are on both sides of the street before you submit the application?
- I've got a couple of other questions with regard to the general budget from public works and the line item.

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- The Planning Department is actually handling the outreach.
- We had a discussion today about how it's going to happen.
- That has started.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- I'm wondering, though, I mean, everything that I'm seeing from County Health, from our State and from Federal sources of information is that we are not going to see any significant relief from COVID most likely for a year.
- That's depressing, but it's reality.
- I'm wondering if this proposal is a little shortsighted.

- I can understand that we're viewing this as a pilot project, would it make sense for us to, instead of the proposal devoting \$4,000 to purchase and \$3,000 per month rental fee for three months, we're talking \$13,000.
- Would it make sense for the City instead to go out and purchase some used Caltrans compliant K-rails and five or six-foot lengths which a minimal amount of research shows that they're readily available and they're kind of the same cost for all four parklets.
- I understand that we do have a different situation for the one at Depot Street, and the design may be different.
- I think it requires less K-rails, but maybe it makes sense to continue the same count.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- If we're looking at budgeting \$13,000 for a group of items that in total get us through three months, why not spend an extra \$1,000, \$2,000, or \$3,000 and purchase concrete K-rails that would then be ours, and it could be permanent through a year from now if that's how long it takes.
- I'm just wondering if we're being a little short sighted with our vision.
- Did you check out those prices?
- Is that why you're saying to buy concrete would cost \$1,000, or \$2,000 more?

The Council discussed purchasing K-rails.

Superintendent Del Prete commented as follows:

- I did cost out the rental versus purchase, at least on the plastic units, and I think it was for 4.2 months of rental I could buy them.
- The plastic ones are about \$350 and the concrete ones are \$500.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- I'm just wondering if we might be able to do some value engineering, I don't know what kind of standards Caltrans has for the paint on these things, but I would think on the inside of them, maybe if we own them, we have an opportunity for some very public art.
- If the outside needs to be bright yellow or something for Caltrans, so be it.
- I'm completely comfortable with the line item request.
- I'm just wondering if we might want to, once we know whether or not the Caltrans approval comes through, how we actually implement them in owning something rather than renting something for a period of time that is likely going to be longer than what we're thinking or hoping.
- Maybe we're in a better stead that way.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I think that's a really good idea.
- I think buying almost 90% of the time beats renting.
- Maybe this can be part of our zero-waste kind of city.
- We only buy stuff used; fire trucks, police cars, everything.
- We're recycling so much more.
- We could be more creative about recycling things.
- Does staff see all of them with having an approved budget and then sort see how best to maximize our benefit from that budget?

Superintendent Del Prete commented as follows:

- I can, yes.
- I don't know about the availability of the shorter, the two thousand pound one.
- But I will do the best I can to acquire them.
- I called two rental yards, they didn't have them for rent, but they could get their manufacturer to make them.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- At a minimum, if we were going to purchase, we could purchase all concrete and have the backhoes move them safely.
- We could have them for future events like the Apple Blossom Festival, perhaps.

City staff stated yes.

The Council discussed the following:

- \$14,000 would be a workable budget.
- In whatever permutation it takes.
- If we go all concrete, it would be more, depending on the Caltrans approval.
- Go with that \$14,000 figure for our purposes this evening.
- Go through the application process, see what Caltrans says, see what the design needs to be, and adjust as needed.
- Knowing that it may come back to us with an ask for additional funds.
- At a minimum, we know that that should get us through what was initially planned as a three-month pilot project.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- Referred to page 37 of 72 of the staff report.
- Looking at the percentage of increase over some of the line items on that page.
- The 84 going 3% increase in the facility maintenance, and then directly below that, the telecommunications which I think we touched on briefly was a 30.8% increase.
- What do you mean by facility maintenance?

Mayor Slayter stated that is dry rot in the fire department and internal gutters. The proposal is to increase the Public Works Department budget by \$14,000 for the parklet project, and I assume staff has noted that.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- I've got a question about the community support for Cittaslow, and there is a page on 46 of 72 that details the Cittaslow budget expenditures.
- It looks like the entire budget is for the community calendar, which is the coordinated calendar that runs across different websites.
- The Community Center, the City, and the Chamber of Commerce I believe are the three places where that is found on page 46 of 72.
- It's a calendar and the website which is marketing our town.
- My specific question is about the calendar administrator.

- When I review it, there are two items on it, and one is the weekly farm market, and the other is an event at the community center that is a repeating event.
- It just doesn't seem like we're getting a lot of bang for our buck here.

City staff discussed the new Experience Sebastopol website and banners.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- Discussed COVID.
- I think starting June or July.
- Implement the calendar, or keep it running?
- There hasn't been the staffing to do that.
- I think our calendar able events have been shifting really fast after disappearing.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- The calendar, I haven't looked at recently, but there are filters.
- There are multiple layers to the calendar.
- you can be looking at the Community Center calendar, the Art Center calendar, the City calendar, or the Chamber of Commerce calendar.
- You can turn those things on and off and filter out different kinds of different institutions, events and calendars.
- There needs to be an administrator who is receiving the information from all of these different institutions.
- What we would say in the data business, we need to normalize the information.
- In other words, make the information in a consistent format, and with consistent kinds of information so that it gets into the computer all in a way that the public ends up engaging with it, and it makes sense and it doesn't look super choppy and different, et cetera.
- That also means nagging people to submit their stuff and making sure that they're submitting it in the proper format.
- I think that's kind of where all that money is.
- That's what it's paying for.
- Somebody that can have the skill set to do all that.
- The Community Center is signed up to take on that responsibility.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- There has been a bandwidth problem in terms of management of the site, but also all of everybody else who might give the input to that site.
- Hopefully things are going to settle down, workloads will settle down enough so that people can get into this routine of submission.
- I'm actually thinking we are having this and Councilmember Gurney's nonprofit meeting that we're doing with Herman.
- All the nonprofits are now having a monthly meeting where we're all talking about what we're doing and we're doing a joint newsletter.
- We should also really address this calendar issue and make sure that we're implementing this properly for the town, because it is a really useful thing if it's implemented well.
- Yeah, this is something that we've discussed a number of times over the years.

- The need for a coordinated community calendar where it's not the one on the City website, and the one on the Chamber website and the one on the Community Center website, they're all different.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- No, I'm on board with this.
- I just want to make sure that I'm doing my due diligence that's required to vet these things.
- I look at the calendar and I think this is a little bit like a website from 2001.
- It shouldn't be like this this day and age.
- I understand that it needs support.
- I understand that support costs money.
- I get all that.
- I'm willing to trust that the work will be done.
- I just wanted to call a little attention to it and get an explanation as to why it seemed a little off.
- The cost/benefit wasn't quite there for me.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- I think I'm kind of with Mayor Slayter on this.
- I would rather see it come back as a separate agenda item with a plan on how and who and if it's not necessarily Cittaslow, because I have not received any email or anything from them in what seems like ages.
- It almost seems like Cittaslow is nonexistent at this point.
- If the real goal here is the community calendar, maybe that should come back as a separate agenda item and we should consider funding?
- That way we have more details about how that money is actually going to be spent.
- As well as the Community Center.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- The issue is transferring it to the Community Center and the Community Center said they were receiving it.
- COVID interrupted the quality of work, the sort of timing of the work, all of that.

Councilmember Carnacchi questioned why then is it in our budget for Cittaslow as budget expenditures if it's actually going to the Community Center?

Mayor Slayter commented Cittaslow is now housed at the Community Center as one of their projects.

Councilmember Gurney commented just as the time bank is housed at the Community Center.

Councilmember Carnacchi questioned if time bank was still operational.

Staff stated yes.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- Well, we funded it because we believe even if it's in a break during COVID that it would be coming back since it was so strong before in the spring.
- As part of these funding recommendations, we have to kind of trust the process, I feel.

- It's true, maybe the calendar was sidelined.
- I feel like our partners at the Cultural Center are going to be honest with us.
- If they can't get it up and pulled off, maybe some of that money can carry over.
- We just want to keep these things up and running.
- The community calendar needs to transfer over to an employee or it's just not going to exist.
- I think that decision has been made at the Community Center.
- Jill is going handle it.
- I think they asked for \$1,000 a month and we funded it.
- We're already a few months into that.
- I think we need to watch it.
- Maybe this needs to come back to mid-year budget review.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- As I recall, my voice is no longer working, we had the Community Center when we did the budget committee discussions, they talked to Councilmember Hinton and I about taking over, that they were going to continue taking over these projects.
- I think that they are very clear that they were supporting the time bank and the community calendar, et cetera.
- There are two things going on in that time period of COVID.
- They also had a change in management at the Community Center.
- Now they're just getting reoriented.
- They had changes in staff.
- I think David Gil is the name of the person, the new time bank manager.
- I can't remember quite this second, but the guy who was doing work on the community calendar I think is an I.T. guy that we have used in the past who actually is in town.
- I think they've got this, I think they're working on it.
- The other thing I just wanted to mention is the way that a lot of these things work, at least with community grants, the City doesn't give out all the money right away.
- It comes in increments.
- The Art Center gets money quarterly.
- We have an opportunity to say oops, we're not doing our job, or whatever.
- It's not like the money just goes out all at once, and we have to do a final report before we get the final check.
- The City is pretty on it.

Councilmember Carnacchi questioned if we could agree to revisit this and see what progress has been made during the mid-year budget discussion?

Mayor Slayter stated he was thinking of asking staff to come back with an update during reports would be more than appropriate.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- I think we are starting to micromanage the decisions of the budget subcommittee.
- The processes are in place for people to be responsible and then bill against the money we have granted them.
- It is not like a free handout.

- Many people like Lantern, for instance, have returned money.
- It is sort of all or nothing if we scrutinize things and make them prove their case again.
- I can report from Rebuilding Together, we provide a report so maybe I would say that those reports would be available, Michael, if you wanted to review them to request that from staff and you can see the community grant recipient.
- Now they're housed at the Community Center and available for individual review.
- We need to ensure we have time to receive the report on the internal audit of the Police Department, and a report from the new chief.
- On their stance about guns, or whatever.
- We have a lot that is really significant, that relates to cultural changes, and value shifts that we are hoping to realize, whereas all these expenditures, and why protections are in place so the money can't be misused.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- The agenda review and agenda setting committee has already begun discussions about how those larger report receiving meetings can happen and when they might happen.
- It is still sort of floating with the new chief hire, but the discussion has already begun.
- It's invigorating.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Discussed Russian River Water Shed Association
- I understand that we are in for at least the next year.
- I'm comfortable with whatever that is for right now.
- At the same time, I think that we need to understand and stay on top of it and I appreciate the report that Councilmember Hinton sent about what water parks decision was.
- We need to make sure again that we are receiving the been fit that we need to be receiving for the funds allocated to that use.
- Staying on top of that I think is important for all of us.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I forgot to bring up, but I'll go ahead and report it out at this point.
- Part of what we get as a member of that organization is to have an annual meeting or an annual informational update.
- Generally, my understanding was that that was scheduled with our tech representative which Engineering Manager Mikus sits on that board and sometimes the City Manager is involved but I asked for that to be calendared for the full City Council and hopefully have it on an agenda as an informational update.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I thought that E.D. used to come and do a report to us annually.
- I remember because I had to recuse myself when I was running coast walk so, I remember annually leaving the room, at least it was happening until about three years ago.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- My understanding is that they have been offering that and we haven't been taking them up on that but that's more of a one on one meeting between City Hall so we're going to change that and get them back at the Council level I think, after the first of the year.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- I just had two areas I wanted to touch on that aren't related to a specific page with a question and these are items I think were brought up in public comment.
- Maybe we could have our City Manager, City Attorney and the budget subcommittee speak to them briefly.
- One question is this practice of hiring consultants and contract people over regular employees.
- What is our sort of policy about that?
- How do we do the cost/benefit analysis?
- What is the managerial response to that issue?
- Real city jobs versus consulting/contracting jobs and the related costs that accrue?
- Second question is related to cutbacks and layoffs, how do we trim the budget?
- Are there places that are more obvious now that the budget subcommittee has been through the work where we're looking ahead thinking we haven't done it yet, but we can't hit our reserves all the time and we may have to have an employer practice or policy of laying off if that's what COVID does to us.
- It's really kind of a question about staffing.
- What is our practice, policy?
- How do we deal with the right amount of full employee jobs, consulting jobs, and contract services?
- Possibly a conversation for a different Council meeting when the item can be discussed in more detail.

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- If you're strictly speaking talking about consultants opposed to, for example temporary workers where we've been unable to find somebody through normal employment, so we bring in a temp, that's happened a few times and still is happening in the Finance Department because of issues in trying to recruit adequate personnel to work in the Finance Department.
- If you're strictly speaking about consultants, with the exception of the Building Department, which the Council's well aware of how we ended up with a consultant there, generally speaking consultants are only hired because they have specialized expertise that's not available in an employee.
- We're a very small staff so if we need somebody with expertise, we have a consultant in that area because we could not hire somebody on staff with that expertise.
- On the other hand, the Public Works staff is full of employees who have specialized expertise and have gone to specialized training to get it, especially for instance in the water management area.
- We have an employee who holds that specialty training so in that situation the employees do it but it's just dependent on whether we can actually find and or train an employee to do the particular work.
- Consultants by and large are only brought in if an employee could not do it or we could not hire somebody to do that.
- The subject matter of layoffs and staffing, I have mentioned to the Council before that with respect to COVID, for example, we have designated all employees as essential employees, essential workers.
- We don't have any employees that fall into a nonessential category.
- Some cities do.
- They have people that work in ancillary park positions and things like that nature.

- Where they potentially would lay off employees when they have a financial setback.
- We have had a tradition where we have never laid off an employee.
- I'm not saying we're blindly following that tradition but the fact is that we are so lean in our staffing we don't have actual employees that we could spare in the sense of that employee's work is nonessential enough that we could conceivably lay it off.
- In fact, the opposite.
- We have employees who do multiple jobs.
- It's kind of an opposite situation.
- Layoffs were never on the table this year.
- In consultation with our outside counsel and HR firms, the supplies were too ample.
- We have used them.
- Because we had ample reserves layoffs weren't even on the table for discussion.
- You cannot really sub employees when you are over-reserved.
- We are obviously no longer over reserved.
- Layoffs were avoided in 2008.
- I was not the City Manager then but layoffs were avoided in the economic downturn by furloughing employees where the employees worked reduced hours.
- It was determined by the management and Council at that time that that was a better approach for the City to have all the employees keep their jobs but work less hours and that's the way we made it through the economic downturn at that time.
- If COVID never goes away, or there's a horrible reason why we have to continue to have this problem as we go into the springtime, then we'll have to take a look at things and see where we find ourselves with our budget as we do the permanent budget for '21-'22.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I'd like to say a follow-on with regards to our staff particularly.
- There was someone from the public earlier that said something about inflated salaries.
- Like what City Manager McLaughlin just said, he is not just our City Manager but also our City Attorney.
- Assistant City Manager Gourley is not just the Assistant City Manager but also the City Clerk, she is wearing two hats.
- Both are very high functioning, high level professionals and neither of them have an administrative assistant.
- They do the paper work, all of this stuff.
- Most of our department heads are pretty awesome people and if you compare what individuals in our staff get paid versus some of the other smaller cities in the county, we get extremely good value compared to other cities.
- Not just in terms of what their compensation is but also in terms of the amount, the volume, and the quality of work we get from our staff so I just want to say I think we have really awesome staff.
- Especially now, I cannot believe how much they work.
- I mean, it is just with COVID, with people working from home, it is like they're on 24/7.
- It is pretty amazing, so I just want to say I'm really grateful to them and I think that their compensation is that we are getting a good deal.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- I agree with that summary and I appreciate your making it, Vice Mayor Glass, because I think it's important to answer the criticisms in a transparent way.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- The ability for us to have confidence in our staff is Paramount because we are, some of us know something about the law, and some of us know something about waste water, and some of us know something about finance and tech and I.T. and so as elected officials we all bring a little bit of knowledge about a lot of stuff and maybe we have one specialty that is our profession and we depend on our staff and we trust our staff and I think that you're absolutely right.
- We need to thank them, respect them, and really just do right by them.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Discussed Gravenstein Health Action's community benefit grant application
- I just realized that when we were talking about the community grants, we didn't talk about health action.
- That was something that we did not agree on.
- The health action, for which I am on the board of but I do not personally benefit financially from in any way, applied for \$20,000 in the community benefit grant to do a survey and I just realized that I did not bring that up during that section of the meeting, I'm sorry.
- The application was to do a needs assessment for health services in West County.
- As many of you may remember or know, health action is now a newly formed group, previously a project of the Palm Drive Health District so it's now morphed into the health action coalition and that coalition is a coalition of many nonprofits and advocates for health related services in West County including West County Community Services and West County Clinic.
- Lynda Hopkins is on it representing the county.
- It's an idea that the coalition of organizations that provide mental health services, homeless services, food services, they engage in helping with providing senior services like medically related senior services, et cetera.
- The idea behind the survey is that formerly we had the health care district with partially keeping an eye on the kinds of health-related wellness services that were needed throughout West County.
- The idea is that health action does a needs assessment that includes doing a survey under advisement of all of these different groups.
- There's a lot of other nonprofits that are providing these sorts of services so the idea is to determine what services are missing in order to compile information about what are the health and wellness priorities in West County to provide information to go after grants to help provide these services.
- For example, our supervisor's interest in this is to have data about the kinds of services that we're missing in West County.
- When we talk about health and human services in Sonoma County, the discussion with the Board of Supervisors is very, very 101-centric.
- More Santa Rosa, less West County.
- We are looking at collecting more information to be advocates for providing county funding and grant funding to the kind of services West County provides, the kind of services that the clinic provides, finding out what kind of homeless services are needed and also the rest of West County so that's the idea behind doing this assessment.
- The survey and needs assessment have not been designed.

- There has been an application to, I think, two other funding agencies to help with doing this, one of them is St. Joe's.
- The other is the County.
- We're just looking for partial funding to try to get this needs assessment together so that we can start working at the coalition and figure out what the priorities are and what kind of health and human services to look for funding for and advocating for in West County so this was a \$20,000 application for an organization that has never been funded through our community grants before.
- I think \$20,000 is a really big ticket for us.
- That's a lot of money, especially this year but I would advocate for us to at least provide some funding for this because this kind of dovetails with the funding that we are looking at for the placeholder we did for providing a mental health specialist for the Police Department.
- This would be collecting information, like I would be somebody of that board advocating that the survey instrument includes getting information from the Police Department about what kinds of mental health incidents are they are running into.
- I would think us contributing to this is good financial sense for us because we're enabling health action to collect information as a basis for developing policies for the services to augment our police department and augment other kinds of services that the city needs to provide.
- That was an item that Councilmember Hinton did not agree that we should fund

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- Just to speak to my point of view, I thought that this should come to the full Council.
- If you look at the application, the survey is supposed to have data collection.
- It says sometime between January and March 15th.
- The survey completed by April 30th.
- I think this is more appropriate to consider at mid-year budget review time when we're considering some other items.
- I think it's a really difficult position to be in with the situation the City's in to consider funding a survey of this nature, especially in the next three months when we could consider it mid-year budget review time.

Mayor Slayter commented:

- In regards to this and some of the other community benefit requests, the lack of the balance of the Council having the benefit of seeing the actual applications that's a little problematic because a lot of our questions would have been answered and we would likely have greater comfort in understanding for the reason for the requests.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- To the point of asking health action network to look into the calls on mental health, we have an auditor in there.
- We should let the auditor do the work and maybe we will have answers by the time it does come back in at the mid-year budget.
- I would support that position on that.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- I think there's a part of history here that we haven't spoken to yet and that is that this all arises from the county public/private impaneled group health action and as that group proceeded they

brought in electeds to work with the private partners and then realized that they could create a larger group to create small chapters in each city and this was one of the first to create a chapter along with RRA.

- Russian River Alliance I think was the name and Vacaville had one of the first chapters to receive a grant from this impaneled group and with the \$25,000 we're able to do a resource guide for parents and families that was in English and Spanish and included Jeff Fisher, Keller McDonald from West County Schools, a minister, Diana Rich from the Community Center, and somebody from the hospital as well.
- That group evolved into the health action chapter that's now I think focusing on a concept that's going to help us where West County regionally not just us because we are not just ourselves.
- I mean, if we had to rely only on the people who lived in this city we would be a one stop line count or one horse town or whatever the expression is so I think it's really significant that this group has realized the responsibility it has and we need to support them in that transition, I think this is sort of a more collaborative basis, a bigger vision, to offer services to our people.
- A \$20,000 ask is a lot, it is a lot right now, it is a lot like others of us have said without seeing the application, but I think the concern is putting this all the way to January as the survey won't get designed and prepared and out in time and we'll lose that opportunity to be a leader in the reimagining of public health services, community health services, mental health services as that brings all of the different agencies and other nonprofits and service organizations together to benefit the members of our greater community, so if we're uncomfortable awarding money tonight this is one item I think needs to come back before January because we pretty much tank their opportunity to do a survey and we have the support of the long list of organizations that we already know and work with the supervisor and that's an important alliance.
- I'm in favor of a smaller grant tonight and maybe it would be of greater responsibility of the full Council to have it come back with more information and the opportunity to read everything that Vice Mayor Glass already knows.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- My position on this is that I just have too many questions to feel comfortable approving the item this evening.
- I need to understand it in a greater context.
- Who else is going to be funding?
- What are some of the details?
- How much are other people or organizations funding?
- I know the county, we're 7,200 people in a service area of somewhere between 30,000 and 50,000 people and I need to understand that the county has also got some skin in the game.
- I'm in full support of a more detailed agenda item to discuss this because I think it's greater than just a single community benefit grant which are largely organizations that we know, understand and have a comfort level with and this is an organization that we do know, at least in its some former iteration and so appreciative of Vice Mayor Glass' efforts and I know how much time she's put into this.
- I think that something she didn't say was the hours and hours and hours it took to turn this into an organization that really, really benefits our greater regional community and it could have fallen apart at any moment but yet it really feels like it's blooming and I don't want to cut it short for lack of understanding.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- Would it be possible to do an informational item to allow this new board to tell us about itself and answer the questions that we've already had tonight and then also make the ask for some money?

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I feel like I was remiss because Councilmember Hinton and I did not agree on funding this so I should have known that the application was not furnished to the rest of the Council.
- I did not realize that everybody else wasn't getting all of those applications.
- The one thing I also failed to mention is that part of this survey was addressing the impact of COVID on health and wellness in West County, in particular, not just in the medical situation but in terms of health services, et cetera.
- Yes, I think that would be great if we could arrange to have a quick presentation perhaps at the same time, on the same date we do the budget approval.

Mayor Slayter commented the agenda review committee will look into this.

Councilmember Gurney commented I think it's important to put it on sooner rather than later.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I'm curious and maybe they can address that in a presentation if we can't fund the whole thing, where else is the money coming from?
- As I did mention, there have been two grant applications and when you are a nonprofit you never know when the rest of the money is coming from because you have other grant applications in and you haven't heard back but we'll see.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- That would be good information in an agenda item with the request of money but then get the information about the organization.
- Get it from the people.
- We already know a lot of these people already, but we'll see them come together as a group.

**MOTION:**

Mayor Slayter moved, and Councilmember Hinton seconded the motion to approve the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-21 with the following modifications:

1. \$2,000 for Public Arts Committee Lottery
2. \$14,000 to Public Works or parklets equipment such as K rails – street budget – additional funding mid-year
3. Staff to work with budget subcommittee to review funding as a separate line item for various City sponsorships such as Bike Coalition, Gravenstein Apple Fair
4. Gravenstein Health Action – Return to future council meeting
5. Food for Thought – Not Funded

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:

- The Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-21 with the following modifications:
- \$2,000 for Public Arts Committee Lottery for Artist support during Covid-19
- \$14,000 to Public Works or parklets equipment such as K rails – street budget – additional funding mid-year
- Staff to work with budget subcommittee to review funding as a separate line item for various City sponsorships such as Bike Coalition, Gravenstein Apple Fair
- Gravenstein Health Action – Return to future council meeting
- Food for Thought – Not Funded

Minute Order Number: 2020-214

**ADJOURNMENT OF SPECIAL MEETING:**

Meeting will be adjourned to the City Council Regular Meeting of October 20, 2020 (VIRTUAL ZOOM PLATFORM)

**ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING:**

Mayor Slayter adjourned the meeting at 10:58 pm.

Meeting will be adjourned to the Special City Council Meeting of October 7, 2020 at 9:30 am (Interviews/Appointments for City Climate Action Advisory Committee) (VIRTUAL ZOOM PLATFORM)

Meeting was adjourned to the Next Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 6:00 pm. (VIRTUAL ZOOM PLATFORM)

Respectfully Submitted:



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