

Minutes of May 19, 2020

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**MINUTES FOR Meeting of May 19, 2020**

As Approved by the City Council at their regular meeting of June 2, 2020.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Minutes of May 19, 2020

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.

**For Items Not on the Agenda:** Please submit your comments via email for this meeting to [mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org](mailto:mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org) so that the comments may be submitted to the Mayor for reading into the record. Comments should be received by 5:00 pm of Council Meeting Date. All comments should be a maximum of 350 words, which corresponds to approximately 3 minutes of speaking time.

**For Items Listed on the Agenda:** Members of the public may provide public comment for specific agenda items by sending comments to the City by email at [mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org](mailto:mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org). **Such email comments must identify the Agenda Item Number in the subject line of the email.** Comments should be received by 5:00 pm of Council Meeting Date. All comments should be a maximum of 350 words, which corresponds to approximately 3 minutes of speaking time.

Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 Issued by Governor Gavin Newsom on March 17, 2020 and, to the extent applicable, Government Code Section 54953(b), the March 24, 2020 City Council Meeting may include teleconference participation by the City Council Members and City staff. Consistent with Executive Order N-29-20, teleconference locations utilized by City Council Members shall not be accessible to the public and are not subject to special posting requirements.

- No physical location of the meeting will be open to the public; meeting will only be held by teleconference
- Consistent with Executive Orders No.-25-20 and No. N-29-20 from the Executive Department of the State of California and the Sonoma County Health Official's March 17, 2020 Shelter in Place Order, the City Council will not be physically open to the public and City Councilmembers will be teleconferencing into the meeting via Zoom Teleconference and/or Video Communications.

Please visit the City of Sebastopol website at [www.CityOfSebastopol.org](http://www.CityOfSebastopol.org) for the most up-to-date local information on the coronavirus crisis. There are two pages dedicated entirely to the crisis (type "coronavirus" or "shelter in place" in the search bar) where you will find specific resources and answers to many questions that you may have.

The City of Sebastopol is also on Facebook, Twitter, and NextDoor.

**The City of Sebastopol thanks you in advance for taking all precautions to prevent spreading the COVID 19 virus.**

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.

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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Minutes of May 19, 2020

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.

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

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

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

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Slayter called the regular meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**Absent:** None

**Staff:** City Manager/City Attorney Larry McLaughlin  
Assistant City Manager/City Clerk Mary Gourley  
Administrative Services Director Ana Kwong  
Bill Braga, Fire Chief  
Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director  
Greg DeVore, Acting Police Chief  
Dante Del Prete, Public Works Superintendent

Mayor Slayter read a prepared statement regarding the process of the city council meeting. “This is a meeting that is 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.”

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

**PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS:**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT** (At this time, members of the public may comment on any item not appearing on the agenda. It is recommended that you keep your comments to three minutes or less. Under State Law, unless otherwise permitted under the Ralph M. Brown Act, the merits of the matters presented under this item

Minutes of May 19, 2020

cannot be discussed or acted upon by the City Council at this time. For items appearing on the agenda, the public will be invited to make comments at the time the item comes up for Council consideration.)

Public Comments Received by Email Prior to the Meeting:

Eris Weaver:

“One of the unexpected benefits of the Shelter in Place order has been a resurgence in cycling – folks who haven’t ridden in years are pulling rusty bikes out of the garage and riding with their families. Local bike shops report a significant surge in repairs and sales. (“I even stopped advertising because I have all the work I can do!” said one owner downtown.) VMTs and greenhouse gas emissions are down. Now, happily, our parks and bike paths have reopened, and we have a marked reduction in vehicle traffic. We have an opportunity to keep this momentum going and support people in their new transportation habits. Cities around the world are closing streets to through traffic to create more space for people to exercise while maintaining social distance. It can be done quickly and cheaply: Oakland recently closed 74 miles of streets using nothing more than cones and signage. Streets closed to through traffic are not closed to emergency vehicles or drivers that must use the street to access a final destination, such as local residents. Drivers using the streets will be reminded by signage to drive slowly and expect to share the roadway with people on foot and bike. We now don’t have to look very far for examples of Slow Streets projects – last week, the city of Petaluma launched such a project in two locations, one on the west side and one on the east side. The fact that this project has come, as far as I can tell, from within the city rather than proposed by activists makes it all the more impressive. I encourage you to follow Petaluma’s lead, and consider what streets in Sebastopol might lend themselves to such a program. I imagine that Petaluma’s Public Works staff would be willing to share what they’re learning from their rollout. If there is any way that the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition can be of assistance in developing and promoting such a program, we would be most happy to do so.

Thank you, and Happy Bike Month!”

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

***Urgency Item:***

Mayor Slayter discussed the request to add an urgency item for staff to issue temporary use permits for outside dining during COVID 19 pandemic.

Mayor Slayter moved to add the urgency item to tonight’s agenda and Vice Mayor Glass seconded the motion.

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 addition of the urgency item.**

**Minute Order Number: 2020-102**

Minutes of May 19, 2020

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

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

Mayor Slayter read the consent calendar.

Mayor Slayter questioned if any Councilmember(s) wanted to remove any item(s) from the consent calendar. Councilmember Carnacchi requested Item Number 6 be removed from the consent calendar.

Mayor Slayter asked for Public Comments: There were no public comments for the consent calendar.

Public Comment(s): None

Vice Mayor Glass moved and Councilmember Hinton seconded the motion to approve Consent Calendar Item(s) Number(s) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and the added consent calendar item per the amended agenda.

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

VOTE:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

1. Approval of Minutes of the City Council Meeting of May 5, 2020 (Responsible Department: City Administration)

**City Council Action: Approved Minutes of the City Council Meeting of May 5, 2020**

**Minute Order Number: 2020-103**

2. Approval of Resolution Authorizing Approval of Council Policy for Receipt of Electronic Submission of Specified City Documents in Response to COVID 19 Shelter in Place Orders and Implementation of Electronic and Digital Signatures for Specified City Documents (Responsible Department: City Administration)

Minutes of May 19, 2020

**City Council Action: Approved Resolution Authorizing Approval of Council Policy for Receipt of Electronic Submission of Specified City Documents in Response to COVID 19 Shelter in Place Orders and Implementation of Electronic and Digital Signatures for Specified City Documents**

**Minute Order Number: 2020-104**

**Resolution Number: 6293-2020**

3. Approval of Notice of Receipt of Upcoming Opening For the City of Sebastopol Citizen Liaison to the SCTA/RCPA Climate Action Advisory Committee to Provide Expert Citizen Input on Implementation of the Climate Action Initiatives - Bill Mattison – Term Expires: June 30, 2020 (Responsible Department: City Administration)

**City Council Action: Approved Notice of Receipt of Upcoming Opening for the City of Sebastopol Citizen Liaison to the SCTA/RCPA Climate Action Advisory Committee to Provide Expert Citizen Input on Implementation of the Climate Action Initiatives - Bill Mattison – Term Expires: June 30, 2020**

**Minute Order Number: 2020-105**

4. Approval of Notice of Receipt of Upcoming Opening for the City of Sebastopol Public Arts Committee (Responsible Department: City Administration)

**City Council Action: Approved Notice of Receipt of Upcoming Opening for the City of Sebastopol Public Arts Committee**

**Minute Order Number: 2020-106**

5. Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the City to Apply for a State Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) Grant (Responsible Department: Planning)

**City Council Action: Approved Resolution Authorizing the City to Apply for a State Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) Grant**

**Minute Order Number: 2020-107**

**Resolution Number: 6294-2020**

- ~~6. Approval of Budget Items to be Retained for FY 19-20 Budget (Banners for 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage) (Requestor: Councilmember Carnacchi/Responsible Department: Administrative Services)~~

**Agenda Item Addition:** Support Local Recovery Coalition. That the City Council Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Letter Joining the City of Sebastopol to the Coalition to Support Local Recovery (Requestor: Mayor Slayter)

**City Council Action: Approved Authorizing the Mayor to Sign the Letter Joining the City of Sebastopol to the Coalition to Support Local Recovery**

**Minute Order Number: 2020-109**

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/PRESENTATION:** (Please Note: Although informational/presentations items are routinely informational in nature, some informational items may contain request for actions such as support, direction to staff, follow up, based on the presentation/information provided.) **NONE**

**PUBLIC HEARING(S):** **NONE**

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

7. Discussion, Consideration and Direction to Staff on Temporary Use Permits – Retail Fireworks Stands (Responsible Department: Fire)

Minutes of May 19, 2020

Fire Chief Bill Braga introduced the agenda item recommending the City Council consider, discuss and provide direction to staff on Temporary Use Permits – Retail Fireworks Stands.

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- Discussed the receipt of emails on this subject
- Discussed what other cities are doing for fireworks events

Mayor Slayter asked for questions.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- Discussed fires
- Stated this report did not speak to that
- Asked the Fire Chief to respond to comments about the fire season
- Questioned if it is accurate that the City has not responded to fires due to fireworks

Chief Braga commented as follows:

- Stated that is correct
- City has responded over the years to trash can fires
- Cleaning up after use of safe and sane fire works
- Not put in bucket of water – best way to fully extinguish a used firework
- Have responded to garbage can or dumpster fires
- Cannot say it was safe and sane that started fires
- Deal with illegal fireworks
- Deal with illegal aerial devices
- Wreaked havoc on every community

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Read the comments that the Health Department and Dr Mase pronouncements would likely be that fireworks would pass muster if they were able to enforce the County Health Orders
- Questioned how the non-profits enforces the County Health Order

Chief Braga commented as follows:

- Already have document prepared that will be posted at each of the three booths
- Volunteers that work the booths will be reviewing and signing each of the protocols coming from the County
- Required that the volunteers for non-profits have to enforce the social distancing
- Approved by County Counsel
- Approved by County legal department
- Legal department forwarded distancing health order protocol that fire booths will need to adhere to

Vice Mayor Glass questioned if they would be enforcing the rules of sale and not use.

*Minutes of May 19, 2020*

Chief Braga commented as follows:

- Stated that is correct
- Never been a factor in the past
- Have been provided a safety sheet
- Provide safety sheet

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- Discussed being told of litter in the City following the third of July event
- Discussed litter after Fourth of July activities
- Concern of this litter as we sell those fireworks
- Questioned if Public Works does a lot of the clean up

Public Works Superintendent Del Prete commented as follows:

- Stated there is quite a bit of clean-up of left-over fire work debris
- A lot stocked in and around garbage cans

Mayor Slayter opened for public comment.

John Eder commented as follows:

- This is starting fires in middle of global warming
- Ban for this year
- Seriously, for years, the City of Sebastopol has kicked the can down the road on this issue based on a wave of emotions, like, "What are the poor kids going to do if they don't get money?"
- So, what do we do - We give them things that could start fires in the middle of global warming.
- I sent a picture of a sign in front of the fire station that said, "One more spark equals one more wildfire."
- And what do we sell, sparklers
- It's like having cigarettes out in front of a group of people trying to stop smoking
- I really want the city to put in place a ban this year at least, and then think about taking that further forward into the future as a permanent ban
- We're one of the only cities left that allows it
- Using the smoking analogy again, we're like the last smokers in the office, standing out in the cold rain, getting our fix
- There's got to be other ways
- Have we reached out to other cities where they don't sell fireworks, to the civic groups there, and say how do you guys get your money, how do you survive without selling fireworks
- Adopt a ban on fireworks sales this year
- In the middle of everything else going on, we don't need a fire
- I know the fire chief, with all due respect, has said it's never been a problem, but I think that's probably the last thing a lot of pilots think right before they go into the ground
- Paradise didn't have a problem with that before - Middletown maybe didn't have that before
- Do we want to add Sebastopol to the list of cities in California that have burned
- No group in this town has enough money to pay for even one or two houses burned down



*Minutes of May 19, 2020*

- Urged a ban on fireworks
- Provided an email to the City Council as well on this item:

Marsha Sue Lustig commented as follows:

- I noticed that public health was commenting on the relation of fire sales to COVID but not about public health and fire safety
- I just want to point out that there's just no way we can say it's safe
- There's a reason all the other cities except one have banned it
- Do we want to be the place that is unsafe – that has the potential for fire
- It's time to move on
- We deal with this yearly, especially with the fire season
- Discussed evacuations due to fires

Dennis Revell commented as follows:

- As the fire chief has correctly advised you, the county health officer has reviewed all of our distancing protocols, and we have, in fact, improved and enhanced them subject to the county's request
- And, in addition to that, at the stands, we will be distributing information to make sure that at the use point of the fireworks that residents in Sebastopol will be adhering to the distancing protocols required as well

Samuel commented as follows:

- Read the comments in the chat feature of zoom
- Reason will prevail
- Is there any concern with fireworks being a problem with social distancing come July in large crowds for the holiday

A member of the public commented that banning fireworks was a good idea and supportive of a ban.

Lehla Irwin, Sebastopol Sea Serpents, commented as follows:

Read a prepared statement

My name is Lehla Irwin, and I have been coaching Sebastopol Sea Serpents since March 2002. I am speaking to ask for your approval of Temporary Use Permits for Retail Fireworks Stands. I am speaking to ask for your approval of Temporary Use Permits for Retail Fireworks Stands.

Historically, when the pool was threatened with closures in the early 1990's, Sebastopol Sea Serpents merged their non-profit organization with another non-profit created by Sebastopol Sea Serpents: W.S.C.S. (Western Sonoma County Swimmers), an umbrella organization, to keep the pool open. In 2003, the team split from WSCS, as it became strong enough to operate independently as a nonprofit community organization.

As a non-profit charitable organization under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, the Sebastopol Sea Serpents swim team relies on many fundraisers throughout the year, as well as monthly dues to supplement our program costs.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will need to cancel many of these fundraisers, including a scheduled spring swim meet hosting over 200 athletes requiring the help of over 100

*Minutes of May 19, 2020*

volunteers per day, a demanding project that raises less than one-fifth the amount of our fireworks fundraiser.

In Stage 2 of California's Resilience Roadmap, permits nonessential retail and temporary sales locations like vendor carts, kiosks, vendor tables, tents and other displays that comply with appropriate physical distancing guidelines.

Protocol laid out by our vendor is equal to and sometimes greater than those imposed on the retailers currently open and operating in Sonoma County.

We believe families will be able to purchase state-approved fireworks as safely as groceries with measures to protect volunteers, prevent crowds, keep customers at least six feet apart, prevent unnecessary contact, and increase contactless sales and sanitation.

While large gatherings are not permitted, such as the Kiwanis show at Analy, we hope families that are sheltering-in-place may enjoy each other and celebrate Independence Day safely while supporting our nonprofit fundraiser.

Please approve Temporary Sales Permits for Retail Fireworks Stands.

- Thank you for your time and service to the community

City staff stated the following persons submitted written comments which were read into the record.

- Dennis Revell has submitted written comments.
- Liz Johnson has submitted written comments.
- Kathy Morris has submitted written comments.
- Jennifer Sedna has submitted written comments.
- Alexa Jane has submitted written comments.
- Lehla Irwin has submitted written comments.
- Chris Kahn has submitted written comments.
- Diane Saia has submitted written comments.
- Michael Stanford has submitted written comments.

A copy of the comments that were read into the record are attached to these minutes for information.

Don Carnado commented as follows:

- Like Lehla said from Sea Serpents, fireworks are over 90 percent of our funding for the year.
- We give back to the City of Sebastopol one hundred percent of everything we make.
- Every penny we derive from the public goes back to the community.
- Our biggest thing that, for me, is that no child in West County goes without eyeglasses
- All the nurses know us
- They visit the children
- Any child they know who can afford and who can't, they send them to our local optometrist he gives them a prescription, he gives them the glasses, he sends us the bill - There's never any questions asked
- We also support the Sebastopol Senior Center, the Sebastopol Community Center. We're members of the Chamber of Commerce.
- We're viable people in the community.
- And without fireworks sales, right now, we would be in trouble.

*Minutes of May 19, 2020*

- We have looked at other alternatives for fundraising.
- Like others have said, during COVID-19, there's not a whole lot of options out there.
- So, especially this year, with people not being with all the major firework shows, hopefully people can congregate by themselves or with their neighbors socially distanced and at least have some kind of celebration for the Fourth of July

Council Deliberations:

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- I have a question for Mr. Revell - what is your procedure and protocol for the State of California to allow the fireworks to be sold during the week prior to January 1st. To my understanding, they're only allowed during the week prior to the Fourth. So, I'm curious if he has any more information about that.

Mr. Revell commented as follows:

- Currently, California state law only allows sales to occur between noon on June 28th and noon on July 6th
- There have been several legislative attempts over the last 20 years to permit sales between Christmas and New Year's, and I suspect there will be more because there is a growing appetite for fireworks at the New Year's Eve period, but currently there is no legal standing to sell the fireworks between Christmas and New Year's.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- We had a member of the public who was a former councilmember talk about kicking the can down the road - I think he was on council six or eight years - So, obviously, it was kicked down the road then - That was prior to my time being on council
- When I saw this agenda item and there's been talk over the last few years, it just seems to me like this is not the year to ban them in Sebastopol
- One of our major fireworks for the city have been canceled and we can't, due to social distancing, attend big events and enjoy that activity in the city
- Two, nonprofits are going to hurt worse this year than ever before, so we're just taking what sounds like an approved way that they can make money in a responsible way away from them, and especially with the swimming pool and learn to swim, which I've been very involved with, it's very difficult for me to think about taking that funding away
- And then third, we received way more comments in favor of this than against this
- This isn't the year to ban fireworks
- I know we enjoyed fireworks with our kids on our front cement driveway, put them out in a bucket of water when my kids were growing up, and I think that that is an activity that would be popular, considering what's happening this year

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

*Minutes of May 19, 2020*

- I think former Councilmember Eder made a good point about kicking it down the road and that was kind of where my question was leading with regard to doing it -- allowing the sales for fireworks at the last week of the year leading up to the first (December/January)
- I would think that if we approve it this year, that we should make an effort to bring this back full blown next time, and maybe prior to that actually submit a letter and follow it through legislative and try to suggest that they amend the law to allow the sales during that January period, and then we don't approve it for July next year but rather the end of the year for the approval of the sales of the fireworks, so then the fire issue is considered and non-profits are happy

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- I'm actually commenting as a Sea Serpent parent, with two swimmers in the family
- I have the t-shirt, the sweatshirt, the visor, all the swag to go with it
- Also, I may be the only adult user of the pool on the council, participating in the water aerobics, which is a really valuable program
- I appreciate all of the nonprofits for their additions and contributions to our community
- I also appreciate the efforts of the chief for the education and the information, and the organizing he's done, and for his concern for our community's fire safety as we look at the fireworks issue
- I think all of these groups have expressed their own compelling reasons for this fundraiser, and it does come with that tug on the heartstrings that former Councilmember Eder mentioned, which is "Oh, these deserving children, oh, these deserving community members."
- That's certainly very true and they are very deserving
- I think this year, however, is very distinct from other years
- For starters, we're layered up with the COVID-19 situation
- And the safety precautions in the booths that have been mentioned and all of that I think could probably operate effectively
- The concern then goes on to the social activities in the neighborhoods or wherever the fireworks would be passed out
- So, for me, another distinction this year is that we have a history, fire, flood, fire, going back in time
- Think maybe now is the opportunity to refer these particular nonprofits to the consultant firm that we just hired, CoMission, Craig Litwin's group, who's charged with interviewing our nonprofits that provide valuable city-like services, to see what they need from the city and how they can work together - That's a 40,000-dollar answer to this question of how they might otherwise raise funds - I think it's very worthy to find what we might learn and our nonprofits might learn from CoMission's consulting services
- I think of a somewhat comparable group, Sebastopol World Friends, that's been in existence now for almost 35 years
- It's a group that provides activity for students of middle school and high school age - It provides an activity for the parent's support group for those students, and they've somehow managed to get by financially without selling fireworks
- So, I think it's our obligation now, in the year 2020, of reimagining, to look to see how the city can help our nonprofits find another way of fundraising that's more acceptable than fireworks, fireworks in a fire season, and fireworks being in our community when we're one of the very last

*Minutes of May 19, 2020*

communities in Sonoma County to allow that, recognizing as well that the problem seems to come from illegal fireworks

- I suggest that we consider moving along with Petaluma and Cloverdale and not continuing with the sale of fireworks in town
- We have an opportunity with the July 3rd event being closed down to just quit kicking the can down the road and take care of it this year, and also support our nonprofits with the CoMission services to find other ways they can continue
- I believe, too, our budget subcommittee will be coming back in August with a potential reopening of the Community Grants Program and that reapplication project possibility where our nonprofits can then address the impact of COVID-19 on their situation and see if there's some way we can help them, particularly if we get some COVID-related reimbursement money from the state or the feds
- So, at this point, I'm more interested in just ending the sale of fireworks, ending the fireworks show, and going forward as one of the cities that doesn't participate in this activity

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I'm in agreement with Councilmember Gurney about the concerns that she expressed
- I am also very concerned about our nonprofits
- I actually feel the issue of this being this problematic year not as a reason to have the fireworks but more of a reason not to have the fireworks, because of the social distancing issues but also we have had so many traumas here, we're likely to start having PSPS events again
- We're being told that the fire season is going to start early this year – with the rain that's been happening now, we're going to have a lot more brush earlier in the year
- This is not a particularly good year for us to be having fires - we may well have evacuations again
- All of this would lead me to believe that we need to be more cautious about having fire
- I am in agreement with Councilmember Carnacchi's notion that we should perhaps promote the idea that we would consider allowing fireworks right for New Years as opposed to in a really dangerous time of the year, which is fire season, and in a time of the year where all of the smoke and all of that stuff actually is more problematic in the atmosphere
- It's not as problematic when it's rainy and cold
- The budget subcommittee and the council as a whole should take a look at what we can do to mitigate this change for the three nonprofits that have relied on fireworks
- I don't think we can make them whole but I think we can certainly do some or consider some contributions that would significantly offset this
- I am very concerned about kids who need subsidies for providing the funds for kids to participate in the Sea Serpents that might need assistance or need a pass
- I am in agreement that this does not seem like a very good year to do it in particular because we are in this real kind of traumatic situation with an upcoming more-dangerous-than-usual fire season
- I also think definitely we would want to be having our consulting firm working with these nonprofits to help put together a campaign to help with the community, to give them the support from something -- a campaign or a fund drive specifically to offset their loss in this situation

*Minutes of May 19, 2020*

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- This is something that has come up year after year
- Discussed droughts and fires
- Following the 2017 fires, the number of emails that the council received were many - so many residents wrote to us and said what are you thinking, are you out of your minds, look what just happened last October
- You know, same thing, firestorms in 2018 in Paradise, firestorms in Sonoma County in 2019
- The difficulty, of course, is what do we do about the nonprofits
- So what we need to do is to figure out a way that they can be supported, make their much-needed revenue, and support the community activities that they do in a way that does not endanger our community, which is what I think fireworks, honestly, what they do
- And I will disclose, it's not a secret, I am a member of the VFW Post 3919, and I've been assured by the city attorney that I do not have a conflict on this because I am keeping an open mind, and I have kept an open mind every year this comes before us
- We received a lot of emails, the higher percentage of emails this year from one organization, Sea Serpent parents, and I can understand why they would want to do that
- Received a number of emails, "Why does Sebastopol keep doing this, it doesn't make sense, we're forward-thinkers here."
- And the thing that is absent in the staff report is the incredibly high fire danger that we're going to be facing
- The rain that we just had over this weekend – spoke with CDF and they are very concerned that the rain that we had here is going to make things exponentially worse once all that nice green grass starts to dry out, which has now been super charged due to the recent rains - And that is not something that's discussed in the staff report
- The emotion that comes around with this is -- it's palpable, and it's very difficult to separate the fact from the emotion, but, honestly, if the Fourth of July was, say, the first part of November, the public sentiment, I think, would be overwhelmingly vociferous towards why are we continuing to allow fireworks, because the memory of those October firestorm events are so fresh in everybody's minds then
- Now it's been a little while, I think it's softened a little bit, but, honestly, I'm in agreement with my two colleagues
- I think that if we're going to look at transitioning away from fireworks sales, this is the year to pull off the Band-Aid and to support the nonprofits, to provide them with help towards meeting those financial ends
- The difficulty that I see with the current situation we're in with COVID-19 is not the booths - I firmly believe that the actual sales at the booths can be made safe
- Stores and merchants are doing that all over the state and the country, and figuring out how to provide service in a safe way, protecting the public health
- What we cannot police is the backyard gatherings, out of the public view, on the sidewalk or the street, where there are a dozen or more people
- And I've experienced that with my neighbors on two sides recently, where there have been large family gatherings, and it's not difficult to see that the social distancing is not being adhered to, and it's clear that many of these people are not residents of the homes

*Minutes of May 19, 2020*

- There's a disconnect between what we need to do to protect our public health and what people's actions are
- Afraid that the sale of fireworks will only exacerbate that situation and lead us down a public health rabbit hole that we're trying to not fall into
- So, as much as it hurts to say this for the nonprofits, I get it, it's a financial lifeline, but I think that this is the year that we really need to take a look at transitioning

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- After our last meeting, when we made sure that Craig Litwin and the CoMission staff were involved in the vitality contract work recognized that they were going to reach out to the nonprofits, since then I've put those nonprofit boards directly in touch with Craig Litwin and he has responded to them
- The senior center, the Center for the Arts, the pool, the community center, the Laguna Foundation, LANTERN.
- I did not mention these three groups, the Sea Serpents and our two service organizations, the vets and other
- I think if we're interested in helping the nonprofits, we might, through our city manager, give a specific direction to Herman Hernandez, Jr. , who is the staff member dealing with the nonprofit issue, to reach out to these three groups now and survey them
- How can the city help
- What exactly is it that they need from the city, I mean, other than money
- Everybody needs money - We need money, too - Our revenues are down probably 20 percent or more
- I would like CoMission to have that special instruction from the council if we are going to not go forward with the sales

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- One ne final note from me and my personal point of view on this is that, as an animal advocate and lifetime animal owner, I have had pets over the years that just do not deal well with explosions, and it is not a pretty thing to do -- to see, to deal with
- And as many people as we have who depend on their pets, especially now, we can't forget our four-legged critters and the trauma that is induced
- The number of lost animals after Fourth of July is just off the charts

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- only concern with directing CoMission to reach out to more nonprofits is Main Street is dying, and I'm concerned that that 40,000 that we allocated to CoMission to help with the community vitality outreach, I'm concerned that that will get completely used up just on the nonprofits alone, because with every single email that is sent out between CoMission and the nonprofits, that's costing us \$200 an hour or whatever it is.
- I'm really concerned about that because, Main Street, it's dying
- We need to really think about that

Minutes of May 19, 2020

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- Under city manager reports, I will have a brief report or an update on the activities of CoMission
- I can assure councilmembers they're actively assisting businesses, including those on Main Street, with one group in CoMission - and a second group is doing the same active involvement with the nonprofits - So, both are underway at the same time
- They have demonstrated they are being very responsible as to how many hours get put in - There's no fluff there
- They're going to really be doing as much as they possibly can within that \$40,000 in both areas
- I think the other thing on that item is that the place we are in the budget, they're able to do an outsized amount of work under the current fiscal year because of the late signing of the contract in the fiscal year - And then when it comes time for our new budget to be adopted, or maybe the new budget and then the revision of the new budget, which I think is what we're heading towards, we will be able to take a look at where we are with all the different places where the city needs COVID response assistance
- Will look at the entire city budget rather than a single item that says, "Oh, we need to up this budget for this one line item." - We'll be able to look at it as a citywide thing

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Acknowledge what Councilmember Carnacchi stated about concerns of the downtown
- Believe that is why staff decided on CoMission for this this work, because now we have more than one person
- So, there's a person in CoMission that's dedicated to the nonprofit interface and then there's a separate person that's working on the business interface
- If we had just had an individual, they would have had to be splitting their time between those two different things
- I am also extremely concerned, as is, I think, everybody on the council, about the situation with our for-profit businesses downtown
- I don't want to see the outcome of this pandemic be the emergence of an Amazon universe and Main Street dies

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- Discussed procedures
- is it possible to do a second motion to instruct city staff to draft a letter to our legislators, signed by the Mayor, asking that they seriously consider moving the sales of fireworks and permitting them to be allowed in the last week of the year

Mayor Slayter stated they could be addressed in one action.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- Should allow fireworks this year with the caveat that we reach out to our legislative authorities and ask that they change it, the powers that be, in Sacramento, to allow California to sell fireworks at the end of the year



Minutes of May 19, 2020

City Manager McLaughlin suggested separating the two items as separate motions.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I think we're all in favor of fireworks at December/January, but questioned if that is a legislative change
- That's nothing that the city could allow without legislators passing it, which our representative from TNT said they've been trying to do for 20 years
- As I understand that, we can't, as a city, allow fireworks between Christmas and New Year's.

City Manager McLaughlin stated that is correct. It would be a legislative action at the State level.

Councilmember Carnacchi questioned if Mr. Revell has any knowledge of any current State actions on this item this year and who the contacts at State would be to send this letter to.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- The thing with this, in this weird year, is that the state legislature is going to be looking at nothing but COVID-19-related things, and I believe that this, while connected, would not qualify under what the governor is actually going to allow to be talked about in the legislature

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- I think our city manager/city attorney advised us we need two separate motions in this situation
- I would suggest that maybe the topic would be a fun one for mayors and councilmembers to go over, put all of the cities together and see what we think about fireworks sale over the holiday season around New Year's
- And if we're going to be contacting our legislators, all cities signing a letter would be a more powerful statement

Councilmember Gurney moved and Vice Mayor Glass seconded the motion to deny the request for use permits.

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

VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmember Gurney, Vice Mayor Glass and Mayor Slayter

Noes: Councilmembers Carnacchi and Hinton

Absent: None

Abstain: None

**City Council Action: Denied the request for temporary use permits – firework stands.**

**Minute Order Number: 2020-110**

Councilmember Carnacchi moved to show support in favor of changing the time of year that fireworks are allowed in the City from July to January and allow Mayors to figure out how to best approach this and if that is not possible bring back with letter as agenda item and go it alone. Advice that Mayors or cities send letter to legislative delegation (Senator McGuire and Assembly member Levine)

Minutes of May 19, 2020

There was no second. The motion fails

Mayor Slayter stated he would bring this item forward to the Friday's Mayor Meeting.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- If we want to talk about having fireworks available in our community in the week around New Year's through new legislation, I think we should actually vet that idea by our community by having an agenda item and see if anybody wants to talk about it
- I think that's actually the proper procedure, rather than just saying, well, we're all in favor of it
- Let's tell our legislators do something - Change the law.
- Because there's a lot of conversation about fireworks that is not only about fire danger
- The Mayor referenced concern about pets and animals.
- There are people where the noise disturbs them.
- There are people sensitive to PTSD.
- There are concerns about wildlife.
- It's a bigger issue than this conversation has involved, and I think it's our obligation to let our community know to speak up on the issue
- Do you want New Year's Eve fireworks
- Do you want sales on the week before New Year's
- Do you want us to tell our legislators to change the law and allow that
- I think it should be an agenda item
- Let the public speak on that particular topic

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Any Councilmember can agenda an item, so rather than ask staff to come back with it, any councilmember who is interested is welcome to write it up and put it in

8. Receipt of Annual Level of Service Report (Responsible Department: Planning)

Planning Director Kari Svanstrom introduced the agenda item recommending the City Council receive the annual level of service report.

Mayor Slayter asked for questions.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- I thought that figure of 150 units available this year was pretty significant, and I'm wondering what the City is doing to attract the kind of housing that our Housing Subcommittee would report to the Council we need, which I'm thinking is more micro units rather than McMansions, or housing with a communal setting, whether that's by design of the housing or design of the land use so that there's shared open space
- Discussed the above moderate units that RENA said we're 42 units behind, as well as other counts
- I'm just wondering what the city does to market our need for housing, particularly housing types

Minutes of May 19, 2020

Director Svanstrom commented as follows:

- I know the Mayor has certainly done opportunity sites from our housing element sites as part of the Sebastopol walk the past couple of years
- In terms of the Planning Department, we do frequently discuss with realtors and, people generally have been coming into us, and there have been, now that the zoning ordinance was adopted and people know what's in it, which does allow for the smaller units and certain advantages to that
- We have been having a number of discussions outside of the preliminary review that have been public hearings, public meetings with people who are looking at smaller subdivisions
- We have had a couple of preapplications conferences, which is a staff-level meeting with potential applicants on five to six slot subdivisions
- And there have been quite a few people who have been interested in doing various developments in town
- Certainly, in this last year, we have gotten our share of housing applications, so we've been working on those
- There's a potential city venture project up at O'Reilly, which would be a hundred units
- They went through preliminary review, and they're doing their due diligence right now
- There's a larger 80-or-so unit on a hundred percent affordable project on Bodega which had a preliminary view
- They are looking to revise their project to address city and DRB comments, and community comments and concerns
- As far as I know, they're moving forward on that project
- And then the Huntley Square, which is ten of the micro units, which the City Council has a development agreement or development review of just appearing previously
- They actually submitted their formal application a couple months ago and just resubmitted for their completeness, so we do have a number of actual projects around the queue, or that are potentially in the queue, pipeline, that aren't showing up on this particular chart
- Last year, we had the Housing Faire, which talked about 80 units and junior second units and home sharing in the community
- We have not had a similar thing, and, in fact, I feel like we should be adding an emergency report, local emergency report to this level service report, because there's been a lot going on in the last year or so

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Discussed the Housing Sub-committee – has not met recently
- And given the state of the state and where so much of our housing grant opportunities exist, and perhaps it is time for us to meet as a group and to get current lay of the land and see if there's anything we can do to advocate towards that
- That's probably a good meeting for us to schedule, and I appreciate that suggestion
- We did approve in our consent calendar the State Local Early Action Planning Grant, so that is \$65,000 to our community
- Discussed work on advanced planning for actions that increase housing

*Minutes of May 19, 2020*

- Housing Subcommittee has taken a look at the list of potential topics or action, money to fund, so that is a positive step towards housing promotion, if not fraction, that's certainly clearing the way

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- Discussed the Sebastopol Walks program
- Discussed the Opportunity knocks
- Discussed public review of particular sites that could house housing was very, very well received, and I think it would be fun if the Housing Club Committee could consider a list of those sites and perhaps develop a marketing plan to bring back to the Council so that we could be a little more assertive and try and get the housing we want instead of being reactive and having applications come in
- Discussed parks - As to our parks, though, we have deteriorating parks - We have parks that aren't being maintained - We have a whole lagoon of preserve with the management plan where we haven't really started phase one, and we were hoping, when you look at that document, we thought we could start small and then move across the lagoon and do a lot of restoration work there
- I'm wondering what the status is of our effort of grant writing, looking for the big help we need for Ives Park, for instance, a project of many millions of dollars
- Our lagoon restoration, another project, probably millions of dollars
- Requested an update on the grant work

Director Svanstrom commented as follows:

- We're working with Sonoma County Ag and open space to implement the AmeriCorps Trail project, which is a grant we did receive
- They do have a one-to-one match, so we do obviously have to have money in our park fund
- or allocated by council for that, which can be a challenge
- Met at the grant workshop that the Ag and Open Space held, and discussed a couple of opportunities for some restoration, the potential for the Ag and Open Space grant funding cycle
- They have extended and delayed their application deadline to the end of June, but that is one of the items in the proposed budget, which, obviously, that is scheduled for later in the year
- Had a conversation with the Coastal Conservancy represents because they do have grants
- So Ag and Open Space is a category worth the construction grant that needs to be not shovel ready, but it needs to be defined enough that you have a budget you can commit to, so for Ives Park, there are a number of items, like for creek restoration, where the actual cost of that really needs to be defined further
- And I've been following up on a couple leads like the Coastal Conservancy, which, unfortunately, does not have any grant funding at this time, but there are some more organizations that have the upfront study costs, potentially, to subsidize that
- We do actually have, in next year's budget, some money proposed for the initial hydrology work and creek layout for where a naturalized creek would go for Ives Park, which is really one of the bigger projects to the restoration of Ives Park, one of the bigger ticket items and understanding where that footprint is, and the cost of that is pretty critical
- We do have Measure M funding coming in from the Parks Grant

*Minutes of May 19, 2020*

- It's about \$80,000 a year, and that is a sales tax that can fluctuate, but this year, I think it's estimated to be coming in somewhere upwards of, I think they said 10 percent over -- of course, that was before COVID-19 hit -- over the projection
- I've asked them for updates on any future projections so that we can factor that in there to our funding as well

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Discussed being a member of the Housing Subcommittee.
- Discussed the number of units that are in the pipeline, and that between the 18 townhomes and the 580-use plus, there is really another 180 units that are in the pipeline right now
- Planning Department is likely having a lot of reviewing between that and some of the updates to hotel plans
- Wondering if the Planning Department is feeling that they have a lot more capacity to review more submissions of plans

Director Svanstrom commented as follows:

- Doing okay with staffing and being able to review applications
- The interesting thing about the larger projects is that they do take longer time in between submission
- Woodmark Apartment on Bodega - They have their review in, November or December.
- There's space in between, but we certainly have on-call consultants if we suddenly get hit with a lot of them.
- There are a lot of state requirements in terms of limited timelines for review of housing projects as well these days, so we've been doing what we can to prepare for any sort of onslaught of that
- So far, it's been spaced pretty well in between other various projects.

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- Staff available tonight to speak on their departments if there are any questions
- City has made an effort to revamp the information that you see in the police section of the level service, so I think it's much improved from prior years

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Discussed the solar installations
- Big number for small City
- Called attention to the environmental issues on Page 20 of 8 - The solar installations produce 57,662 kilowatt hours
- That is a big number for a very small city
- When we start talking about municipal solar, it sort of feels like the staff runs over and puts a burlap bag over my head – but it is something that we can really be proud of
- We're making almost \$5,600 a month worth of electricity, which we're not paying for, and we're doing it in a way that is renewable and sustainable, so that's really something that I'm proud of personally for our city

*Minutes of May 19, 2020*

- I'm very grateful to the forward-thinking/forward-looking folks from late '90s, early 2000s who were not sitting in these seats but sitting in these equivalent seats and made the decisions to be advocates for that
- I think that that is really something that we should be proud of and we should probably promote it more than we do

Mayor Slayter opened for public comment. There were none.

Council Deliberations:

There were no further comments.

The City Council was in consensus to accept the level of service report.

**City Council Action:** The City Council was in consensus to accept the level of service report.

**Minute Order Number:** 2020-111

Mayor Slayter called for a break at 8:08 pm and reconvened the meeting at 8:20 pm.

9. Discussion and Consideration of Direction to Staff for Vacancy on the Sonoma County Library Commission – City Representative (Responsible Department: City Administration)

Assistant City Manager Gourley introduced the agenda item recommending the City Council provide direction Vacancy on the Sonoma County Library Commission – City Representative.

Mayor Slayter asked for questions. There were no questions.

Mayor Slayter opened for public comment. There was no public comment.

Council Deliberations:

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Wanted to mention that I think the applicant is highly qualified, and as far as a quality applicant, I would be in favor of us moving forward to interview him, because I know he has been a great library supporter and, you know, just a great participant in Sebastopol life
- So, I think rather than delay any further, I think we should try to move forward with interviewing him

Vice Mayor Glass moved and Councilmember Carnacchi seconded the motion to direct staff to schedule an interview with the applicant.

Discussion:

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- I know the applicant for a long time
- Pleased that he applied
- Glad the application is before us tonight
- Fine if we delay further for an interview for people who don't know him

*Minutes of May 19, 2020*

- I think it's important that we get a proactive representative there who is committed to going forward
- I've been in touch with Steven through the Lantern activities and he's very engaged in the library still - He just doesn't want the seat on the commission
- I think it's really important that we fill it
- I just wanted to let everybody know that I already knew him; okay, and that Steven is interested in being replaced

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- I have met the single applicant
- I don't know him certainly as well as my colleagues but I'm certainly familiar with him and the work that he has done surrounding the libraries, exemplary for decades
- I would have been comfortable with a motion to appointment this evening - But that's not our standing policy, and we can break new ground with an interview over Zoom as soon as we can possibly get that scheduled

Councilmember Gurney recommended sticking with procedures.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- Stick with procedure
- Do not know gentleman
- Appreciate endorsement
- Makes sense to interview

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 scheduling an interview with the applicant.**

**Minute Order Number: 2020-112**

**Consent Calendar Item Removed:**

**Item Number 6**

6. Approval of Budget Items to be Retained for FY 19-20 Budget (Banners for 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage) (Requestor: Councilmember Carnacchi/Responsible Department: Administrative Services)

City staff presented the agenda item recommending the City Council review the proposal for use of funding for the suffrage flags as proposed.

Councilmember Carnacchi provided information as follows:

*Minutes of May 19, 2020*

- Discussed the request for flags
- Stated the flags are relatively inexpensive
- Will be meeting with the Boy Scouts on Monday morning, when they're putting out the Memorial Day flags, to see if they would be interested in putting them up for either just the one day or for a couple of days, when the actual 19th Amendment was ratified.
- Linda Hopkins is the one that actually suggested it, and she also offered, at that time, that the county could throw in some money - Of course, that was before COVID, and as the situation that we're currently in - So, I have not really interfaced with her as to whether that's still an option - But I would like to have it as an option.
- I can say that the second round of banners, which I think we should definitely do a second round of banners so that we'll have twice as many, that would be \$2,500 - well under the \$5,000.
- And then the larger banners, which the largest that Ron Blair is able to print across in width is four feet, so a four-foot banner – is \$280 each, so that is 48-inches-by-180 inches would be the size of the banner
- I think that, even if we did four of those, I know that one could go on the Basso building and one could go on the Odd Fellows - But maybe just a couple other places in town we could put them as well
- And then if you put in the flags, whether we would have to buy all new flagpoles or if the Boy Scouts would be willing to let us just temporarily attach the victory flags that were used by Alice Paul during that time when it was waiting for the 19th Amendment to be ratified.
- I think that maybe we could just clip them on temporarily and use the American flag, and then put a second flag on those poles, so that way we could cut down on the cost on that.
- I think that those could be something that we could give to the non-profits as well that they could use to raise a little bit of money if they wanted to sell them, or whatever, after it's done, so it would be kind of a way of supporting the nonprofits as well, along with all the banners
- I would like the option to be able to include the flags for the flagpoles.

Mayor Slayter asked for questions.

Councilmember Gurney questioned how the flags would be attached.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented that the flags could be pinned on- Each of the American flags have a gromet, so you can pin it so it hangs on the opposite side of it, so you would have two. In some cases, on one side it would be the American flag and on the other side, depending on how they're hanging would be the suffrage flag.

The City Council discussed locations of flags, how flags would be pinned to the poles, and location of additional banners on buildings.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- It sounds like it would be a really nice display
- The idea of alternating sounds really terrific to me
- This is all within the proposed budget, so that sounds good to me, and like this is a good celebration



Minutes of May 19, 2020

- I think that we're all, of course, very disappointed, that we're meeting -- the whole meeting is like this, and we never had our wonderful parade, and, you know, all those celebrations
- And to be able to pick up just, I think, a little bit of it, I think it's a nice reminder of normal
- So, the fact that it's not a proposed increase in the budget, given our current budgetary state of flux, makes me significantly more comfortable with it, so I'm pleased with that

The City Council was in consensus to use funding as proposed as well as the addition of purchase of flags for downtown Main Street within the approved budget.

**City Council Action: City Council was in consensus to use funding as proposed as well as the addition of purchase of flags for downtown Main Street within the approved budget.**

**Minute Order Number: 2020-108**

**Urgency Item Added:**

City Manager McLaughlin presented the added urgency item and stated that staff is proposing the concept of issuing a blanket approval for a certain level of modifications to parking requirements (without requiring staff review), as the parking demand of the restaurants will be severely limited by the prohibition of indoor dining. Additionally, expediting City encroachment permits would assist those establishments without private parking to utilize sidewalks for outdoor seating.

- Pointing to the agenda item first, we apologize, staff has not had time to work out the details on this.
- We foresaw this idea around 5:00 o'clock today, so we didn't have a chance to come up with a lot of already prepared material
- So, to introduce it, a purchase report, that we've done the curbside service at a couple location that the Council approved last time, and we have done that in a couple locations, working with the local businesses
- We have a couple of more that we are working on presently, so that has gotten off to a fairly good start
- Our planning director has met with the Chamber and SDA to discuss business needs, and both of those individuals told our planner director, they sent a number of e-mails asking the needs of local businesses - But there's not been a lot of response to date - We're remaining active in that regard - If we get more response, we'll work on the curbside services
- Tonight, for agenda items, if we understand that it's extremely likely, assuming the governor agrees, that there will be a revised health order at the end of this week, which will allow restaurants to go into outdoor dining - So, it would be a regular restaurant operation of a service-to-tables, et cetera, but it would be outdoors
- Some of our restaurants, as we're all familiar with local restaurants, some of them already have the capacity, and they already have that in place, where they could do outside dining
- It occurred to us that others may wish to try and do that, because that's the only way they might be able to operate for a while, but don't have access right now to an outdoor dining area as part of their regular restaurant
- We decided that we would try and facilitate that, if we have restaurants without outdoor seating who would like to try, nevertheless, provide that, that we would try and accommodate that on City property

*Minutes of May 19, 2020*

- We had the engineering manager already, has reached out to Caltrans to see if we could
- have a parklet permit -You may recall that we have a one-day parklet, several years ago - Caltrans is receptive to the idea
- We also thought we could use parking areas if the restaurant is able to provide a link service to an area near their restaurant and would be able to service it, that we might be able to help them out by devoting some of our parking spaces nearby to such restaurant use
- We are here tonight for the agenda item to ask the Council, for the next two weeks, to grant staff the authority to either waive permits or grant temporary permits as necessary, to provide outdoor dining service on City property, as permitted by a future public health order, to last only through and until the Council meeting on June 2
- It could be, for all we know, they might have inside dining permitted by that time, or very shortly thereafter - So, this would be all predicated on restaurants wanting to do this and inquiring about doing this
- In order to do that, we need to have the ability to waive permits or grant temporary permits for the next couple of weeks.
- I would stress we would do this on a case-by-case basis.
- If the restaurant has requested it, we would do the staff determinations to see if it's actually possible
- The restaurant would have to have their own staff available to service it -We're only providing the space
- This would be a limit of use for this for two weeks, until it can be returned to the Council at the next Council meeting
- We thought with the anticipation that the public health order would change as early as this Friday, that we would try and do this before June 2, hence the request for the agenda item tonight
- It grants staff the temporary authority to waive permits or grant temporary use permits, as necessary, for restaurants to provide outdoor dining service on City property as may be permitted by the future public health orders prior to June 2.
- The other piece of it would be also to give staff authority to do the same for people who wanted to use their own private parking spaces to not have to go through a longer process to be able to dedicate a couple of their spaces for curbside pickup or for takeout, or for setting up some outdoor dining, for those restaurants that have an outdoor parking space available

Mayor Slayter asked for questions. There were no questions.

Mayor Slayter opened for public comment. There was no public comment.

Council Deliberations:

Councilmember Gurney commented that we are talking about parking places that are owned by the City, so it's actually roadway or public.

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- It could be in a city parking lot - It could be a roadway - It could be a side street

*Minutes of May 19, 2020*

- The main criteria, is that the restaurant would have to have the ability to service it
- In other words, to have wait staff actually service tables out there and run a normal restaurant operation, potentially, around the corner from their restaurant or nearby or in some cases, right out in front

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- Stated this could mean crossing the sidewalk to the roadway for the service there.
- How does this apply to the roads that Caltrans owns and controls

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- Theoretically, we would need an encroachment permit from Caltrans- That's why we're doing the parklet request
- We're trying to get approval to do in in a parklet
- We're going to try and get a permanent encroachment permit from Caltrans

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- Temporary parklet
- Fun idea
- Grateful to staff to take this on

Mayor Slayter commented that he agrees with the comments.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I think that this is something that, if we have some takers, I think it's one of those things That maybe we'll achieve some critical mass, and it won't just be one person or one business
- Maybe we'll have half a dozen restaurants up and down Main Street and around the community, and the downtown that have outdoor seating, and it really becomes a thing and actually could significantly enliven our downtown after the sun goes down
- It could be a lot of fun
- I'm heartened and hopeful that this will help our businesses

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- Discussed parklets
- The only concern t about the parklets – is how many are you intending to do, because if each of the restaurants and coffee shops on Main Street wanted a single parklet, I think we're kind of heavy for restaurants and coffee shops along the main drag, and that may detract from people trying to park and get to the retail establishments
- It may be hard to determine who gets one and who doesn't

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- Not go forth in present form if general reopening of retail
- Limited number of businesses in town taking advantage of the curb side delivery
- If retail opened could be a significant factor
- Not see that happening before June 2<sup>nd</sup>

*Minutes of May 19, 2020*

- Returns to city council on June 2nd

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows”

- Great idea
- Promote in some way such as restaurant week

Mayor Slayter moved and Councilmember Gurney seconded the motion to approve the concept of issuing a blanket approval for a certain level of modifications to parking requirements (without requiring staff review), as the parking demand of the restaurants will be severely limited by the prohibition of indoor dining. Additionally, expediting City encroachment permits would assist those establishments without private parking to utilize sidewalks for outdoor seating.

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 concept of issuing a blanket approval for a certain level of modifications to parking requirements (without requiring staff review), as the parking demand of the restaurants will be severely limited by the prohibition of indoor dining. Additionally, expediting City encroachment permits would assist those establishments without private parking to utilize sidewalks for outdoor seating.**

**Minute Order Number: 2020-113**

**CITY COUNCIL REPORTS:**

10. City Manager-Attorney/City Clerk Reports:

- Updates on COVID 19 – this will be a routine report at each council meeting. Based upon this report the City Council was in consensus to cancel the Wednesday COVID 19 City Council update meeting scheduled for May 20, 2020.

City Manager McLaughlin reported as follows:

- Staff is working diligently on trying to formulate a very workable plan to reopen City Hall to the public - We don't know when that will occur - We don't know exactly what form that's going to be in, but we are anticipating a reopening of City Hall to the public
- I think I reported last time, and it's still correct, that we are looking to install a plexiglass/shield like you've seen in some businesses - We're going to do it in a way so that people can come in and interact with staff across the counter
- We will have protocols in place but we do not yet know the timing of when city hall will re-open - To my knowledge, no City Hall is yet open in the county, and I am not aware of plans to eminently open any city hall - But we are trying to anticipate that, and we are working towards being able to do it.
- The curbside service has had a limited amount of use so far - We have definitely reached out, as I alluded to earlier, with the business community to try and engage with businesses that want to take advantage of that

*Minutes of May 19, 2020*

- Obviously, some businesses are better able or better prepared to do this than others, and we'll probably see that same thing with regard to the restaurants
- I'd like to report that the hotel developers reached out to me this week - They have assured me that they are still 100-percent committed to building the hotel - We obviously want to talk about additional challenges that they have, which may affect the timing of that, but they strongly indicated their desire to go forward with that project just as it has been approved
- We've also met, on a more pandemic-related matter -- we met with CoMission several times to work on their specific work plan - They're in two general areas- They've done a survey, which has just gone live today on their website, and they're reporting already a lot of interest in their survey - The survey topics cover recovery and resiliency, including information the survey participants would give on the economic and operational impact of the pandemic on their businesses, insight into consumer protective and the consumer future needs - So, the survey is live, and they are already engaging in that.
- At the same time, on the second track, they've done a very excellent workplan, which we've met with them about and reviewed for the non-profit collaborations. We will be meeting with the executive directors or boards of directors of all the nonprofits, which was reported to earlier in evening, and then also conduct a series of workshops, working towards trying to get collaboration amongst our nonprofits.
- During the pandemic, staff has been holding daily staff meetings, almost without exception - Every single day, we hold a Zoom staff meeting an hour every day, so staff is constantly in communication with one another, even those staff members who are working remotely each day by Zoom, so we have daily staff meetings
- We also have the daily updates with the Mayor and Vice Mayor also, and anything that comes to those meetings that we need to share with the entire Council, we will do so, and we will continue to have weekly updates of the full Council.
- Generally, I would say that during the Council meeting, we will provide a report and suggest possibly not do the next-day Wednesday update on those times where we met with the Council the night before, giving you the up-to-date updates.

11. 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)

Mayor Slayter reported as follows:

- The Sonoma Clean Power board of directors took a unanimous affirmative vote and said no thank you to being allocated (Diablo Canyon Decommissioning)
- PG&E is required to offer the energy from the reactors to -- either you can take the energy and receive a slight discount or you can remain with the status quo and things just stay exactly as they are, and no energy from Diablo Canyon makes into the Sonoma Clean Powerplant.
- So, staff and the vice chair and I had a number of conversations leading up to the meeting.

*Minutes of May 19, 2020*

- There was no recommendation from staff, because they were not able to internally determine whether or not a discount was worth it, or if keeping nuclear energy off our power mix was worth it.
- We need to keep nuclear power off our power mix cards our reports
- SCP agency continues to operate very well
- Staff is working remotely, and I've not yet heard any plans for reopening the office But they don't receive a whole lot the public there anyway, so they're largely able to operate remotely, and the agency continues on and is looking at kind of, actually, a normal year revenue-wise, which is good news for everyone
- I think there is the ability to continue on with programs to help save people energy, the Advanced Energy Center - The storefront in Santa Rosa is going to be coming online this fall
- The Intergalactic Headquarters project is continuing on, and that's really just the place the park some of the reserves in a building rather than in a bank

Councilmember Gurney reported as follows:

- Thank everybody for having Suzanne Smith come and talk about the SCTA's Measure M efforts
- That was just two weeks ago, and since that time, we've done two more revisions to the proposal and are reviewing a third one tomorrow at the ad hoc
- The Board is having a special meeting next Tuesday, the 25th, to make a decision about going forward with that particular tax
- I got an e-mail this morning that indicated there was a joint meeting of all stakeholders, meaning the business people and the environmental people who were met with separately
- Suzanne has been able to bring them together in a Zoom meeting and go through the material, and it looks like the indicators now are a bunch of hire for acceptance and success from both of those
- I want to share, too, some good news from the Community Center.
- Number one, with Dante's great help, there is a plan to proceed to put the men's restroom back as it was and use the flood money that was received - That project could be done as soon as three weeks from now
- It's really important that the community center building be returned to that stayed so that when the time does come about this, it can open and hold events there
- They'll be ready for them, because that's a great loss of revenue between the events and the classes
- It's meant reducing the staff like way down to only the interim executive director
- It's now come back to a full-time person, along with the interim, as well as a second full-time person, and, potentially, a third full-time person who is project oriented
- Have the amount to rehire people because they received money Everyone calls it the PPP money, Paycheck Protection Program
- Discussed various programs and projects going on at SCCC

Vice Mayor Glass reported as follows:

- Mosquito Abatement District Meeting – consultant provided a detailed and thorough report

Minutes of May 19, 2020

- Health Action's Future - Would like to do some planning and proposal generation on some alternatives of how to continue Health Action's very good work into the future now that their funding sources are going away, and there is a number of the stakeholders, the nonprofit stakeholders will be participating in that.
12. Council Communications Received: There were none.
  13. Future City Meeting Dates/Events (Informational Only): (See Agenda Below City Web site for Up to Date Meeting Dates/Times)

**ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING:**

Mayor Slayter adjourned the meeting at 10:46 pm. The City Council meeting was adjourned to the next Regular City Council Meeting which will be held on Tuesday, June 2, at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:



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