

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR Meeting of October 20, 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).

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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 Regular City Council Meeting (ZOOM VIRTUAL FORMAT)

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Slayter called the regular 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.

PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS:

The following was presented:

- Proclamation Recognizing Linda Civitello Upon Her Retirement from the Sebastopol Senior Center (January 2017 – October 2020)

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:

- Alan Porter
- Rebecca Evert
- Lauralee Aho
- Kate Haug

Sandra commented as follows:

- Wanted to say a giant thank you to Linda.
- It has been an absolute pleasure to work with Linda.
- She has co-chaired the age-friendly task force for the health action chapter and then the coalition, and her energy and spirit and wisdom I have greatly appreciated.
- Thank you, Linda.

Evert commented as follows:

- I'm not sure what the process is as far as the hiring of the Police Chief, and I wanted to talk about that briefly as far as the procedures being followed.
- I want to make it very clear that the procedures are being followed
- What is out of sort are the procedures.
- I think in this day and age we need to make sure that there's a community panel involved, for the community to decide what we want the Police Chief to be because that tone gets set for the rest of the officers there.
- It sets the tone for the whole town and it is a very important position that affects every citizen in town.
- I'm not sure how much the Council is involved, but I think that we should look at that.
- The last chief we had was here for a long time.
- I want to make sure we get the right person.
- A community panel would be something that should be at least looked at before that kind of decision
- What values do we want this individual to bring to our town.
- I think it is just best practices to do that.
- Not knowing where the procedure is, I think it should just be looked at especially in how important it is today
- Hopefully, it is not too late or we can still make some changes and take a look at how things are administered
- Who does the chief report to; how does that work; how has it been working?
- From a technical standpoint, I think there would be no issue as far as finding the right person that is qualified, that has the years of experience, so forth.
- Want to make sure as a citizen that it was looked at by a diverse community and that also within the panel there's at least some citizens of Sebastopol on there as representatives.

Diana commented as follows:

- Following up on what Evert Fernandez said, I personally am very much looking forward to an update from the City Council on time frame that we as citizens can be aware of in terms of when there might be some decisions coming out regarding the audit and also the Police Chief decision.
- Want to take a moment to celebrate Linda Civatello.
- What an incredible woman.
- Had the thrill of working with her when I was the executive director many years ago at the Community Center, and a more gracious, inclusive, hardworking, bright, innovative person I can't imagine.
- She was the perfect choice for the senior center and having seen what she has done there and then looking forward to this new E.D. to Katie, I'm just thrilled.
- Thank you, Linda, for everything you have done for our community.
- Looking forward to Katie and everything else she is going to do and just applauding the Senior Center as an organization for all it does for our community.

Katie commented as follows:

- Couldn't have said it better.
- Thank you so much, Linda, for the last four years.
- Couldn't have learned from a better person, and this community is in a better place because of you.
- I can't wait to just continue to learn so much from you and to see all that you have to offer in your second and maybe third retirement.

Kyle commented as follows:

- I'm sure over the next few weeks or next few meetings I will have plenty of time for public comment where I bring up most recently, and I suppose to be close to be approved budget
- One particular item I want to bring up tonight if we just look over maybe the last nine years which I think is a good broad stroke in which we see revenue and expenses increase by about 1.7 times and 1.8 times
- If we look across different departments, we see similar increases, things like police, things like fire.
- But in particular, I just want to point out a few that the City Council itself's budget has gone up 3.3 times, almost double of what we would expect to see based on revenue increases.
- Finance goes up by 3.8.
- I'm sure there's a rational explanation for that.
- But the one in particular that I think is worth noting here is nondepartmental.
- Nondepartmental has gone up 33 times over the last nine years.
- What is nondepartmental
- If you do a quick search on find on the budget, you will see it appears two places.
- One where nondepartmental's budget is explained as being \$2.7 million for 2020-2011.
- The second place it appears it explains it as a catch-all for things that don't have its own line expenditures and a few examples are given.
- What I would love to see the Council do in the future for such a large expenditure is that it could be broken down a little better so we can see what is composed in nondepartmental, especially

when we are looking at just over \$2 million of a deficit compared to what the revenues are expected for 2021.

- I look forward to having further discussions about the budget in the coming meetings in the future.

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- Discussed the Police Chief recruitment at this point.
- As the Council knows and the public may know, the recruitment process is kept confidential until such time as we reach the point where we can publicize who the candidate is and make an announcement.
- We had hoped to make an announcement by this time but it just hasn't quite happened yet
- I would like to say that we've been through quite an involved process.
- We first convened a professional panel which consisted of a local Police Chief, police veteran who lives in Sebastopol, and a woman who is a Captain in another jurisdiction's police department to provide professional questioning.
- We had an all-day session with the panel going through some five current candidates we got from a list of 43 total candidates.
- Following that we did convene a community leader panel, social justice leaders locally.
- I am not at liberty right now to disclose who was on that panel, but they were local social justice community leaders from all areas.
- They conducted an extensive question and answer session with the leading candidate for quite a lengthy session and then gave all of their opinions confidentially.
- Following that we did meet with the City Council in closed session.
- We reviewed in great detail all of the things that I had gone through and took comments from the Council as far as part of that process.
- I think the process is quite a bit more involved than may be evident from what we've been able to release publicly
- Again, when we make our announcement, we planned on going into detail with the substance, in more detail about all of the things I just outlined.
- We did make a large effort to be in the 2020 era as far as how we recruited this particular Police Chief, recognizing how important this position is to the community, all of the interest in police recently, everything that we read about in the newspaper and that happens here locally.
- We did think it was important to proceed basically as was outlined here during the public speakers.
- So we did do that, and we hope to have a full report for the full public in the very near future.

Mayor Slayter asked for an update on the external and internal review.

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- We sort of have parallel tracks going right now.
- We have an interim chief who is involved with the Napa County Police Academy, and is very experienced, from a larger jurisdiction. He was retired, came out of retirement to work for us.
- That Police Chief's name is Don Mort. He has been on a number of these meeting calls.
- He is conducting a review of our police department procedures, files, policing from the inside.
- I think everyone knows, the Council did retain Jerry Threet who is conducting his own review.
- He is quite far along in that review.

- We have greatly cooperated with Jerry Threet
- He's not quite done with that review, but when it is completed there will be a full public vetting of the things that Jerry Threet found.
- We have an internal review, an external review.
- We have done quite an involved process in the recruitment of the Chief, so we've done what we can I think with respect to this position at this point.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Everybody understands that these days it is difficult to have virtual meetings
- You get so much meeting somebody in person versus over Zoom, and for all of these steps
- Think there was one in-person meeting in the recruitment process.
- Everything else has been done over Zoom, and so you don't get those hints of body language like you do in person.
- So the extraordinary measures and the length of time that the process has gone on is just providing staff and the City Council with assurance of the steps, that everything is being handled as timely as possible but also with appropriate levels of care.
- Think that that is an in-depth review.
- If anybody has any additional questions, certainly don't hesitate to contact the City Council and we'll see if we can't get answers for you.
- So I will just make one brief announcement here, and this is about the upcoming election.
- We will not have a meeting the first meeting in November.
- The City Council is cancelled because it is election day.
- However, election day, all that really is -- I think we should retitle it and call it something like Ballot Tabulation Day because the way that it works is that the registrar of voters isn't actually able to hit the button to say collate or calculator whatever the word is for the computer systems until 8:00 P.M. on election night.
- So all of the ballots are being collected and I've got a couple of just notes about that coming up here, so election day is now election season.
- So it is tabulation day more than anything.
- So what they do, their tabulation system is not connected in any way to the Internet.
- It is all completely independent of everything, and at 8:00 they hit tabulate and they get some results out and then they have to manually take those results and input them into the online system for everybody to see where the votes are coming in.
- So that's the process for that.
- As far as getting your ballots in, there are a number of ways that you can do it.
- You can vote in person, and it is extended days.
- So from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., from Saturday, October 31st, through Monday, November 2nd, is early voting.
- That is 9:00 to 5:00, Saturday, Halloween, through Monday.
- And then on election day proper, it is from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. on election day.
- Our local in-person voting is different than the way we used to do it where there were a number of locations around town.
- We have one in-person location, and that is down at the Sebastopol community center at 390 Morris street, down at the end of Morris right where it takes the curve.
- So you can vote there and then.

- Also, if you do -- if you use the ballot that was made to you, you can deliver it to the secure box at the Sebastopol center for the arts at 282 South high street.
- You can drop it there and they have a very secure pickup system.
- There's nothing else that goes into that other than ballots, and it is two people when they pick them up.
- It is incredibly secure.
- It is built like a tank, and that's another way you can do it.
- You can use your mail. You can mail it back in.
- You can drop it off at the county registrar of voters' office.
- I think that's the word on voting. So go vote.
- I already voted.
- I think a lot of other people have too according to the records I'm seeing.
- So we will end my discourse on voting and move to any statements of conflict of interest on the part of any Councilmember.

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

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- We voted on the budget last week and I recused myself from the section that had to do with the Sebastopol Center for the arts.
- I just want to make sure because this is the second reading, I just need to ask for our City Manager's direction.

Mayor Slayter commented that the Council will go through a procedure here whereby Vice Mayor Glass would need to abstain from any community support item for the organization she represents.

Vice Mayor Glass stated she would be recusing herself from that portion of the budget discussion.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Given that there was a question that was raised for me in that I have a potential conflict.
- I will say potential, because now the question has been raised, there's no financial benefit to me in any way from that.
- That's a completely volunteer position that I have with Rebuilding Together Sebastopol.
- I am fine in an abundance of caution recusing myself from that as well.
- Curious if legally that's required.

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- It is not a conflict. The Mayor does not have an official conflict.
- However, sometimes for appearance issues or other reasons a Councilmember nevertheless wants to abstain.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Mayor Slayter read the consent calendar.

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

Mayor Slayter asked for Public Comments on the Consent Calendar Item(s): There were none.

MOTION:

Councilmember Gurney moved and Councilmember Hinton seconded the motion to approve Consent Calendar Item(s) Number(s) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8.

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

1. Approval of Minutes of the City Council Regular Meeting of October 6, 2020 (Responsible Department: City Administration)

City Council Action: Approved Minutes of the City Council Regular Meeting of October 6, 2020

Minute Order Number: 2020-216

2. Approval of Minutes of the City Council Special Meeting of October 7, 2020 (Responsible Department: City Administration)

City Council Action: Approved Minutes of the City Council Special Meeting of October 7, 2020

Minute Order Number: 2020-217

3. Approval of the Minutes of the City Council Special Meeting of October 14, 2020- Continuation of Climate Action Subcommittee Interviews (Responsible Department: City Administration)

City Council Action: Approved Minutes of the City Council Special Meeting of October 14, 2020-

Continuation of Climate Action Subcommittee Interviews

Minute Order Number: 2020-218

4. Approval of the Minutes of the City Council Special Meeting of October 14, 2020 – City Council Closed Session (Responsible Department: City Administration)

City Council Action: Approved Minutes of the City Council Special Meeting of October 14, 2020 – City Council Closed Session

Minute Order Number: 2020-219

5. Approval of Extension of Emergency Proclamation of Local Emergency (COVID-19) issued by the Director of Emergency Services (Fire Chief)

City Council Action: Approved Extension of Emergency Proclamation of Local Emergency (COVID-19) issued by the Director of Emergency Services

Minute Order Number: 2020-220

Resolution Number: 6317-2020

6. Approval of Priority of Local Streets for Capital Improvement Program (CIP) as discussed at the October 6th Council Meeting (Responsible Department: Engineering)

City Council Action: Approved Priority of Local Streets for Capital Improvement Program (CIP) as discussed at the October 6th Council Meeting

Minute Order Number: 2020-221

7. Approval of Award of Contract (Contract Number: 2020-01) Park Village Apartment Renovations For contract amount of \$202,369 and adopt a minute order authorizing City Manager to execute all documents required to enter into contract with August-Jaye for the project. (Responsible Department: Engineering)

City Council Action: Approved Award of Contract (Contract Number: 2020-01) Park Village Apartment Renovations For contract amount of \$202,369 and adopt a minute order authorizing City Manager to execute all documents required to enter into contract with August-Jaye for the project

Minute Order Number: 2020-222

8. Approval of Infiltration Resistant Sewer Maintenance Hole Replacements (Responsible Department: Engineering)

City Council Action: Approved Infiltration Resistant Sewer Maintenance Hole Replacements

Minute Order Number: 2020-223

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/PRESENTATION: NONE

PUBLIC HEARING(S): NONE

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

9. Ratification of Council Adoption of Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget:

a. Approval of Resolution Approving and Adopting Fiscal Year 2020-2021 City of Sebastopol Budget; Approval and Adoption of Resolution establishing the appropriations limit for the City of Sebastopol for the 2020-2021 pursuant to Article XIII B of the California Constitution; and

b. Discussion of Community Benefit Grant Request from Gravenstein Health Action as discussed at the October 14th Special City Council Meeting.

This item was originally listed as a consent calendar item but was changed to reflect it as a discussion and action agenda item per the October 14th Council Meeting. Staff erroneously posted the incorrect agenda. (Responsible Department: Administrative Services)

Administrative Services Director Kwong presented the agenda item recommending the City Council approve the Resolution Approving and Adopting Fiscal Year 2020-2021 City of Sebastopol Budget; approve the resolution Approval and Adoption of Resolution establishing the appropriations limit for the City of Sebastopol for the 2020-2021 pursuant to Article XIII B of the California Constitution; and Discuss the Community Benefit Grant Request from Gravenstein Health Action as discussed at the October 14th Special City Council Meeting.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- As I explained in our City Council meeting a week ago, the budget subcommittee, there are two Councilmembers on the budget subcommittee and we did not reach consensus on this particular budget item.
- It was not forwarded to the City Council as an approved budget committee item for ratification.
- I wanted to bring this forward to the entire Council so the entire Council could consider this.
- One of the things that we went through as the budget subcommittee was, we tried to eliminate some of the applications that were from organizations that were extremely well funded, and particularly that had a County base.
- We eliminated some of those because we actually did receive over \$200,000 in applications for support through our community grants program.
- We agreed on all of them but one that did not make the cut that I did not agree with my colleague Councilmember Hinton about was the Gravenstein Health application.
- It was a grant application that was submitted and put together at the beginning of the entire COVID disaster.
- The application was for \$20,000, which was before the city and everybody else understood the depth and the economic situation that was related to COVID.
- Since then we have reduced by at least 20% many of the grant applications that were put through to the city, so the number went from basically over \$200,000 to about \$89,000, which was really taking a big cut.

- So at this time what I am doing is asking the full Council whether they would be willing to include this application as one of the community grants that we do approve, but for a reduced amount just as we did a reduced amount for all of the grants.
- I would be hoping that we could be perhaps allocating somewhere between \$5,000 and \$8,000 for this application.
- The application is for a community health needs assessment, and this is in partnership with Gravenstein Health Action.
- I would like to ask if my fellow budget committee person has any remarks about this, and then I am going to ask members of health action to talk a little bit about this particular item.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I believe actually we had two items that we brought to the full Council.
- There was this one and the Food for Thought application, if I recall, but by consensus the Food for Thought application did not move forward to this same level of discussion.
- So I do believe there were two.
- I think my position, why I felt this should go to full Council for decision and not just have us decide it, this is a Fifth District wide survey.
- The Fifth District has a population of 99,980 people that live in the Fifth District - Of that, Sebastopol has 768.
- So basically 8% of our citizenship lives in the Fifth District
- I feel like I would be able to support this at that same level, which with a \$40,000 ask would be \$3,200.
- It seems fair to me if we are going to do a West County survey that all of West County should pay for it, not just Sebastopol taking on the extra burden.
- It is not that I was opposed to this application, but I was not in favor of \$40,000 as the funding asked for, and I thought this should be further discuss owed at a full Council level and voted on by all five.
- I didn't feel comfortable making that decision in our subcommittee meeting.

Vice Mayor Glass clarified that the ask was actually \$20,000 - \$20,000 was the ask of the \$40,000 survey.

Member of the Gravenstein Health Coalition commented as follows:

Sandra Bodley

- Chair of the board of Gravenstein Health Action Coalition.
- I think the need for a West County community assessment is really paramount, and for Sebastopol to take the lead as the largest community in West County.
- I think the other communities are far smaller and they're not incorporated when you get into the Russian River communities.
- We are working in collaboration with our sister health action chapter
- I have served with public health on community assessment projects, and what happens is that they're countywide but their emphasis is on the 101 corridor.
- They do not look in depth at regional needs, and our needs here in West County are distinct from what the needs are in, say, Petaluma, Santa Rosa or the east part of the county.
- I think to make an impact in our community in regard to needs
- We need to hear from our community, from the members of our community.

- It was called to my attention that on Supervisor Hopkins' Facebook page, she has estimated that we're going to have a 10% to 15% undercount because of the early closure of the census.
- There's going to be a significant undercount in West County.
- We're not going to be able to address that to that depth, but we can reach a number of people to have a much more accurate picture of our West County population and thereby design programs for gaps in needs.
- We would accept what you think would be appropriate.
- I will say that it is your commitment to our endeavor that we also really appreciate.

Mary Lou commented as follows:

- I have come before the Council several times this year as a member of the health action chapter task force working on the tobacco retail license ordinance.
- Thank you so much for passing that ordinance.
- As a member of this community as an RN with a master's in community health and a bachelor's degree in public health, I give my heartfelt thanks to passing that TRL which is being used as a model in other communities now.
- What made that particular initiative so put together, was the fact that we had data and we had relevant data. We had data from the county. We had data from the lung association. We had data from healthy kids' survey.
- The process that it allowed us to go through was identify the main issues, and then bring those forward into the initiative.
- So this is how this assessment data is so important for us to try and move forward in terms of health initiatives in West county.
- As you all know, the district has dissolved and now we have turned in from a health action chapter to a coalition, and we're turning ourselves into a 501(c)(3) in order to be able to support ourselves, but our main intent is to affect in a positive way the health of our community.
- In order to do that we need to be able to look at the needs of our community.
- That's what this assessment was hopefully meant to start us on that journey as being able to figure out, particularly since the West County is so underrepresented in terms of how the county culls out their information.
- It is mainly the 101 corridor.
- We are hoping that we can encourage you to grant us the grant.

Dr. Cunningham commented as follows:

- Thank you for letting me speak and really resonate with what Mary Lou was saying about the TRL.
- It is a great example of leadership and putting forth the effort to change systemic issues.
- I am really thankful for that. I think we will look back on that and say that leadership mattered.
- In this effort I would also like to put some political capital behind it
- I think the statement around this is West County is different than the 101 corridor, and we tend to find our data from concentrated in Santa Rosa along that corridor, Petaluma, and we are different in the West County. It is important for us to look at the data differently.
- In my world, I think looking not just in health care delivery but upstream, looking at the bigger social determinatives of these health issues, they're big and wicked problems, not single-issue problems.

- So looking at it strategically and understanding the data from the perspective of the end user or those of us who live in the community that would really be allowing us to understand that data is important if we want to leverage the resources we have strategically.
- We can put effort into it, but it doesn't always end with the results we want with good intent.
- I think we all have good intent, but it is important for us to move forward.
- I would say in my mind this is an alignment with what West County health centers, we are actually happy to participate in any level including with leadership and data, which we have a fairly large data and analytics program we are willing to put into the effort.
- What it does to me is say to the City Council we should align effort regardless of what has past here, it is something you should participate in.
- Usually it comes along with resources.
- I would say it is a good effort to participate in that.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I would just like to summarize that I think in some respect that if the Council was thinking of it as a public opinion survey. This is not a public opinion survey.
- It is an assessment, collecting data from a number of different sources.
- The participants who will be around the tables designing the data collection and helping to perform this are a whole bunch of our partners as a City.
- This includes West County health clinics and it also includes West County Community Services, Kim Miller who is also on the board of the organization, who are our major partners in figuring out the kinds of health services that we need in West County.
- It also includes schools.
- It includes other kinds of nonprofits that are faith-based, health and nutrition, organizations that deal with homelessness.
- What we're trying to build here is a coalition where we are all sharing information
- The design of the assessment and information is needed in order for us to be more effective in addressing the kinds of health and wellness issues in West County, but also identifying information that can be persuasive as we apply for grant funding from the state, from the feds and from private foundations.
- What we're working to do is bring all of these different organizations to the table
- We have quite a lot of them already.
- We need is more information about how to react and how to plan for emergency services.
- We are planning to collect information relevant to all of these sorts of issues, mental health, public health, physical health, and emergency services, homelessness, all of these kinds of issues that go up to make health and wellness in West County.
- I did speak with Supervisor Hopkins, and Supervisor Hopkins has identified two potential sources of funding through the County.
- We're looking at this isn't just us being the lone ranger. This is us participating with the County and hopefully other sources of funding to really pull this assessment together, particularly in light of the COVID crisis that we're in now.
- This is something that needs to be addressed as soon as possible.
- The members of the coalition have already started planning the assessment, and then we hope to be executing or plan to be executing it starting in the middle of the winter and with a spring report anticipated.
- I just wanted to have everybody really understand that this is not just like a public opinion survey

- This is collecting a lot of data that is very relevant to our City being able to plan and respond to health and wellness needs within our City and participating with the County as we try and put West County on the map in terms of getting its needs met.

Mayor Slayter recapped the budget amendments from last meeting.

- The first was the funding match for the public art support of \$2,000 and the recollection on that is there was consensus for that.
- The second item is the parklet concrete barriers and the potential -- we put \$14,000 in the budget and there was consensus for that, knowing that that's an item in flux
- We may need to see that again, but there was consensus on the \$14000.
- The final thing that was still a ball in the air was this community benefit grant for the Gravenstein Health Action Coalition.
- I will ask for questions on any of the budget, actual questions, and then we will go to the public, and then we will have a time to discuss these things in greater length with the final part of the item.

Mayor Slayter opened for questions.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- Added history to presentation for Gravenstein Health Action Chapter
- Council representative
- Part of local group
- Group much bigger than ourselves
- Work beyond our borders
- It included Keller McDonald - superintendent of the two high schools.
- It included the Hessel area church as well as Jeff Weaver on the school board district.
- Our work was beyond our borders and a youthfulness to the parents and family as we produce a resource guide and from that chapter, this next one evolved.
- They have gone on to grander and more ambitious work.
- I think it's important to know it started here.
- We got the \$25,000 grant from the County-wide Council.
- We are just going on to do bigger things from that origin.

Mayor Slayter opened for public comment.

Suzanne commented as follows:

- I am a retired nurse.
- I am very aware of how little medical care we have currently.
- We don't even have our urgent care so please all of you vote yes whenever you can.

Diana commented as follows:

- This is the sort of opportunity that just sings to my soul, honestly.
- We have a situation that is very daunting in our community, major mental health issues.
- We have an opportunity to collaborate with our County to leverage our resources in a way that will bring big benefits to us as a community and our community is in dire straits.
- I know there are budgetary issues.

- I respect the comments regarding budgetary issues.
- I would just urge you all to think about whether this is one of the situations where you have to invest and you have to take the risks in order to reap the benefits for all these people that you represent.

Omar commented as follows:

- I am a resident and small business owner.
- I would like to say that I do support the community health initiative.
- I think it's going to be saving the community a lot of money in the long run and investing in community health.
- I'd like to see the request approved.
- It's very wise and prudent use of our limited resources.
- I do know that we are suffering from a budget crisis, but I think productive investments we can make.
- I fully join all those in support and thank you for keeping up.

Council Deliberations:

Mayor Slayter commented we have largely the one item in front of us which is the community benefit grant for the Gravenstein Health Action.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I just want to come back around for this.
- For me, I want to support public health.
- It's not about yes, public health, no, public health.
- It is about that the budget sub-committee could not agree
- We asked \$20,000 in our initial meeting which seems like too high a cost for me.
- I thought it should be deliberated transparently
- I'm here to represent Sebastopol jurisdiction and if our percentage of the bid is 8%, I'd even be willing to go to \$5,000. But the County has to come in, too.
- Because it's all of West County.
- They have a lot more money than we do.
- There is the tax base out of this City.
- As we know, the money goes into the hopper over at the County and so, I just want to be fair to the people that live here and also fair to all what we are trying to do here.
- I fully support the concept.
- As we just heard, we are borrowing \$2.2 million out of our reserve
- \$5,000, I would propose would be fine.
- I think the bigger ask was just too much, which is why again I want to reiterate is why I brought it to the full Council for deliberations.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented that he concurred with Councilmember Hinton.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- I think we have an unusual role in the West County.
- I think it's the capitol city of the West County is in that way, we have many more resource.
- We're organized. We're a municipality. We deliver services.

- We don't have people left out on their own in exactly the same ways as the West County does.
- I would suggest that we lead as we have led on so many other issues, particularly environmental issues.
- I think this year with COVID and next year, with the deeper impact of COVID, we need to stand up as a public health leader, and particularly work for community health.
- Our community is much bigger than our borders.
- Yes, we budget much of a percentage of the population. We have a boundary. But the reality is people come and go and flow through this community all the time.
- In fact, we depend on that interaction. We depend on it financially. We depend on it culturally.
- We depend on it spiritually through our friendships.
- We are much bigger than just our borders and we have also have a history of leadership, though I would recommend upping our contribution to I think the reasonable maximum ask I that it's \$8,000 rather than five and by contributing more, we can put our stake in the ground as the capitol city and make sure that this launches.
- I think we can also trust our supervisors and that money will roll in, so that we will have cooperation.
- I feel our culture is one of leadership than any other grouping of people in the county zip
- I would advocate for giving the larger amount.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I certainly am advocating for the larger amount.
- I want to point out that the way that as a non-profit, you work on a project, it's much like we do at city government.
- It's not like you just go out and say we've got a single funding source.
- This is our budget. This is what we will do and our go team. We have to build support.
- We have to build the common law, the finances to do what it is we are doing.
- I think that we will be able to do more with more resources.
- One of the things when you do a survey or any other kind of project, whether building software, whatever, you actually limit what your product is based on the resources you have available.
- We're the first budget to put our stake in the ground and say we are contributing in a very leadership kind of way to this initiative and I think the more that we contribute, the more that the County and our supervisors are going to want to contribute a larger portion which will be their fair share of this and the more that we contribute, the more information we're going to have.
- We have to design our assessment based on the resource we have available.
- I would advocate for the \$8,000 and that that's going to help us build the financial building blocks to getting a very comprehensive assessment.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- I realize that I did have a question about a different part of the budget.
- We're going to take a slight detour and back to the Administrative Services Director to answer the question.
- I'm looking at the debt service portion of the budget on page 80-85 - infrastructure lease.
- We have the Park Village loan and then there is the wells 7 arsenic treatment construction zone and every one of those, the interest rate is the lowest.
- It's 4.1% and the highest is 4.9%.

- With the historically low interest rates these days, is it possible to take a look at refinancing those loans and get us into a better rate?

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- Yes, earlier in September you've heard the introduction to the information.
- I am in the background looking to figure out how to do refinancing
- There are certain windows that we need to allow when we do refinancing.
- There are certain time frames that you can call those on and I think that is three or four months out that you can call those bonds and you can call them early.
- There's a little bit of a penalty.
- We were looking at that prior to the September meeting.
- I don't think interest rates will go up any time soon.
- I do want to circle back to refinancing items in the spring time where we are allowed to call those bonds and refinance them as a group so that we can get lower interest rates.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Possible to lump them together - Is that the way that to do it?
- Do three loans get rolled into one at a lower interest rate?

Director Kwong stated it is a possibility and stated we are looking at all possibilities when we get a chance to see which one can be called without penalty and we'll go from there.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- I think other than the health coalition and I look back at the data that we have historically for the community benefit grants - a few years ago, the City adopted an official policy that an unofficial policy of around 1% for the community benefit grant and that acknowledges the incredible relationship that the City of Sebastopol enjoys with so many non-profits.
- Over the years, the organizations that applied for come in and do great things for a year or two and then they don't need a grant.
- The project they needed help with got over the hump.
- Then there are some that are ongoing annually such as Mr. Music that is a community institution that bestow many things with it.
- In so many ways the non-profits benefit us in ways that are sort of immeasurable because we are a small city.
- We don't have a parks and rec department. We have a community cultural program largely financed through the benefit or to the benefit of the community through private donations.
- Senior center - Same thing.
- I see health action, served along the same path.
- We don't have a Department of Public Health in the City of Sebastopol.
- We depend on the County for that.
- The County is half a million people. We're 7200.
- It is a little disingenuous for us to nickel around dime these organizations.
- I think I'm also comfortable with the higher number looking at historically where we have been with community benefit grants in relation to that first unofficial now official policy of 1%.
- 17/18 we were at .83%. 18/19, we were actually at .75%. 19/20.Adjusted budget we were at .91.%

- We have been under and for us to go from 1.05% to 1.1% is inconsequential in the great picture of things.
- We are also presented with a new opportunity to further a really important thing that is the growth and continuation of something that we have received the benefit of in the past but now it's taken on a new life and it has new energy and it has two of the most important organizations in West County that both have West County in their names.
- West County Community Health centers, remarkable community partners there with the county and fire and police and sheriff's department and county OES and whoever else wants to get on board.
- The difference between \$5,000 is inconsequential at this moment given the budget.
- It could be a major help in achieving the goals of greater public health.
- I'm also comfortable with that \$8,000 number given the budget and looking at it as a whole.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- Just briefly, I wanted to go back to Dr. Cunningham's remarks about the 101 corridor.
- I'm going to give a report later this evening on the SCTA where I will just know yet again Mayor Harvey of Sonoma and myself spoke up, we aren't on the 101 corridor - we are in the outliers.
- We are the significant other people, other organizations.
- That is the importance of our voice and a leader. There is nobody else out here who can stand up like that.
- We love as West County residents. They just don't have a voice. We have a big voice.
- That's our commitment as a leader.
- That's why we have to put a significant contribution in and get this going with our name on it and ownership and our support for the other leaders in the West County to work on public health.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I'm comfortable with going with the higher number tonight.
- I think we want to point out to our supervisors that we are putting in double our fair share based on population and it is my hope the County will open the pocketbooks to get the survey done.
- It's a small thing five versus eight.
- I am comfortable going with the recommendation tonight.
- I just want to say, there is going to come a point where we are not able to pull from our reserves and we will probably have a really difficult budget adjustment at the end of January because I just don't think being in the health care industry, myself, this is not going away any time soon so we're going to be dealing with this and the decisions are just going to get tougher.
- You are correct, five versus eight on feeling comfortable.
- It's not 20000, which was the original ask in the discussion.
- So I'm in for that, thank you very much.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I do want to point out that this is an investment that is hopefully going to bring us more revenue.
- So this is not just money out the door.
- We're doing this assessment so we have the data so we can make our case for more money from the County, more money from the state, more money from the feds and more money from foundations.
- This is an investment that we can leverage.

Mayor Slayter recused himself from the meeting.

MOTION:

Councilmember Hinton moved and Councilmember Gurney seconded the motion to approve the following:

- Rebuilding Together \$2800 as approved at the last Council meeting

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

VOTE:

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

Noes: None

Absent: Mayor Slayter

Abstain: None

Mayor Slayter returned to the meeting.

Vice Mayor Glass recused herself from the meeting.

MOTION:

Councilmember Gurney moved and Councilmember Hinton seconded the motion to approve the following:

- Center for the Arts (\$9500)
- \$2000 – Art Trails
- \$5000 - Film Festival
- \$2500 - Climate change project

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

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

- Gravenstein Health Action- \$8000

Discussion:

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- I keep hearing it's an amount and that's back that that thing many nickels make a muckle.
- This will be the last time or we should start keeping track every time we use the word inconsequential so start adding it up.
- You will be surprised how much that adds up especially look going forward.
- I want to say, emphasize, we have to be careful.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- We do have to be careful. I will note that commentary.

- I will note historically the benefit grants is where we spend our most time.
- Every single year discussing those items.
- I hear exactly what you are saying. At the same time, it's not as though these decisions are made lightly.
- We do have full discussion on them.
- I see both sides of the argument

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

MOTION:

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

- Resolution Approving and Adopting Fiscal Year 2020-2021 City of Sebastopol Budget
- Approval and Adoption of Resolution establishing the appropriations limit for the City of Sebastopol for the 2020-2021 City Budget pursuant to Article XIII B of the California Constitution

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:

- Resolution Approving and Adopting Fiscal Year 2020-2021 City of Sebastopol Budget
- Approval and Adoption of Resolution establishing the appropriations limit for the City of Sebastopol for the 2020-2021 City Budget pursuant to Article XIII B of the California Constitution

Minute Order Number: 2020-224

Resolution Number(s): 6318-2020
 6319-2020

10. Consideration of Appointments to the City of Sebastopol Climate Action Sub-Committee
 (Responsible Department: Planning)

Assistant City Manager/City Clerk presented the agenda item recommending the City Council:

- Appoint committee members based on the interviews and categories
- Leave any unfilled categories open until the Subcommittee has begun its work (staff recommends waiting to readvertise for at least six months)
- Appoint Councilmember Liaison

Mayor Slayter opened for questions. There were none.

Mayor Slayter opened for public comment. There were none.

Council Deliberations:

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- The agenda item outlines all the different categories
- They are quite comprehensive in climate action and interest and places of expertise
- We had to take it up in two different meetings.
- So we spent about 20 minutes with each applicant. Asked questions, discussed big ideas.
- Answered question all those things you do in a conversation
- We have a slate of people and look to Council for comments at this point.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- I liked all the applicants.
- There was one deal breaker - as much as I love Gerald and I'm sure he appreciates this, the fact that he drives his own private plane, it's a deal breaker.
- You have to practice what you preach and he was laying out all the data on how much more solution he actually transmitted into the atmosphere with his own private plane.
- That was the only one I would suggest at this point not putting on the panel.

Councilmember Gurey commented as follows:

- I think that's a funny comment from someone that rides a motorcycle.
- When Gerry says it gets 19 miles a gallon and flies it 19 miles a year anyway.
- I like the applicant and here's my blurb on each of them.
- They see quickly what I saw and how I thought about the group.
- Lisa I thought was informed on the issues and Josho was pragmatic and interesting and integrated partnerships.
- Dina was aware of privilege, her own privilege and the gap and had interest, I thought.
- Woody is well known. I like his win, win, win, approach. Then we get a great result.
- Tina, I was impressed with. She framed a message that it lands on somebody and it was well received and she was such an instant researcher and her work experience in the medical profession could open up a whole another application in interest in working with climate emergency.
- Alex in the food industry. I mean, there is another sort of broad scope that we can pull in with his experience and Amy's Kitchen.
- Sarah as a voice of youth, assistant. You need to do this for my future.
- I like Gerry, he is high energy. He brings in this whole financial information. It's a way of framing ahead.
- Our last interview was bringing a holistic approach.
- I think we check a lot of boxes.
- We may not check the boxes in our prescribed applicant segment, but I think we have an even broader coverage with these people than I could have anticipated and I was very impressed with all of their depth of knowledge and commitment on the issues and commitment to the work and interest in change.
- They're very interested and hopeful for the future.
- Which is hopeful to me so I am in support of appointing all of them.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I would echo Councilmember Gurney's statements.

- I thought this was a really awesome group of people.
- Looking at the list we have a Business owner, climate action, a local climate action group representative, Rights to nature background.
- The one thing I think we are missing is the environmental equity background that we do have actually to some degree .
- I think we are a little short on our environmental justice equity universe but, so I am completely in agreement that we should appoint every single one of these people.
- I think they are a really outstanding group. I think it's kind of incredible that a little City like ours has so many incredible resources.
- People with so much expertise on climate action, on energy, on pollution, and I have to say, I also was really so impressed with that messaging and the nursing dynamic thing.
- It's not that often that I am at a meeting. I am really impressed with people. But I don't often hear something I never thought of before.
- So I am in favor of approving all these people.
- I do think we may want to agendize as I said before consider opening this back up. There are apparently other youth interested in applying and we may want to open up and publicize that we are looking for people with more of an environmental justice and equity background to join the group.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- We did interview all nine and the way I read the agenda is that we already have two appointed.
- One city staff and one of our planning commissioners.
- So that kicks us off right away with 11 people. We said we go for 13.
- It looks like we may add two more per Vice Mayor Glass' comments for opening it for maybe two other people that could fit any of these categories
- They were all very impressive in their own areas of expertise, which makes a really diverse group of people.
- We interviewed and we spent almost four hours in total I think interviewing so they were in-depth interviews and they all had great things to say sometimes very completely different subjects.
- Alex with his background in Amy's Kitchen who can help our restaurants do better, compost more and you talk about the nursing background super impressed.
- Gerry had a lot to say. I think he needs to work with the group but I think he brings a unique perspective and background as well.
- I think everyone can hold themselves in that group.
- 100% for all applicants and to fill the final two slots.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Lisa is pragmatic and understands that perfect cannot be the enemy of the achievable.
- Josho with his holistic Earth look being a landscape design professional, the education that that brings it, it is a different perspective.
- Dina spoke to civic engagement. How do we get people involved? That really came through.
- Woody and I know each other maybe a little better than I know the other applicants and the environmental horse power that Woody brings to this is impressive. The connections he has with his life's work. His career has been in climate protection.

- Kind of interesting thought that I had as we were talking, a couple years ago, I read an autobiography with Alan Alda, started the Alan Alda science communications in New York at one of the universities. He teaches medical professionals how to communicate.
- Reading the book and hearing a couple personal interviews, the way he discussed teaching health care professionals how to actually check with humans and be able actually communicate rather than just be like out of a hose and I really, really saw a parallel with what we heard
- That's something I had done a little reading about and the different ways that people fit into different Americas.
- We all don't have exactly the same country for so many reasons.
- Alex again with Amy's Kitchen the 2350d component is so important.
- They were working on some of this as one of the focal points, the initial focal point.
- The knowledge that Alex would bring is really excellent for this group.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I want to make a point - I think social justice can be used.
- Obviously, there are no age rules here.
- I agree reopening it and see who we get.
- Then we can make it work.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- My question was the more philosophical one about whether you will be adding housing to an inventory that already can't keep the power on and all of the candidates had a good answer pretty much coming up with microgrid in order to tackle that as a problem.
- I think if we reorganize might be a candidate that has experience with creating a micro-grid.
- The City is not that big in square mileage.
- Many ways it's the perfect test case for a micro-grid city wide where there are so many reasons it makes sense that I will not get into now.
- But we're perfect for it.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- So the other thing that's important for everybody to note community wide is that we don't have a list of tasks for this committee to do.
- We as a Council are leaning on the potential members of the commit to largely come up with a task list of things that they're going to work on together involving the full commute.
- I think that's a really important thing.
- Every single one of these applicants brings something different to this conversation and ideas and potentially different projects to work on, which for me is another reason we need to appoint the full slate tonight and reopen for the additional two seat.
- The one thing I do have a suggestion is we have our planning commissioner that's been approved by the planning commission and we have our staff member, the associate planner, and we have our one City Councilmember to be determined.
- I'm wondering if it makes sense to table that until we do committee assignments not knowing exactly when this committee is going to get under way.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- I was thinking similarly.

- For instance, the zero waste subcommittee hasn't been able to meet even by Zoom pretty much since the beginning of the COVID pandemic and I don't see how we could put another committee meeting, subcommittee meeting on staff even if the one we have there isn't able to be busy every month.
- So it might be wise to wait for that reason, until we have that greater bandwidth from our staff, and also with the newly seated Council, that's only one City Council meeting away.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I was just going to say, we might take volunteers tonight.
- I don't know when the committee wants to meet, they seemed pretty excited the other day.
- I think that would be typical.
- But if the majority wants to wait until the new City Council is seated in December, I'm willing to go with that, too.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I tend to think it probably does make more sense if we're doing committee assignments in December.
- Which is one City Council meeting away, or two.
- The first one in November is cancelled.

Councilmember Hinton asked for clarification when assignments are done by City Council.

Assistant City Manager/City Clerk Gourley stated the Council typically always scheduled for December; however we have postponed them a couple of times until January, but they're usually scheduled for the first meeting in December so the Council can determine the committees at that point.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- We have a lot of work to do.
- I tend to think the committee needs to get going.
- There's a lot of really enthusiastic people.
- But I think in terms of the liaisons, the Councilmember liaison, it makes sense to look at what the committee assignments are as a whole, rather than make one that will last for one meeting.
- We need to look at the mix of who is assigned to what in December, which is not very far away.

MOTION:

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

- Appoint all applicants to the City of Sebastopol climate action subcommittee members based on the interviews and categories.
- Re-advertise for unfilled categories .
- Appoint Councilmember Liaison at City Council meeting where committee assignments are discussed.

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:

- Appoint all applicants to the City of Sebastopol climate action subcommittee members based on the interviews and categories
- Re-advertise for unfilled categories
- Appoint Councilmember Liaison at City Council meeting where committee assignments are discussed

Minute Order Number: 2020-225

Mayor Slayter called for a break at 8:05 pm and reconvened the meeting at 8:17 pm

11. Discussion of Recommendation on the Potential to Expand the Membership of the Public Art Committee (PAC) (Responsible Department: Planning)

Director Svansson presented the agenda item recommending the City Council provide direction to staff on the Potential to Expand the Membership of the Public Art Committee (PAC)

Jen Vertz commented as follows:

- We unanimously agreed that it was working pretty well with the five members, although we know there are a lot of folks out there who are extremely interested in being a part of it.
- If we could work with subcommittees as Council does, getting other people involved, even letting them be leaders of the subcommittees, but non-voting [as PAC members], we could get a lot of other people involved, especially experts in their fields.
- We think that could work really well, and possibly even better.

Mayor Slayter opened for questions. There was none.

Mayor Slayter opened for public comment. There was none.

Council Deliberations:

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- I'll lead it off and say that I think the recommendation is really solid.
- We have a public arts committee that does work very well together as evidenced by the recent interviews and appointments, or re-appointments that we've made.
- The opportunities exist, and I think that the staff report certainly outlines the idea that getting other members, or other community members involved that are not members of the PAC to take part in doing some of the heavy lifting is an outstanding idea.
- It's a parallel to Sebastopol World Friends, where the leadership committee is there, but they have a number of subcommittees that are chaired by oftentimes, spouses of board members, but nevertheless, they're leaders in subcommittee work, and don't need to be a member of the board.
- I think that's a great way to go and get more people involved.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I really believe in supporting the committees that we have and honoring the work and the feedback that they give us.

- I think this is a really great proposal.
- They're saying they're working really well together, and they don't want to upset the apple cart and make it too complicated by adding to the meetings.
- They really do want to expand to bring more people into the process, and I think that is terrific.
- So I really support this idea.
- I really commend them on thinking this through and working with staff to come up with a proposal that is going to bring more people into our arts universe.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- I think I have to listen to the request of the committee, to honor their organization.
- I was impressed with a recent interview where one of the applicants was so process oriented about telling us how well they thought together, and how good the result was.
- I really appreciate Jen's leadership and energy.
- I do have this issue as a Councilmember, and I'm hoping Jen can help me with this, or maybe Kari
- We think of all kinds of ideas for public art. They just come up with conversations.
- Do you think somebody could paint the "k"-rail? The parklets will need some kind of decor, some embellishment that would look nice.
- I've mentioned art on that ugly chain link fence that goes all the way from the pool to the corner at South High Street on Willow. It's just ugly. We all look at it all the time. Why does it have to be ugly?
- We've talked about murals on the ugly walls that the post office parking lot.
- The Council was talking about a unifying element that would bring together our entire business district, North to South, East to West, so there was something together, whether it's a color, or an apple figure
- We need the art people and our artist community to take them up.
- My concern is, we may talk about them and have enthusiasm, it doesn't seem like they land on the desk of the public arts committee hard enough to get mentioned.
- How do we make a better connection with your committee of volunteers to have those ideas flourish?
- Our town will just look better, and it needs to be beautified, and needs to be something to behold for people that live here, and if we ever have people coming through again?
- How do we have the ideas come through if we don't have more people?

Jen commented as follows:

- From my understanding, we're supposed to be putting public art on publicly owned property only.
- That definitely is not the same with all public arts committees throughout many other places.
- That could be expanded from just public land, we could do all kinds of art in Sebastopol.
- That could be something that comes up in a future meeting.
- I know during my last interview, a couple of different examples from art in other cities were given to me. All of which weren't eligible, because we're supposed to do art on publicly owned properties by the city.
- I think in other cases, when people come to us for advice, we have done a good job on giving advice.
- When the black lives matter folks, the black lives visibility team came to us, it was fun to give them ideas and let them execute it.

- If anybody had a great idea, we could be there for support.
- As far as I know right now, we're supposed to be doing art on publicly owned properties.
- Which is a little bit of a hindrance.
- I want to do that wall at the post office, with all of my heart, and I can't, because it's not publicly owned.
- It could be different if it were a different situation, though.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- I think our voices are uniting, saying maybe the public arts committee wants to have a discussion about expanding your reach in the community.
- That could be valuable.
- We've said art is one of the economic drivers in our community.
- Art is one of the economic drivers in the West County.
- I would ask you and staff to see if you would like to talk about that with the group, and maybe come back with changes to the ordinance.
- I'm not sure how that would be handled, but I think it's a topic worthy of discussion at the committee level.
- You guys have a lot of talent.
- That's what I think we heard and experienced when we were interviewing people.
- It's so great, we want to capture all of this.
- Maybe expanding your purpose a little bit more with this notion of subcommittees will allow more of our talent to be showcased and have more people have their lives enriched by participating.

Director Svanstrom commented as follows:

- I think in terms of the ordinance, if there are restrictions in that, it's something the PAC can look at in this case, it would be the public arts recommending changes to that ordinance, then that may need to go to the planning commission, would need to check.
- The PAC has done a great job of forming the subcommittees.
- Until those are done, staff doesn't have a lot more capacity to do a lot more projects.
- If you want to form some subcommittees, that's fine.
- Leveraging the artists' support and the sculpture and being able to expand the capacity of the subcommittees

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I just want to weigh in on how we got here.
- We got here with this agenda item because we had a really tough time making a decision about our re-appointments.
- This is our smallest committee with five, smaller than the planning commission, smaller than the climate action committee we just appointed.
- I know it's really tough.
- I respect all the work that's been done, and now we have a recommendation from your committee saying no more.
- I want to vocalize that we had a really great group of people, I believe the appointment time is four years.
- We don't get a lot of churn.

- Yet I hear all the time from our community, how do I get involved on these?
- I just want to be more inclusive, not less.
- We did a great appointment of one of the original board members.
- There was a strong consensus for that.
- At the same time, I felt like there was a consensus from the Council before getting this report to expand the committee.
- I would feel remiss by not saying that tonight and in the open public.
- I think it's really easy to say, well, I got on.
- But what if that member wasn't re-appointed?
- So let's expand to seven.
- I just really feel like I need to speak out on that tonight.
- I'm willing to go with Council consensus, as Mayor Slayter just stated.
- I feel like I want to reiterate that these are really important appointments, and we want to be more inclusive.
- That, I think, is the direction everyone is going towards.
- Have an opportunity to have new people and new voices
- I really need to vocalize that tonight.
- I'm willing to go with the Council consensus on this, but I think we need to start thinking about how to be more inclusive.

Jen Vertz commented as follows:

- I will say to that, this is my second term.
- On my first term, I was allowed to make a number of changes, which I think actually helped move this little bit further down, moved everything a little bit quicker.
- I had a lot of experience in Seattle working on an art board similar to this, much bigger money.
- We were working at a much faster pace.
- Therefore, I'm happy to be in my second term, but I'm not sure if you saw in your staff reports or not that the committee member mentioned that maybe we shouldn't all continue running, now that we've been on the board for a certain amount of time. We might take the choice to step off.
- I absolutely said I would be the first one to step off of the board, it's my second term now.
- If I finished out this one, I would absolutely love to see some new blood in there, see who else comes.
- I can't even believe the people that were going at the same time that I was. I was kind of surprised that I even got the appointment. I'm honored, and glad I've been here to make some changes. I absolutely agree with you, keeping the same people isn't always the same.
- However, a meeting with more than five can also be a bit convoluted.
- We're just now getting the group going, getting the meetings functionally.
- With too many people, Committee Member Arnold did mention they tried it with seven people, and it was a lot harder.
- There were a lot of different opinions coming from different angles.
- The meetings are running longer, it was a lot more difficult to get through.
- With the five from his opinion, it went faster.
- With another committee member mentioning maybe we should have terms that are shortened, or we choose to step off at some point, which I totally agree with.
- I'm in the middle of my second, and I'm happy to step back and see who else comes.

- I can still be involved, I can be a subcommittee leader and still be just as involved, and not have to be a voting member of the board.
- I'm happy to do that, too, and I think everybody would be.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- I've had conversations with planning commissioners about the size of the planning commission.
- I've heard voices that say it needs to be bigger.
- I've also heard voices saying, a body of five, they're a lot more manageable.
- We leave it at seven, because that makes sense.
- I run a board of directors meeting as chair, and that's a much larger body than five on the City Council.
- You get something that everybody is really interested in, the particular items can take a while.
- I sympathize with that.
- As I started to lay out, I'm seeing consensus to leave it the way it is and empower the public arts committee to lean on other people in the arts community for energy and expertise that don't need to be decision makers, that seems like an ideal situation.

Mayor Slayter questioned the staff if that was the general consensus of the Council. The Council nodded and gave a thumbs up and the Mayor indicated this does not require any action on our part.

City Council Action: None Taken.

Minute Order Number: 2020-226

12. Discussion and Consideration of Request for Sebastopol City Council Diversification Initiative (Councilmember Carnacchi).

1. Term limits for City Council members.
2. Election of the mayor by the people and establishment of an "Office of the Mayor."
3. Campaign finance legislation (Sebastopol has no limit for donations).
4. Raise pay for City Council members to \$800 per month.
5. Prohibit City Council members and employees from making endorsements using their official title.
6. Limit in person campaigning at main intersections to one day per election cycle (plus election day).

Councilmember Carnacchi presented the agenda item recommending the City Council discuss and consider the following initiatives:

1. Term limits for City Council members.
2. Election of the mayor by the people and establishment of an "Office of the Mayor."
3. Campaign finance legislation (Sebastopol has no limit for donations).
4. Raise pay for City Council members to \$800 per month.
5. Prohibit City Council members and employees from making endorsements using their official title.
6. Limit in person campaigning at main intersections to one day per election cycle (plus election day).

Councilmember Carnacchi provided the additional comments:

- I think that we could all agree that having more diversity on City Council would be a good thing.
- The only question is, how do we get there?
- I've got several initiatives that will help with that.

- I'm hoping to present each initiative and open it up for questions or comments.
- Maybe a thumbs-up or thumbs-down whether we want to move it for staff to look at and maybe bring it back at a later date.
- Initiative number one is term limits for City Councilmembers.
- They will make Sebastopol City Council much more diverse.
- Refreshing city politics and inspiring the public to participate.
- When there are not term limits for Councilmembers, the citizens are subjected to the same policies by the same group of persons associated with that Councilmember.
- So to highlight on that a little bit, certainly it's what I call STP, the same 30 people.
- I've watched in the 27 years that I've had a business on main street and have been participating in the Sebastopol downtown commission, it's just that. There's 30 people, those that mobilize for any particular cause. And those people haven't really changed. I could name them, but there's no need to do that.
- It kind of limits, in my opinion, when you have this one group of people kind of helping to create policy on City Council, that can create too small of a group controlling, in other words, the vocal minority controlling the will of the whole.
- So vacant City Council seat by virtue of term limits, regularly they would become vacant, more people would have a fair and equal chance of filling it.
- Knowing that a seat is open in a given year allows more time for a candidate to prepare for the election, and it will lead to more qualified candidates.
- This proposes term limits of eight years for Sebastopol City Councilmembers, with a reset of being off of City Council.
- If there were an eight-year term limit, how many times would seats have turned over in the current City Council configuration?
- Sarah's seat would have turned over two times.
- Patrick's would be one.
- Una's would be one.
- That's a lot of change, that amounts to diversity.
- That's about all I have on this particular issue.
- I know it's kind of a subject that there are all kinds of different opinions on.
- I thought that honestly the best way to do it would be to open it for discussion.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- It doesn't look like we have a lot of people participating.
- I don't think there would be a lot of public comment on each.
- It gets really difficult to have an organized item when we're going from staff report, which needs to be the facts,
- Then questions, and then public comment, and then Council deliberations.
- These multipart items are always a little bit difficult to try to manage.
- That's my suggestion as far as being able to manage the item.
- I think you've got it laid out pretty accurately, logically, and sequentially, I would trust that people would be able to take notes and maintain thought from one item to the next.
- That's the way I would prefer to do it.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- The report that came out in the packet, I realized I was mixing up national politics and local politics and getting a little confused.
- What I'm working off of now is quite refined from what you have seen.
- I came to realize, wow, actually, some of the very things we have wrong with our system at the national level, we actually have wrong right here, too.
- Hopefully, we can find consensus and make some changes.
- Number two, the election of the mayor by the people, and establishment of the office of the mayor.
- That will make Sebastopol City Council more diverse because there will be more opportunities for a citizen to be elected.
- Sebastopol is a general law city that utilizes a City Council/City Manager form of government, power is distributed equally between five Councilmembers.
- Currently, the mayor and vice mayor are selected by a three-vote margin.
- Therefore, three City Council members can control the powers of the mayor, the vice mayor, and the power of setting the agenda for City Council meetings indefinitely, or until they leave office.
- This can be done without regard to the remaining two Councilmembers, which is not an equal distribution of powers, as delegated by the City Council/City Manager government by which Sebastopol is established.
- I think the election of the mayor would help balance that out.
- The elected mayor, and the office of the mayor, would help balance the power of the four elected Councilmembers.
- It's proposed the election of the mayor would be held every two years, and Councilmembers serving every four years.
- It's not that expensive to add a third seat for the election where the mayor would come up after two years.
- Number three, campaign finance legislation, Sebastopol has no limit for donations.
- Limiting the amount of money that can be donated to a City Council campaign will make Sebastopol City Council more diverse because the financial influence on City Council elections will be limited, providing a more equal opportunity for a citizen to be elected.
- Everybody complains about the amount of money in politics, we have an opportunity to do something about it, we should do that.
- This proposes a maximum donation of \$100, and \$10,000 per candidate spending limit.
- And the \$100 would be limited to persons residing within the Sebastopol city limits.
- There has been an agenda item for a Council meeting with regard to campaign finance legislation, that it come up for further discussion.
- Number four, raising the pay of Councilmembers to \$800 per month.
- That will add to the diversity on City Council because citizens who want to participate with their government will not be as hindered financially, which will -- which means that more citizens will participate.
- City Councilmembers spend a great deal of time and expense in relation to our duties.
- I think we all concur on that one.
- It's an amazing dedication and commitment of time beyond anything I could have expected or was warned of or told.
- I think it would be \$800, a little bit under what can lawfully be done.
- City Council last amended the City Council salaries 32 years ago.
- So I think we're due for that.

- I think that that would make it more inclusive, somebody who actually has one or two jobs and wants to participate in our government would have a little bit more of a stipend and that would equate to more diversity on the Council.
- Number five is to prohibit City Councilmembers and employees from making endorsements for City elections or by using their official title to influence an election, to endorsements, that would lead to a more diverse City Council and a fairer election.
- Using an official elected title to influence an election through endorsements and mailers prevents less known and underprivileged candidates from having a fair election.
- Our official titles as elected officials are granted to us by the people when we're elected to represent them on City Council.
- For me to then use my elected title to influence the removal of a Councilmember seems an overreach of power reserved for the people at elections.
- Endorsements really remind me of high school popularity club. Whereby, membership is proclaimed, look who is part of our club. More importantly, this says who is not a member of that club. And that creates division. And it also can create some emotional pain. Which I think that you can probably guess what I'm implying with the emotional pain.
- It's dividing our community now.
- In addition to creating the division in our community, using my official title, it creates division on City Council.
- As an example, when I look at my Councilmembers here, there are three of you clearly have stated, you don't want me on this Council.
- In endorsements, you're doing mailers, you're walking, you're saying we don't want you on this Council.
- What am I supposed to do with what if I get elected? Am I supposed to say, oh, great, I'm stuck with you for at least two years? Because it creates division.
- When I say we have a divided country, we don't have to look any farther than on this panel for that division.
- It starts in this community.
- It takes courage to change it.
- I know that you are using your official titles to endorse people and use the disclaimer it's for identification purposes only.
- You use the title, and the disclaimer is basically you're denying any responsibility.
- So does that say that while you're trying to influence the election, you're not responsible for influencing the election, by using your title?
- With regard to endorsements, the outside influence through endorsements from persons whose votes don't count should also be limited.
- For example, Supervisor Hopkins has endorsed three candidates on Sebastopol City Council.
- Respectfully, Linda's vote does not count in Sebastopol, and she should stop acting like it does.
- It reminds me, everybody is clamoring to get Linda's endorsement. I remember when she was running for election, four of my colleagues were out there saying she's going to be terrible. She's going to be the worst. Now, everybody is like, oh, she's the cat's meow.
- That's the part of politics that curdles my stomach when I have to witness that.
- It's tough.
- There's a reason why our votes are tabulated through the use of secret ballots.
- Secret, you're going to a special little booth, you do it with your back to everybody, you put it in the special envelope, seal it, put it in the ballot box, right?

- It's always been secret.
- Yet we have some members of our community publicly broadcasting how they will vote.
- I think that also creates division.
- I think you'll all agree that I'm kind of an idealist, and in some cases I have big ideals.
- If we look at imagining if every person in the United States kept their vote secret.
- When voting day comes, everybody just voted. But nobody knew how the other person voted, would that create more equality and less arguing, would passionate arguments then diminish?
- If we want to be a leader in Sebastopol, I think that strictly saying that City Councilmembers have to stay neutral in an election, I think that would be fair.
- I think that's a big statement for the rest of the county to see, and I don't think it's unreasonable.
- Then it comes to initiative number six.
- This one, I see our candidate for City Council, Diana Rich, is here, and she inspired me to bring this one forward. To limit campaigning on the main intersection and the main highways in town.
- That is a little bit of an addition to it, but I think that would be fair. In-person campaigning at the main intersections creates an unfair advantage to the candidates who are retired or wealthy, while other candidates who are employed or in college do not.
- I think it's clearly creating an advantage if we allow our main intersections to be used more than one time.
- This proposal is that any candidate be limited to one day of in-person campaigning at the main intersections and highways in town, in addition to election day.
- That additional day should be scheduled with City Hall, but that could come back if this item is agreed to, to bring it back.
- Finally, there's an initiative number seven that I threw on here, that I realize we won't be able to discuss much about.
- I did have it as part of the original agenda item, and then I pulled it off because there was a little bit of confusion. That would be to adopt rank choice voting for Sebastopol City Council elections.
- I went to a seminar at SSU with an SSU professor who did a talk on rank choice voting.
- It was determined that you have to be a charter city where Sebastopol is not, we're a general law city.
- I've pulled it out of the report. But then after further discussion with one of our constituents who I believe is present, I haven't looked recently. But I think that we should bring it back because ranked choice voting would definitely add diversity to City Council.
- I think it should be brought back as a separate agenda item, to study if the diversity benefits of ranked choice voting will warrant Sebastopol changing to a charter city, which can be done.
- We can't really discuss it at this point.
- I just wanted to open it up, I think there will be some ranked choice voting discussion.

Mayor Slayter opened for questions.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I have two questions.
- One, the office of the mayor.
- Are you suggesting that the mayor would hold office hours or that there would be an official office that they would staff a certain amount of time?
- What did you mean by that statement?
- I was kind of unclear on that.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- That's still kind of open.
- I don't know if it would be a physical office.
- That's a very good question.
- I guess that could be open for discussion and if there's will to do that and to more research on it.
- I think it would be nice if the mayor had an office somewhere, at the firehouse, City Hall, we could find somewhere to stick him. And you could have some place to meet him.
- Whether they have office hours would be up to the person in the role.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I have a question on page 4 of 5.
- That is initiative 4, item "b." I wanted to point out that every City Councilmember has the right to receive health benefits, and that is in compensation.
- I mention that because I'm the only Councilmember that doesn't take the health benefits.
- I have heard that sometimes teachers and people that don't need the health benefits do receive that same value as compensation.
- If that was an idea, it might encourage other people that were employed, for example, that got their health benefits somewhere else. Because that would add to the compensation.
- I just wanted to add that, that health benefits are provided, and that is a value. The City pays for it.
- I don't know what to the tune, but that depends on how old you are and all that criteria.
- Also discussed feeling awkward discussing these items tonight

Mayor Slayter opened for public comment.

Diana commented as follows:

- Not all of us have the City Council seat to use as a platform for our election efforts.
- We're out there trying to get our message to the community in any way that we can.
- As I look at the five candidates, and let's face it, there are two seats open, and there are five candidates, and there are also a couple of additional candidates who pulled papers and did not participate.
- It wasn't because of any of the factors that are outlined here in the proposals.
- We don't have a problem of a chilling effect on participation in this community.
- We have five people who have stepped up.
- One of them happens to be retired, but many are handling many other activities in their lives.
- I'm not the only one at the corners with people who are there representing me, even if I'm not the only one who can be there.
- We all participate and get our message across in any way that we can.
- As a candidate, one of the biggest issues is communicate. Get me information, share with me, engage me. That's what they want.
- All of these provisions, they're about limiting engagement, limiting communication, and so I don't approve of those and I don't buy into it.
- The only one that strikes me as possibly worthwhile in terms of diversity and inclusiveness is the one that suggests increased pay would be an opportunity for people to be more engaged.

- That one I would suggest that the City Council look at closely, perhaps with Councilmember Hinton's modification.
- In terms of the mayor, for a five-member City Council to be productive, the individual who is the mayor should hopefully have at least the support of three of those five.
- In addition, I think you're looking at possibly putting a lot of power in one person's hands, and that really doesn't address the problem that was suggested as needing to be addressed.
- In terms of making an exception for out of Sebastopol city area people in any provision relating to elections, completely opposed.
- We have a larger community than our city limits. They can't vote, but they can engage in other ways.
- As was just discussed, our community is broader than just the city limits.
- In terms of these provisions, certainly look at all of them as a City Council, but I think this is a solution without a problem

Kyle commented as follows:

- I'll just tackle a few of these.
- If a Councilmember isn't able to achieve the change they wish to see within two terms, they may need to reconsider their goals.
- The relationships in that role provides an unfair advantage in gaining re-election.
- Campaign finance rules, I encourage them to review that approach to campaign finance.
- A successful campaign can be had under \$1,000.
- Any campaign that is in the tens of thousands of dollars is reeking of special interests and should be frowned upon.
- I'm prohibited by my employer from referencing my employment in political speech.
- I know this opinion is shared by others.

Omar commented as follows:

- I 100% agree with the goal of increasing diversity and inclusivity and diversity
- I don't see how this proposal does that.
- People that are active in the black lives matter movement, this really seems to me like posturing right before an election.
- Why were these proposals not brought forth much before, not right before the election?
- I do like the idea of term limits because I don't believe in career politicians.
- Let's be real, term limits also limit any incentive for gaining expertise.
- Some Councilmembers have gained deep expertise, and we don't want to just throw that out.
- Because every eight years, we shouldn't have to start all over again.
- We have decades of experience that should not be lightly thrown out.
- I don't see a problem with having expert policymakers on City Council.
- Also, prohibiting endorsement by Councilmembers, I totally get the whole high school issue.
- I didn't like high school for that reason. Because of endorsements. But really, this is politics.
- If you're going to get into politics, you need to be a little bit of a politician.
- You got to get people to endorse you, to agree with you, and to find common ground when you are not going to agree on everything.
- Trying to ban endorsements is really limiting political speech, setting the city up for all sorts of first amendment-based litigations and problems.
- I don't think that's the way to go.

- With regard to ranked choice voting, great idea, Councilmember Carnacchi.
- I think it should be discussed in the future as part of electoral reform.
- I just think these issues should have been brought up in a more sustained, long term effort, and not right before the election for them to really be taken with the seriousness that they deserve.
- I think that all of these issues should be deferred to the next City Council meeting so that whoever gets elected will be able to vote on this, and these decisions can be made by the City Councilmembers that the voters choose.
- Let the voters decide and defer action until the next City Council meeting.

David commented as follows:

- I live in Sebastopol here.
- I want to thank all of you for your service on the City Council.
- I very much appreciate some of the concerns and motivations behind them.
- It's important to look at some of the symptoms and what might be considered, what I consider kind of putting a band-aid on symptoms as opposed to dealing with underlying causes.
- The one thing that I would really encourage the City Council to consider moving forward is the adoption of ranked choice voting.
- Particularly multiwinner ranked choice voting that ensures proportional representation.
- The current voting we have clashes with the Sebastopol values of being inclusive.
- In past, that has been based on race, but there are other ways in which it applies today.
- It tends to be encouraging factionalism.
- If we want to really live up to calling ourselves a progressive city, we need to move away from the election methods that we're using now and ranked choice voting would by far be a great step forward in achieving that.
- I think if we did that, we would find some beneficial impact on the issues being raised and be able to address those in ways that are maybe not quite so heavy-handed.
- I will say that the last two on the published list tonight are things that I would recommend that you not pursue.
- I appreciate that Councilmember Carnacchi has certain ways about how he thinks campaigning ought to be done, but I think we should leave it to the candidates and the voters and empower voters to make choices and assessments to how campaigns can be.

Council Deliberations:

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- For clarity, there's no action tonight.
- The only action requested was whether there was a thumbs-up or thumbs-down, it would be certainly after the election.
- So that there could be more robust discourse on each of the initiatives and staff would have time to look at it and bring it back with a lot more information.
- There's no election posturing here for sure.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Honored Councilmember Carnacchi's request
- In the interest of full transparency, the agenda review committee received the request for this item, and it was clearly laid out that this needed to be discussed prior to the election.
- So that was the request.

- We honored that request, and that's why this agenda item is on this meeting.
- Respectfully, that was because I'm not sure if I'm going to be here after the election.
- That's why I wanted to get it on the agenda.
- I'm just trying to be transparent.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- There is a November meeting after election day.
- That date would have met Michael's requirement.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- It's still not election posturing.
- I don't know what I would benefit or lose from this.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- I've got a question for the city attorney on a couple of them.
- Just so that I'm perfectly clear.
- Initiative number six, the in-person campaigning, is that something that would be possible to enact?

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- The first amendment would be an issue with this particular request, the Constitutional issues have been raised by a number of these requests.
- But I didn't, at this point, raise those as the discussion was going forth.
- They'll all have to have a legal review, as well as a staff review.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- What this was, was the request whether or not the Council was, because the amount of research that is going to be required by a couple of these is fairly significant.
- It's been the Council's policy that items that require an unofficial but a cursory amount of staff time, items do go out if there's support for staff devoting what could be a significant amount of time towards the research and the promulgation of a thorough staff report.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- There was a couple of people on here that are ethnically diverse people, who are not poverty stricken here.
- I want to see people who have, who are ethnically diverse, but people in lower income communities may find it hard to participate.
- I do agree, it is hard to participate in the process when you're not a retired person.
- I can say that for myself because I find it really hard to participate as an elected, when I work an awful lot, and I know there are other people on the Council that feel that way, too.
- We really need to think about how do we achieve more ethnic diversity on our Council, and more economic diversity and one way is to really try and do more outreach to communities that aren't just ourselves.
- I agree with the fact that we should be paying people more, because then it would be more viable for people to run.
- However, this is a really bad time to talk about that.

- Looking at an economic meltdown and a global depression, this is not the time to be talking about that.
- The public is going to be so excited about paying us more and they can't pay their rent.
- The other thing is, the part stating the implication here is that some of us are like a club.
- I just wanted to say I don't harbor any dislike of anybody.
- I may disagree with some of you, and that informs kind of who I endorse or whatever. But that doesn't mean I don't respect you or I don't like you.
- That's the thing to remember about politics.
- On the national level, there have been some really famous people who are friends.
- Scalia and Ginsburg, they didn't agree on anything. But they weren't running for office.
- But there were other famous people like one of the Kennedys was really good friends with a senator from Utah. They never voted in agreement. But that didn't mean they didn't have a relationship.
- This isn't about high school. It's not about a club. It's not about who is friends with who or who you like to go hang out with and have dinner with.
- It's about policy, and political philosophy and how we can solve problems.
- We don't all agree about that.
- We tend to support each other when we tend to agree on those kinds of things.
- Not because of our personalities or whatever.
- So I just found it interesting lately that all of a sudden, I'm the establishment?
- That's really interesting to me. I'm the establishment?
- So somebody who has been an environmental activist, had people yelling at me from a young age, that was a Vietnam War, anti-war activist, that has done all of this progressive lefty politics my whole life, now I'm the establishment?
- Then I started realizing, the establishment here in Sebastopol is like a green, progressive agenda.
- That's the establishment, I guess.
- But I just found this whole process, this kind of thing rather interesting.
- Some of these ideas, I happen to agree with ranked voting.
- But are we going to do that now?
- Our staff is in total meltdown.
- They have more to do than ever.
- People are working from home.
- This is not the time to do something like this.
- We have to respect their time, and the seriousness of so many issues that we're dealing with right now.
- That's not to say that some of these ideas don't have some merit to them.
- But this is just not very good timing.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- I've worked with Councilmembers who have spent under \$1,000, and over \$30,000.
- That really impacts functioning.
- It also seems to me that the composition of the group matters a lot.
- Any teacher will tell you, some groups gel and work easily, and others fight every day of the school year.
- I'm using an example from my husband because it's not about the Council.
- For me, I feel very uncomfortable about this conversation.

- In fact, I feel it's unethical and we shouldn't have proceeded and we're in an open election right now.
- We've created a public seat for two candidates to campaign on a public microphone.
- I think it's unethical, and I appreciate Councilmember Hinton expressing her awkwardness in that circumstance, feeling compelled to say something.
- I think it should have been agendized earlier, or after this election because to me, that seems like really clear campaigning from a public table with a public mic.
- And I'm very sorry that it was put on the agenda now.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- It has been the policy that when an item is requested, that we have bent over backwards to honor the request of Councilmembers to put things on when they are requested. Because we understand that there's likely a good reason for that.
- This item really caused a lot of discussion and head-scratching.
- Just so it's clear, the mayor, the vice mayor, the city manager, and assistant city manager are the agenda review committee.
- Those meetings occur following Council meetings, and then we try to get the agenda set as early as possible for the following meeting so that staff has time to work up all the support information and all the other staff report components.
- This item was difficult for us to determine what to do with it because of that awkwardness, because of that feeling that, is this ethical? And there were thoughts that this really needs to wait. and thoughts that, well, it was requested. That's our policy.
- We need to hold fast to our ideals and principles of honoring Councilmembers' requests for agenda items.
- My suggestion is that this gets tabled and gets brought up well clear of an election.
- And that we give it the time and effort that it may require.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- Well, clearly there's no consensus to move this -We can just pull it and be done with it.
- But for Councilmember Gurney to say that I'm unethical is a bit of an overreach. Because that has nothing to do with it. We've got 25 participants and everybody I know has already voted.
- I mean, what do I intend to gain from this?
- Councilmember Gurney, you are to Sebastopol what Mitch McConnell is to Kentucky, sort of.
- That's how I feel sometimes when you shake your head at me, saying I'm unethical.
- Anyway, you're part of the reason why I brought this, actually, because you need to go.
- You need to get off the Council.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- It's awkward, as I said.
- And Councilmember Carnacchi has been talking about these items as long as I've known him.
- We've argued about it. So the timing is very bad. And it's really awkward.
- I know you believe these items.
- I know you didn't bring them forth now because of some trying to take advantage.
- I have to publicly say that you've been talking to some of these items for at least two years to me.
- I want to throw that out to you, too.
- I don't know when you submitted it to agenda review. I'm not on that committee.

- But I want to say that publicly.
- So I think they are items that we should take up or whoever should take up in the future, some of these items.
- I do appreciate that coming forth.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- I just am amused that Vice Mayor Glass has been called the establishment, and I've been called to resemble somebody.
- In my history on the Council, I've never been received emails with demeaning words in them or been spoken to with foul language or called names as has happened tonight.
- In fact, I reviewed by point of view with the city attorney, when I saw this was on the agenda.
- So that's my perception. It's mine, I own it.
- Every one of you has kind of touched on it in some way.
- I'm entitled to my point of view.
- I would prefer that we hold our office with some dignity without inappropriate name-calling.
- We sign a code of conduct each year.
- We need to follow it.

There was no further discussion on this item.

City Council Action: No Action Taken.

Minute Order Number:2020-227

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS:

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

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- The park permit was approved by Caltrans in record speed.
- And the budgeting has been approved, and I happen to know the public works superintendent has it ready to go, soon to be made to facilitate that.
- He's ready to go with the purchase orders for the infrastructure we need to put the parklets into effect.
- The only surprising thing about it was that the permit only lasts until the end of February, but it appears we can renew it if needed.
- The other thing, a couple of items I want to mention, the program, the loan program has closed.
- we will send out a list of the recipients as has been requested, but we're still reviewing the applications as of today.
- We've discussed in the past Halloween, and we have since the last Council meeting, or I believe since the last Council meeting, not last week, but the earlier ones, the public health officer has issued an order and recommendations regarding Halloween.
- And the restrictions on large gatherings.
- We have discussed this as a staff.
- Everybody on Florence avenue is aware that we're not closing the street for Halloween as we have the last couple of years.
- And we're going to put out on signage to remind people about the restrictions on gatherings and hope it doesn't get out of hand by some means.
- Those are just some of the items I thought the Council might be interested in, that relate in some way to COVID-19.

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

Councilmember Gurney reported as follows:

- On October 7th, I attended the library advisory board meeting.
- We have the friends of the library, as well as the library commissioner, and someone from the regional office, I think it was ray.
- The library is interested in investigating solar on the rooftop or in the parking lot.
- They're also interested in enhancing the outdoor areas, the fountain area, and I also suggested the parking lot in order to have outdoor seating, socially distanced for the Wi-Fi hot spot connection, because there are a lot of people using the library.
- We had a report from the director's office, that our digital checkouts are extraordinarily high.
- The library has been very popular, and the physical checkout is high, and the renewal rate.
- But the digital ones have really gone off the charts.
- Two youth representatives indicated that their cohorts are very stressed by trying to do school at home.
- And have some separation and also maintain focus on all that they have to accomplish in their lives.
- Matthew, our librarian, our manager, said that staff is working very diligently in a difficult time, and they appreciate very much the public support because they feel a little dispirited.
- They have so much to figure out, and it's all brand new.
- The public notices them to be very harmonious.
- Which is an interesting dichotomy of feelings.
- The friends of the library are waiting for the library to reopen for book sales but it's uncertain when the library will reopen.
- On October 8th, I attended a meeting by lantern, with reports from the offices about the library headquarters, the library foundation, and the city.
- And a discussion that went out to all the library associated groups like lantern was perceived to be problematic, because it seemed like it was coming from an overlord, trying to homogenize all of the library support groups.
- Lantern has sent in a letter to the library director, and they're continuing to look for funding and for more board members.
- I also attended the RCPA meeting on October 12th.
- The budget for those organizations were adopted, and they were heard in March and adopted in October.
- There were two main discussions, one was about an electric bike pilot program.
- This is what I mentioned earlier.
- It will run along the smart corridor only from Santa Rosa to Larkspur as a pilot for three years to see if people will use electric bikes to do that last mile of travel.
- It's called the last mile, so that you can get to the station without your car and then on the train.
- And obviously, as I mentioned, Logan Harvey and the mayor and I spoke up saying we would like for the pilot programs for electric bike share program, for instance, I think Sebastopol is a great

example being a hilly community, people cannot easily ride bikes here, but an electric bike will level the hills and allow people to get around, as I suggested for all in town trips.

- Wherever we live in town, the trip is maybe a mile, stretch, maybe two miles, it would save a lot on greenhouse gas emissions.
- We see programs like that that are election dependent, it's a proposition on the ballot.
- Of importance to the community is the report from ABAG housing numbers, they are proposed to go up.
- The current number 120 units to 420.
- Units in the new arena documents at the regional housing needs assessment through ABAG, the group now discussed how the numbers were arranged and arrived at in their significant problem with the data that is being used.
- It is coming from a program called urban S.T.E.M., I imagine the mayor may know about this.
- So, electronically, they are looking down to the parcel level and the program itself does not distinguish between opportunity sites that could be built on for housing and cemeteries or parks.
- They just see them all, oh, and there's an opportunity.
- Build there.
- So, there's a concern that the data is not accurate and the letter is going in to ABAG to ask for that to be corrected.
- I don't know how we would build 420 additional units.
- I mean, especially given our track record.
- But that is the present proposed number.
- I think we will see an adjustment.
- And it might take a few months to get there.
- That also raises an interesting question about well, if it's 420 now, and it will never happen, but say we, , we build them.
- Then do they come back the next year and say, oh, you did so well and here is 500 units you have the to build.
- It's just, it's kind of a crazy game.
- I think Rohnert Park will be our test case.
- Because they reported they can build all the units they are assigned and more.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I wanted a report, it's related to my appointment by mayor and Councilmembers to the ag and open space committee.
- And we have not had a mayor and Councilmembers forever, since COVID.
- So is, I wanted to say that the Council may be interested that obviously if you have been reading the papers that there's a lot all of a sudden now going on, since Bill King has announced his retirement.
- With placement of interim directors and then moving forward for a nationwide search and possibly a hiring panel.
- So, if the Council has interest, I do have a monthly meeting every month.
- My next one is coming up this week on the 22nd.
- Last month, all that was discussed was Bill made comments and we were not made aware that there was anything happening at the board of supervisors' level.

- Now, had it will be an agenda item in this week's meeting so, it's a pretty hot topic I think, and if the Council has interest, well, individually, or at committee time, I'm happy to report out on what's happening there.

Mayor Slayter reported as follows:

- Sonoma clean power - first is that the store front on 4th Street is proceeding in construction and there were some issues with old construction that was covered up that was uncovered that needed to be fixed.
- Electrical panel, substandard, once they realized what it was and the city said no, you cannot go forward until you replace it.
- So, the store front is going -- it's under construction, it's going to be open and they are busy figuring out what that looks like during COVID and how the benefits to the community can still be had with social distancing and the other requirements that we are all under.
- I will remind everyone that the way it was funded, it was \$9 million that came from the state through an energy grant.
- And Sonoma clean power's portion is, I don't remember if it's 2 or 3 million as a matching figure.
- So, it's largely not even funded by rate payers.
- Which is great.
- It's a great benefit.
- The headquarters building, a renovation is under way.
- And that, that I spent, the completion date has been pushed off, a few months.
- A couple of months.
- Again, due to craziness that is uncovered.
- That is proceeding.
- The kind of the report on the agency we, and I forget if I mentioned this before.
- It's funny, the last time I was chair of the organization was the year that we renewed Geoff Sypher's contract, we signed him up with a new contract.
- This year, as chair, it was the year that we extended his contract.
- We signed hm up for what will be another four years.
- he still had a year heft on his contract.
- So, he is with the agency for five years and that's a huge benefit to us as an agency but also to Sonoma County as a whole and Mendocino County as a whole because of the knowledge He brings and the connections He brings, the ability to just cut right through and get to the heart of matters and such a personable and pleasant way.
- He is really, really an asset and he has been recruited by other agencies and has said no, I'm happy where I am.
- So, we are really fortunate with that.
- The other sort of, , the hot button issue of the PSPS events, that is not Sonoma clean power, that is PG&E, but we are in the loop when those things happen, and so far, the red flag that we are under right now we are -- we should be in good shape here in Sebastopol.
- The energy sales, commercial sales have dropped while residential sales have slightly up ticked, it's roughly 1-to-1 dollar wise or energy unit wise due to the stay at home order.
- Which is now slowly changing back to some people going to work, some people not still at work at their office, so their energy use is up.

- The issue that we had of the flex alerts and then the rolling blackouts, rolling brownouts last summer due to -- that was largely due to forces well beyond our control, it was -- it was not due to a lack of renewable energy being available.
- It was largely due to a lack of nonrenewable energy being available.
- So, those issues are being looked at the system operator, which is the independent organization that operates the electric grid.
- And they do all the scheduling and all that stuff.
- So, there's been a lot of really technical kind of stuff going before the board and other than those kind of higher-level items I'm happy to answer any questions beyond that, but that's kind of the high-level information.

15. Council Communications Received: None

16. Future City Meeting Dates/Events (Informational Only): (See City Web site for Up to Date Meeting Dates/Times)

ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING:

Mayor Slayter adjourned the meeting at 9:54 pm.

Meeting was adjourned to the Next Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 6:00 pm. (VIRTUAL ZOOM PLATFORM)

The regular City Council Meeting of November 3, 2020 has been cancelled.

Respectfully Submitted:



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