

City Council
Mayor Una Glass
Vice Mayor Sarah Glade Gurney
Diana Gardner Rich
Neysa Hinton
Patrick Slayter



Agenda Item Number 3
City Manager
Larry McLaughlin
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Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, MMC
Mary Gourley
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City of Sebastopol

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR Meeting of September 21, 2021

As Approved by the City Council at their regular meeting of October 5, 2021.

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.

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).

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.

Government Code Section 54953.

(a) All meetings of the legislative body of a local agency shall be open and public, and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting of the legislative body of a local agency, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

(b) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing for the benefit of the public and the legislative body of a local agency in connection with any meeting or proceeding authorized by law. The teleconferenced meeting or proceeding shall comply with all requirements of this chapter and all otherwise applicable provisions of law relating to a specific type of meeting or proceeding.

(2) Teleconferencing, as authorized by this section, may be used for all purposes in connection with any meeting within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. All votes taken during a teleconferenced meeting shall be by rollcall.

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 is available on the City website.

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

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

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City Council Regular Meetings are available in real time and archived on Livestream. Important Notice

The City of Sebastopol shows both live broadcasts and Video Archive of City Council Meetings over the Internet.

Your attendance at this public meeting may result in the recording and broadcast of your image and/or voice.

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

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

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

6:00 pm **Convene Regular City Council Meeting (ZOOM VIRTUAL FORMAT)**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Glass called the regular meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Una Glass – By video teleconference

Vice Mayor Sarah Glade Gurney – By video teleconference

Absent: Councilmember Neysa Hinton – By video teleconference
Councilmember Diana Rich – By video teleconference
Councilmember Patrick Slayter – By video teleconference
Staff: None
City Manager/City Attorney Larry McLaughlin
Assistant City Manager/City Clerk Mary Gourley
Administrative Services Director Ana Kwong
City Engineer Joe Gaffney
Fire Chief Bill Braga
GHD – Toni Bertolero
Planning Director Kari Svanstrom
Police Chief Kevin Kilgore
Public Works Superintendent Dante Del Prete

SALUTE TO THE FLAG: Mayor Glass led the salute to the flag.
Mayor Glass read the protocols of the meeting.

PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Linda Collins commented as follows:

- Wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved with the preparation, approval, sponsorship of our small by mighty parade that we had this last Saturday
- We got a little damp but no harm no foul.
- Think the majority of us that were in the parade and the spectators really enjoyed it.
- It was an opportunity to break free of a little bit of COVID
- Wanted to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you that helped participate and put this together. It was phenomenal.

Rick Geggie commented as follows:

- Wish to make a comment about how much I appreciate all of the work all of the Councilmembers and members of the staff, especially Chief for the wonderful work of your Police force.
- I'm a little emotional today because the full moon kept me awake all night last night and a very dear friend of ours passed away this afternoon.
- What I want to do is to tell you when you get up into your 80s. It's really good to find something where you're useful.
- Circumstances over the last year and half have led me now to have two homes, one of the homes here on Fiori Lane and the other is on Morris Street by the Community Center.
- I hope to be down there tonight but the death in the family stopped me
- I have an idea and I would like you all to think about how you might help rebrand this whole terrible difficulty that so many people are having.
- I propose saying that this is not a homeless encampment down there in the bushes and all over the City in different places.
- This is not a homeless encampment this is a refugee camp. These people, me included, have been refugees and are refugees. I've identified 20 different kinds of being a refugee.
- Anything I can do to help all of you in what you're doing please let me know

- I hope you can join me in re-framing, re-branding this whole homeless refugee thing because it is creating massive divisions and prejudices and misunderstandings and I think that if we can all agree that these are refugees and they have to work hard and the community has to reach out as well so that's what I'm trying to do.
- Thank you very much for listening and thank you for doing your business the way you do it.
- We have an amazing City here. I've lived here 25 years. Wonderful place.

Virginia Anderegg commented as follows:

- Here tonight as President of the Western Sonoma County Swimmers
- We are non-profit that runs Ives Pool under the contract with Sebastopol.
- We understand the Council received a couple letters of concern how Ives Pool is operating under the limited opening in place because of the Coronavirus pandemic.
- I'm here to provide a brief update on the work we've been doing for the last 18 months so you have the facts how Ives is being operated.
- We regularly receive very positive feedback from the community how we're incrementally increasing access to the pool.
- I personally could provide you with 20 such comments tomorrow if you want them.
- A little history, Ives Pool closed completely after the mandatory shelter in place of March 2020.
- We remained closed until mid-June when we worked with County Public Health and the rest of the aquatic's community with limited number in the pool and throughout this time staff constantly evaluated our operations.
- During the first year during COVID we increased the number of pool users, significantly decreased fees, and added more programs.
- In the beginning we could only allow 6 people in the pool per lane
- We now have two per lane and more lap lane hours so when people go to sign up for their spaces now there's not a quick five-minute rush.
- I'd say people have hours of time to sign up and there are often cancellations which go back up on to the website and are available.
- In July, just a couple months ago, our Board appointed a reopening committee consisting of staff and Board members to monitor the COVID conditions with the intention of developing a plan for reopening more fully.
- At that time daily positivity rate was at about 9 in terms of new reported cases and hospitalizations were low
- We hoped to open after Labor Day and then the delta variant showed up
- The day the positivity rate went to average of 200 and one day hitting 600 new cases, hospitalization rates went way up.
- We also did not know how the variant was going to behave in particularly in outdoor situations.
- The reopening committee is now meeting at least once a month and we are in almost daily contact.
- We are in touch closely with the County Public Health and local aquatics managers
- We don't have an exact trigger moment when we know we're ready to reopen but waiting for the numbers to drop to the pre-delta variant level heading in that direction before we reopen.
- 13 days ago Sonoma County had average per capita cases since we haven't seen the last winter.
- One of the other big issues is staffing. Any changes we made impact staffing

Arthur George commented as follows:

- West County Homeless Advocates, an ad hoc volunteer group.
- This week Sebastopol is at a tipping point of action and opportunity concerning the unhoused.

- The highly-planned, well-coordinated sweep of the Laguna will occur tomorrow to remove and hopefully relocate unhoused persons initially driven by fire safety and actual fires and concerns about zero waste and climate action impacts
- However questions remain what will happen to people who do not choose the limited relocation services they are offered, where will they go?
- They will not be allowed to return to the Laguna
- Certain business interests have lobbied the Council and more to restrict parking time limits east of Morris Street on the parking zone to force vehicle campers off Morris Street where will they go, into the neighborhoods? Randomly through town, away from the sanitation stations that the City wisely provided. People must be sheltered in some way.
- One could care not at all about the homeless yet help them because it is beneficial for the community at large.
- Concerns from other stakeholders are understandable about impacts on business, culture and social events but these may face far greater detriment if no alternative shelter emerges
- The old valid complaints about vagrants behind doorways, impacts on businesses, with human waste, syringes and trash are likely to resurface.
- Until some other public or privately spaces are obtained, I urge two things of the Council, first leave intact the services implemented , 72-hour parking limits east side of Morris Street and safe parking environment there.
- Second, consider, at least on a temporary basis use of a portion of the far rear northwest corner of the parking lot behind the teen center for unhoused camping. No other defined alternative has yet emerged
- That site is on gravel mitigating fire risk and fires could be strictly prohibited.
- It's openly visible for policing and dumpster and portable toilets can mitigate trash and waste and is already fenced and trespass beyond can be prohibited
- It is north of Morris Street
- Safe parking centralized in the City's industrial fringe with access to transportation and medical care near the City core.
- The Council and City engaged this issue in positive ways this year as perhaps never before.
- We urge you to continue with firm resolve even amid pressures seeking otherwise.
- We ask you, one, retain safe parking east side of Morris Street, two, consider portion of the parking area to the northwest behind the teen center for limited and monitors camping.

Suzanne Lande commented as follows:

- The first thing I'd like to do is really thank Rick.
- I met him for the first time on Morris Street some days ago.
- He may have given his vehicle to her or loaned it to her long-term, I'm not sure, but she's living in it.
- She's fixing it up. I remember Rick saying pay it forward. Somehow else to have it too or use it too.
- It's an amazing thing to do in our community.
- I want to say in general about residents not just of Morris Street but of the Laguna and the part of the Joe Rodota Trail in Sebastopol where there are campers.
- I think of these people as community members.
- I go to Safeway, they go to Safeway, I go to the plaza, I see them there, I know many by name. The library a lot of community members who are shelter less there.
- I know a lot of these people. I want them to remain connected to Sebastopol.
- People are being swept. Some are going to shelters, some hotel rooms, not in Sebastopol, temporary, but as we come up with other housing they should have first priority.
- Also, the concept of empathy.

- If I lost everything and I was shelter less I would still be part of this community.
- I don't think I should be just swept away. I don't think they should either.
- We've got to do our very best for them.
- As Arthur George said we got to come up with a place for them, even if it's not ideal for everybody involved. Even a temporary place.

Adrienne Lauby commented as follows:

- I'm the co-founder of Homeless Action and President of the Board of SAVS.
- SAVS mission is to develop tiny home villages for homeless people around the County and we're excited to do work in the West County.
- I want to echo what Arthur has said about the continuing tragedy of the sweep tomorrow through the Laguna and the Joe Rodota Trail area.
- I know there's going to be a lot of good people out there trying to help folks but there's really no mitigation when you have basically an eviction from the place you've lived and nowhere else to go
- That will be true for most of the people that are swept tomorrow.
- So there will be a lot of sadness, it's always traumatic when this happens.
- I want to praise Sebastopol.
- Your activities on Morris, your putting up the Port-A-Potties, allowing people to basically be there in some kind of permissible, legalized way, has made a huge, huge difference.
- The people on the Council have worked with us, people in the police department work with the people there.
- There's a lot of support and love that goes out and it's made a huge difference.
- I speak around the County and I like to bring up this is a model that should be used everywhere.
- We've been working with the various Council people, Councilmember Rich, Mayor Glass, and Councilmember Slayter, at various times and places.
- Their understanding of the issue, their deep concern, their willingness to come and talk to us regularly, and their transparency about what is going on, these are the kinds of things we hope and expect from any committee that has to deal with homeless in Sebastopol.
- I understand that later in this meeting you're going to be talking about possibly making a committee that will be more ruled by the Brown Act, and we support that.
- We will of course be at those meetings and will be paying attention and giving our input there.
- We really hope to see some advances in this as the next few months go by.
- I also want to praise you all for hiring someone from the West County Community Services.
- it's a great advantage to have a paid staff person to help people move on with their lives.
- I think that it would be really great to give the West County six months to see what kinds of changes and what kind of improvements they could come up with.
- I'll be there in the morning. I hope to see some of you there out with us.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Just want to make one really fast comment that was regarding the Apple Blossom Parade
- It was a little foggy, but I had friends that were visiting me from Pasadena, and believe it or not they thought our parade was really different than the Rose parade and they actually really, really liked it
- They felt pleasantly cool as opposed often being too hot at the Rose parade.
- So our parade's really pretty cool in many ways.
- So, thank you Linda for all of the work you put into that parade and all of the work you're doing for our community.

STATEMENTS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I do want to mention a conflict of interest on my part
- The City is considering locations for doing City Council meetings such as hybrid City Council meeting that are a combination of zoom and in-person.
- One of the places that is under consideration or has been under consideration is the Sebastopol Center for the Arts
- I'm the co-director there.
- If there is any discussion regarding who gets awarded what I will recuse myself and disappear until any decision is made.
- I do think it's appropriate for me to weigh in on whether we should be hybrid, in person or virtual, but when the actual issue of where something's going to be I will recuse myself.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. Approval of Minutes of the City Council Meeting of September 7, 2021 (Responsible Department: City Administration)

City Council Action: Approved City Council Meeting of September 7, 2021

Minute Order Number: 2021-228

2. Approval of Extension/Amendment of Sebastopol Senior Center Lease (Responsible Departments: Administrative Services/Public Works/City Administration)

City Council Action: Approved Extension/Amendment of Sebastopol Senior Center Lease

Minute Order Number: 2201-229

Resolution Number: 6376-2021

3. Approval of Extension of Emergency Proclamation of Local Emergency (COVID-19) issued by the Director of Emergency Services (Responsible Department: 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: 2021-230

Resolution Number: 6377-2021

4. Approval of Resolution Adopting Amended 2021 City of Sebastopol Emergency Operations Plan (Preparer: City Administration/Responsible Department: Director of Emergency Service (Fire Chief)

City Council Action: Approved Resolution Adopting Amended 2021 City of Sebastopol Emergency Operations Plan

Minute Order Number: 2021-231

Resolution Number: 6378-2021

Mayor Glass read the consent calendar.

Mayor Glass opened for public comment on the consent calendar. There was none.

Mayor Glass questioned if any Councilmember(s) wanted to remove any item(s) from the consent calendar.

There was none.

Mayor Glass called for a motion.

MOTION:

Vice Mayor Gurney moved and Councilmember Rich seconded the motion to approve Consent Calendar Item(s) Number(s) 1, 2, 3, and 4.

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

VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmembers Hinton, Rich, Slayter, Vice Mayor Gurney and Mayor Glass

Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin made the following report:

- I thought I might move my report which typically comes at the end of a meeting up to an earlier spot in the meeting especially with regard to some of the public comment we heard this evening
- I want to give a brief update to the Council and public about a couple of matters.
- One of them is the ongoing Laguna encampment mitigation measures is how we kind of phrased it, which you heard Mr. George and others talk about earlier this evening.
- The speakers alluded to this sweep, I guess you would call it that, which is going to take place tomorrow morning.
- I wanted to emphasize for the members of the public who may not be familiar with the issues in the Laguna that the reason for this work taking place right now is based purely on public safety concerns.
- Public safety concern for residents who live nearby and public safety concern for those who had been camping in the Laguna.
- We've had four recent fires out in the Laguna.
- We are in the midst of a severe drought and there are firepits out there which as recently as a couple days ago have been operated.
- We consider it to be a very dangerous situation, not just for residents and the City and the others in the Laguna area, but for the campers as well.
- So as Mr. George and others alluded to, we have made a great, great effort in coordination with the County to provide a lot of outreach and work out in that area to help those to make arrangements for those who are going to be displaced as of tomorrow.
- At the present time we have as many as nearly 50 beds available that have been located as of a report yesterday afternoon check-in session.
- In the City side out there we have approximately 15 camps with approximately 19 persons.
- The City is making arrangements for storage and protection of any personal property that is left behind in the Laguna.
- We are aware of our legal responsibilities in that regard and we have arranged for a storage container to be available at the police department and will have access for campers whose personal property has been relocated into the container.
- We are in collaboration with the County to try our very best to meet any eventuality that presents itself tomorrow to deal with whatever issues arise.
- We're entirely hopeful that alternative housing is available by those who wish to avail themselves of that
- We've made the arrangement for protection of property that we will operate out there tomorrow in the best of good faith with consideration and we do think that this will take place without significant issue.
- We're very hopeful about that.
- Bottom line is whatever we need to do we certainly will.
- I appreciate the comments of Mr. George and others. We're trying our best to do that.
- Also I want to thank not just those from the County who helped to collaborate with us but also Jennifer Lake from the West County Community Services who is our new full time person through West County Community Services for the unhoused and the work she's been doing.
- We've heard nothing but good reports.
- Also, I see that Tim Miller is here tonight. I don't know if Tim has any comments he might want to make on this subject but that's in short summary form where we find ourselves right now with regard to Laguna mitigation measures that will be underway tomorrow.

- This is not agendized this evening, I have to reiterate that, but happy to try to answer any questions Council may have or others that can answer those questions if I can't.
- In response to couple comments I also heard there's no plans to change the parking arrangements.

Tim Miller, WCCS, commented as follows:

- Thank you to the City who put forth a tremendous amount of effort on this and partnership with the County and Regional Parks as well as the other agencies such as West County Homeless Advocates, SAVS, the churches and others.
- Danielle and Jennifer have gone through a tremendous amount of effort to coordinate with COTS in Petaluma for available beds, also the facility in Guerneville, a congregate setting, but also non-congregate setting available in Healdsburg
- It will be a rough morning for mostly those unhoused and also those working with them.
- We're making every effort to meet the folks with compassion, to meet their needs as best they can and anyone interested in housing will receive housing tomorrow.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I was wondering if staff would consider the suggestion made by Mr. George about the corner of the gravel or dirt parking lot off of the turn on Morris street and report back to the Council.
- I'm anticipating this would need to be City Manager, Police Chief, Fire Chief and if you could give that some review and then let the Council know about your consideration.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Think that would be great.
- I would really like to hear what staff and WCCS's thoughts are about that.
- I know there has already been quite a bit of discussion about that location but I think we could get an update on it.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin reported as follows:

- The other matter I wanted to report on was to give a brief update on the cyber fraud case I've reported on before.
- Obviously staff and attorneys work on this matter has been continuing.
- Working not just with outside counsel but we're pursuing several insurance claims and have been in discussions with the County of Sonoma as well as working with computer experts furnished by one of her insurance carriers to look into our computer operations and our computers themselves.
- I can say that we've done a complete review of all our computer systems and protocols and the protocols that we put into place shortly after this happened have been approved.
- We feel very safe in our computer operations right now. But that work continues.
- We have retained those computer people that continue to work with us both at the police station as well as the other City offices to continue to update, fine-tune, and make sure our computers are completely trustworthy and that we have no issues that would lead to similar situations in the future.
- As I mentioned we have several insurance claims pending and we've been in conversations with the County.
- One of the County insurance carriers had agreed to cover part of this loss and that particular policy is going to be paying out the limits.
- There's several sub insurance carriers involved with that and so the payments are coming in individually but so far we've received \$150,000 and we anticipate receiving a total of \$375,000 reimbursement from that one particular policy.

- There's a second policy that has limits in the amount of \$500,000 and it's possible that we will receive payment through that source as well.
- That has not been determined yet. That's the County's insurance carrier.
- We are pursuing two similar claims through our own carriers which have not yet been determined by the carriers to the extent they will cover that, as well as we are pursuing other avenues of recovery and investigation into the perpetrator of the fraud that led to the transfer from the treasurer's office
- The primary thing we're talking about this evening is that the investigation continues. That has not been closed off.
- The FBI is doing that investigation.
- It remains somewhat confidential, again, due to the fact that investigation is still ongoing.
- That's the bad news about the confidentiality aspect the good news that investigation has not come to a dead-end, it is still ongoing and still a possibility, however remote, that the funds could be recovered through that avenue.
- We remain as hopeful as we did before and even more so that the City will be ultimately fully reimbursed for this loss by some means or other, and we feel very confident in our computer system and our security protocols right now.
- So as much as I can tell the Council in public about that I feel very confident and positive about the report this evening on that matter.
- If Council wants more specific questions we can delve into that matter and I'll endeavor to answer them.

Mayor Glass requested a closed session in the near future.

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

PUBLIC HEARING(S): NONE

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

5. Discussion of City Council Created Committees – Item was Continued from the September 7, 2021 City Council Meeting (Responsible Department: City Administration)

City staff presented the agenda item recommending the City Council discuss the three Committees that did not receive Council consensus at the September 7th, 2021 City Council Meeting:

1. Budget Committee
2. Housing Committee
3. Park Village Committee

And affirm the actions for Disbanding of Various Committees as Discussed at the September 7, 2021 City Council Meeting

Mayor Glass asked for questions. There were none at this time.

The Council discussed the three committees as follows:

No consensus on budget committee whether it was a standing, ad hoc, or should be terminated.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- It is rather clear to me that the things that go into the budget process need to be discussed in the first three months of the year
- In the past several years, we keep being in this loop of the budget subcommittee getting actually almost involved in legislation because the budget subcommittee is weighing in on things that haven't even been decided on yet.
- Part of what we need to do to fix our budget process is to make sure to spend January through March as a whole as a Council looking at what new initiatives do we need to pursue and then after that we can begin the budget process with the new initiatives in mind.
- I feel that an ad hoc committee which is very informal where we can just sit down with department heads and talk about, why did you not like this kind of truck versus that kind of truck, that's what the ad hoc version of a committee has allowed us to do.
- We move to making this a standing committee than that kind of deliberation probably won't happen.
- It's not just the HR things - it's the kind of back and forth you get in an informal committee to talk about the details of all kinds of really obscure things that is time-consuming and not the kind of thing you would necessarily talk about in a public meeting.
- So I feel that's we'd be better off having the City management present us with a proposed budget and City management has worked out those details about do we want this kind of truck or that kind of truck and then make recommendations to us as a whole and then the entire City Council move forward on the deliberation process.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I should have mentioned this earlier, but I will only be able to stay in this meeting for two hours.
- I will be leaving at 8:00 P.M.
- On this particular issue if there is a budget committee, my strong opinion having listened to our quite-experienced City Attorney on this topic, having read the staff report and the recommendations there is that the budget committee be treated as a standing committee.
- It has continuing jurisdiction over budgetary issues
- We're a group committed to transparency and financial matters are essential to our public.
- Whether there are obscure issues or not obscure issues we have an obligation to share those discussions with the public.
- I trust from the staff report that there's an option for going into closed session where there are sensitive matters.
- We've seen our City Attorney advise us in that direction on other matters, actually he just made a comment that validated that process.
- I would be fully in favor and urge this group very strongly in terms of Brown Act obligations to treat any budget committee as a standing committee.
- I think we have that obligation to our public. That's what we're elected to do.
- To the extent that our City staff says there's no need for a budget committee then I think we need to respect that.
- We could at some point ask our City Manager whether he feels there's a role for budget committee in terms of supporting the staff efforts I think that would be helpful for our deliberations.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- Requested a summary of thumbs up/thumbs down
- Mayor stated to eliminated/I stated standing
- Where were the rest of the opinions.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- It was 2-2-1.
- Mayor was for elimination; two were for ad hoc (Slayter/Hinton) and two were for standing (Gurney/Rich).

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- My comments following our last meeting are leading on this staff report.
- I haven't really changed my opinion.
- I think that having served on it for three years, it's not a matter of thinking that it's an ad hoc committee and that we are trying to hide something from the public.
- We've talked about public transparency
- I think we're fully transparent on the budget committee.
- I think that the budget subcommittee was created to try to get more detailed work done before we go to the full Council and into full meetings.
- I think everything is presented and vetted.
- Each budget to me is unique.
- As stated in your comments, I think that we change our priorities, and if we really do our goal-setting each year and set those priorities in the first couple months of the year, then we go into the budget, looking at the budget with those priorities in mind and then the budget work is done.
- I stand by my opinion I stated two weeks ago and as stated in the staff report
- I did some research on the Internet and seems like this is a debatable subject.
- I know that although we have advice from our City Attorney, in my experience attorneys, of course, can debate both sides of the matter.
- I continue to sit on the ad hoc side of this discussion.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- I agree with Councilmember Hinton on this.
- That the process is transparent.
- The reason for the ad hoc is to take a look at details and make recommendations to the full Council.
- As evidenced by this year, and the drawn-out process that was the budget, the amount of time that the five of us spent discussing the budget, I'm not sure that anybody raising transparency issues really has a leg to stand on.
- The work that goes on in the budget committee with staff and with Council is valuable.
- It's very, very detailed. It takes a lot of time.
- I'm in favor of the process basically staying as it is with the exception of a modification that the two Councilmembers of the subcommittee that do the budget work understand and therefore staff would understand and the public would understand that it is a temporary committee doing detailed and targeted work and then it disbands and does not exist.
- We have stopped sending as many things as possible throughout the year to the budget committee for review and recommendation.
- Now it seems over the last two or three years we just talk about them as a body of five in view of the public.
- I think that that process works.
- The other thing that I think is important for us to keep in mind is the mid-year budget adjustment.
- I have said this the last several years, that that has started to become a budget cycle which is not the intent.
- The intent is to true up the budget mid-year.

- If the budget committee is taken out of that process I think the staff managing that process mid-year makes a lot more sense and it can become much more what the process that was envisioned in the past.
- I think that the ad hoc is where I'm comfortable and I have done more reading on the Brown Act recently because of this item.
- I don't think there's any way this is not in its current iteration a standing committee just because of the way it has been structured.
- Changing that structure, turning it into a true ad hoc is where I think we ought to be.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I appreciate everyone's comments.
- I think there's great value in what the Mayor has suggested that the Council work in its goal-setting to determine its own workload for the year, its priorities, what we're calling initiatives.
- In other words, what is really important for us to accomplish in that year.
- We did a lot of that work years ago and then kind of floated with it year after year after year without renewing it thoroughly or coming to a shorter version rather than a five-year or longer version.
- I think in some ways we've created this problem for ourselves and we can certainly go into the next year with some intentional goal-setting as to our priorities as a body of five citizens working for our community.
- Meanwhile we have the whole 24/7 functioning of the City which has the great impact on our budget.
- That work, I believe, can be done thoroughly by our City Manager who can then recommend to a budget subcommittee.
- We need a group to put these two together.
- We also need a budget subcommittee that's going to work with our City Manager and Assistant City Manager to understand the impact of the Council initiatives on staff time and staff resources.
- We just can't do what we want to do without assigning great responsibility and increasing the responsibility of our staff.
- For me as a Councilmember, throughout the year, I've always been grateful we have had two Councilmembers whose minds are really in those spreadsheets and are thinking like spreadsheets about everything we do because I don't enjoy thinking like that as much as other people on the Council do.
- To me that's really important because we need our City Manager to keep his finger on the financial pulse of the City as well as our Administrative Services Director.
- We need Councilmembers to do that as well. That's our obligation to our citizens.
- The work doesn't stop when the budget is done in the end of June and restart in January when the mid-year review comes in, it's really important to us to have that scrutiny throughout the year.
- That's the reason that I see this as continuing jurisdiction
- To have that responsibility continuing through the year so that we know we are safe financially, if there is a financial problem we have people with expertise minds in that budget to bring it forward to us.
- So with that, indeterminate date to the budget work I see this as a committee that continues throughout the year and into the next year.
- The personnel may change as the composition of the Council change.
- I think it is pretty clearly to me a standing committee.
- I think our City Attorney has said that publicly at the last meeting. His advice is really important to me.
- People might not want to admit that but as I experience this committee it really does live like a standing committee and that's why I prefer it be designated that way.

Councilmember Rich requested information from City Attorney.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- I would agree with Councilmember Hinton's description for the reasons the committee was formed in the first place and the good work it did in years' past.
- It's been very helpful to staff to have a group of two Councilmembers who really want to get down into the weeds and examine the budget page by page, item by item - that's the reason the Council put the budget committee together in the first place.
- Doing that the way we've done in the past, however, leads to the conclusion it's a standing committee.
- This has been an issue with the structure of the committee ever since it was formed by the previous City Manager that it really is a standing committee and really needs to comply with the Brown Act.
- But it's been very useful to have the committee
- Also I agree with Councilmember Slayter's analysis that the problem wasn't so much with the way the committee was put together, the problem was how we treated the committee over the years, that the way it existed in perpetuity all year as budget issues came up, it was very apparent it was in fact a standing committee.
- I think the committee could be structured in such a way that it would be a lot closer to being an ad hoc committee and a lot less subject to any kind of scrutiny or criticism in that way.
- If the Council were to determine each year whether to have a budget committee and if so what the role of that committee would be in the ensuing budget year that would be very helpful.
- The committee basically was not operating that way. It was operating basically continuously without ceasing.
- If you look at it, every year, about the time the budget work is to begin and decide what you were going to do that year, who would be on the budget committee, if you're going to have one, what would be the role of the budget committee, it would be closer to being an ad hoc committee.
- I will say though that I did get a second legal opinion in this matter from a Brown Act expert and it would be difficult to have a budget committee (as has been historically) to call it anything but a standing committee.
- Having said that, a lot of cities work a different process for the budget. In those other cities, City management prepares the budget.
- City Manager is the one that asks why do you need this truck versus that truck, it gets down in the weeds and works out the details and then is responsible for explaining it to the rest of the Council, along with the Administrative Services Director, to explain the reasoning behind the budget and essentially promote it to the full Council.
- The reason the Council in the past got away from that process two City Managers ago was because it took a really, really long time.
- Meeting after meeting had to be devoted to the budget and it was just so time-consuming that the Council was compelled to hold many extra meetings just to get their regular work done
- Our meetings in those days were a bit more streamlined than they are now.
- It has not become easier as we have many more issues to deal with - obviously with the pandemic and everything - so our meetings become longer and longer on their own
- The reason the budget committee was prepared in the first place was to be able to devote more Council time in April, May, June, on other business of the Council and let the hard work be done by a budget committee.
- If you do it in that process you may always be subject to the allegations essentially, that this is a standing committee and needs to be in compliance with the Brown Act.
- As long as I was getting a second opinion I discussed with the attorney how the committee if it were a standing committee were to function and still do the things this been doing but do so in a way that would

not be potential violations of the Brown Act and after doing research the attorney assured me the committee could operate as the Council does.

- Any Brown Act body is entitled to go into closed session where permitted by law and can discuss personnel-related issues and HR-related issues in a closed session, not having to do so in front of the full public.
- So in that way that was the main concerns that I had with the committee.
- This to do so out of the public eye because personnel were discussed, positions were discussed, alternatives were raised about changing the staffing structure, various other things, all of which, in my opinion, needed to be done in a confidential manner.
- So there is an opportunity to do that if the Council considers this a standing committee
- If you decide each year whether to have a budget committee in the first place and then discussion about what the budget committee would do, that would be ad hoc
- If you want to have a continuing jurisdiction over the budget, the budget committee will have to follow the standing committee and utilize the closed session process and meet privately or confidentially on those items that fall under a closed session title.
- I will say from staff's point of view, when budget committee has been super immersed from the budget , it does take a lot of work and time from staff, but not only it's kept the Council from having to have all those meetings I was talking about, every April, May, June, but has allowed the budget to be looked at and scrutinized in a close way much more so than under the City Manager preparation process.
- In short, there's good points and bad points to every idea here. There's probably no perfect system.
- It's up to the Council to decide what your priorities are and how you will best achieve transparency, public involvement and a full scrutinized, criticized, critiqued budget each year so the public knows we're doing with the hard work to pare our budget down to spend the public's money wisely.
- It's for the Council to decide how to do.
- There's good and bad points with every alternative in my opinion.
- It's up to the Council to figure out how to structure that the best you can.

Councilmember Slayter requested clarification and verification of what was said which is that if it's a standing committee a standing committee under the Brown Act can use the closed session process within the bounds of what is allowed in a closed session.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- Stated that is correct.
- That was a question that my Brown Act expert had not dealt with before but after researching that he is confident that is the correct answer.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- I thank you for asking and getting the research done on that, that was something I raised at the last meeting when we discussed this.
- With that provision then, I would allow the budget committee to operate in a useful way as a standing committee being able to use the Brown Act's allowance for closed session when it comes to sensitive information that's not for public consumption.
- If that's the case and if that's the way that the committee can operate than honestly I'm fine with it becoming a standing committee.
- That starts to make a lot of sense to me.

Mayor Glass opened for public comment.

Kyle Falbo commented as follows:

- To borrow the words of one Councilmember I will attempt to stand on a leg to discuss the lack of transparency
- Immediately prior to this item we heard City Manager report \$1million fraudulently taken from the City's money that this entire body knew about was understandably unable to comment publicly on but made active decision to continue public discussions publicly without that information made available to the public.
- Budget discussions that did not consider the loss of that \$1.2 million until the very final meeting in which the \$1.2 million was announced and final budget discussions were made.
- That is not transparency.
- To continue with a budget committee whose role takes the entire year, who meets throughout the year and has the same two participants at least three years in a row that is not an ad hoc committee.
- This is a standing committee and should be treated as a standing committee.
- There is opportunity as was mentioned by the City Manager for closed session whenever is necessary but the work of the budget committee is important.
- It's important to have eyes on that budget by people that the people have elected.
- Not just City staff presenting a budget and you go up and down.
- I've seen it happen in consent calendar items where hundreds of thousands of dollars are presented by the City in a consent calendar item.
- That shouldn't be happening with the budget.
- There should be a budget committee, a standing committee, with public meetings in considering the Brown Act and going to closed session when needed.

Council Discussion and/or Deliberations:

No further discussion.

MOTION:

Councilmember Rich moved and Councilmember Slayter seconded the motion to approve budget committee as standing committee with same current members as appointed at beginning of calendar year.

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

VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmembers Hinton, Rich, Slayter, Vice Mayor Gurney and Mayor Glass

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

City Council Action: Approved budget committee as standing committee with same current members as appointed at beginning of calendar year.

Minute Order Number: 2021-232

The Council discussed the two remaining committees:

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- This is the matter of is housing subcommittee or Park Village subcommittee.

- There has been the housing committee presented they want to continue with overseeing the contract with City services, Park Village wanted to become a standing committee and oversee various activities including Park Village and ongoing homeless services, and our relationship with WCCS.
- I decided that I would put forward a proposal that I thought might make everybody a little bit happier about this, and my proposal is that rather than have these two committees who have been working on these different things that are very similar that we consider merging these two committees and then seeing who of the four different people that are on these committees would like to be on the resulting combined committee.
- It's my feeling that the housing subcommittee actually has done a tremendous amount of work over the past year and I'm not sure that everybody realizes how much work we've done.
- When I went back and looked at my calendar over the past, well, more than a year because we've been in COVID land, I participated in well over 30, maybe 40 meetings regarding this matter.
- The housing subcommittee was very involved with addressing the homeless issue as we were going through that process of negotiating for Elderberry Commons; we negotiated with the County specifically to giving us \$385,000 that they gave us which, I always have to say this, it's exactly \$385,000 more than Santa Rosa got which was zero.
- We sold that to the County based on the idea that we would expect to be talking to our colleagues about spending that money on homeless services, and we reached our dream, we are now in the dream situation which is that the dream situation of actually trying to get very involved in working on solving our problems, instead of just going no, no, there's just not much we can do.
- We started that process by all of us agreeing to contract with WCCS.
- I have personally spent a tremendous amount of time on this over the past four years but I'm not attached to my being on the committee or not on the committee.
- I just feel that between Councilmember Slayter and I we have a great deal of institutional memory about this issue.
- What has been the Park Village committee has been working on Park Village specifically and has dealt with some of these issues also.
- That is my proposal - why don't we just take the four people that have all been working on this and sort out who would like to sign up for the committee and create a new combined committee that is a committee that is about housing and providing services to the unhoused.
- That that be a new combined committee.
- That seemed like a way to be able to have institutional memory passed on between these two groups.

Councilmember Slayter commented are you suggesting that the new formed committee be a standing committee or ad hoc committee?

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I'm certainly open to hearing other people's opinions and opening to changing my mind, but I think that this should be ad hoc committee to work with WCCS as we move forward in completing or getting his contract -- getting the contract with WCCS well-launched and moving forward.
- I think it should be temporary in order to get things launched
- There's so many of us who have an interest in this and I think that we have contracted with WCCS to be the professionals, to be the conveners, to use their professional expertise in helping to help our unhoused community but also to organize and facilitate the work of the really great volunteers that we have and also to collaborate with our various City departments to be effective about dealing with the issue of our unhoused population.

- When a number of us get involved with these committees it just seems like we're kind of politicizing the thing
- It seems to me we've employed an independent organization with professional services to manage these issues and in the long-run, I think that they should kind of function independently with our City staff with them presenting reports to our Council as a whole on a regular basis, perhaps a quarterly basis so we all understand what's going on.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- Thank you for the statement of kind of general interest and goals here.
- I get to be the person who doesn't have a horse in the race here, so kind of a useful perspective
- I'd like to suggest that we reframe the approach here.
- If you would consider looking at this issue first by what tasks are needed to be done.
- Then from there determining is this a short-term need, what sort of time is needed to get those tasks done and then getting to who are the people who are more appropriately situated to take on these tasks.
- When I hear all of the conversation here and see Tim Miller in the room and I see our staff in the room it seems to me that what we're talking about is a committee for the unhoused.
- Basically a committee of some kind to assess the needs and impacts of Sebastopol's unhoused, develop strategies for addressing the needs and mitigating the impacts, work with West County Community Services, identify and apply for grants and state and Federal Funding and report back to the City Council quarterly perhaps even monthly to keep the full City Council, all of us informed and provide us an opportunity for decision-making on policy questions.
- That's kind of what I was hearing.
- But now I'm hearing you really focused on this transitional period for the contract.
- So I guess my first question is, could we just reframe it in terms of let's decide what the task is.
- Is just the contract or is broader service to the unhoused may be helpful to determine the answer might be asking our staff, City Manager, is there a role for a committee that would help on the issues of the unhoused that could work with Tim Miller and with our police chief and with staff to facilitate those bigger issues on Morse Street and beyond and having couple City Council people available to assist in the process would be helpful.
- Does our City staff and does West County Community Services see a role for City Council people?
- Or are they fine doing it themselves?
- Could we maybe ask that question to gather that information

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as a point of order I would like the Park Village Councilmembers to have the opportunity to provide additional information and I appreciate the suggestions of Councilmember Rich. I just want to make it sure all of the information is brought to the full group so we can follow the procedures that's suggested if that's acceptable.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I think why we thought that Park Village who has had experience with West County Community Services and managing their contracts since the beginning, since my first year I was elected, 2017, should take on this additional management of the contract and setting up the contract and continuing as a standing committee.
- I brought this up when we talked about this back last fall.
- I felt like at that time because Mayor Glass you were negotiating with our supervisor which was in the realm of the Mayor in December, we needed to negotiate with the supervisor with the money before we got the contract.

- I always thought the responsibility coming back to what we're maybe renaming back to what was the Park Village.
- I feel it's important to have a standing committee because when we first went into this agreement with WCCS we really did a lot of work with them jointly on figuring out details, on looking at budget, I know that kept us up to speed on grants and managing that property is one of the City's assets and it's ongoing that's why standing committee made excepts to me and having committee report out.
- We can do that every time we meet just like we report out for all our meetings that we do.
- That is what I was thinking about for tonight.
- It's a great suggestion to try to merge committees but I think we have four committee members, which two are going to move forward.
- I stand by my feelings on this from the beginning which I did state back when this all first came up and we were negotiating for money for the position.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I want to add when you look at the spreadsheet Mary prepared for the staff report you will see Park Village Councilmembers have put in our concept.
- We've expanded the concept of the work beyond Park Village to include the wider issue and wider group, and looking at the responsibilities to our community in that description of purpose.
- I think our thinking parallels the Mayor's in that we're looking to handle more than -- we meaning, I believe the Council right now is wanting to consider this issue of shall we handle the oversight of West County Community Services in our relationship with them at Park Village and our relationship with our outreach coordinator and potential other relationships in town with that.
- At the same time look at the broader issues that our community is assisting us with and working with our police chief and fire chief.
- I think the Mayor's thoughts and Park Village committee thoughts are quite similar in that regard.
- I don't think the issue expires.
- That's where I'm looking at as a standing committee as Councilmember Hinton has said.
- These issues of primary importance to the Council they've been top priority as the Mayor has indicated through her personal commitment of the last year, year and half, two years, a very long time, where she's engaged in numerous meetings in the Mayoral capacity and otherwise as a Councilmember.
- I really value that work.
- It being that top priority we need to keep this issue front and center for our community, Council and staff, and we need to have our eyes on the expenses of it in terms of staff time, or budget, the resources of our community, working to build that collaborative spirit, working in educative, informative way and who forward in a grander scale.
- I think the housing subcommittee in some ways has had such an unspecified purpose that it very naturally disbands, right now and we move into some new creation.
- I would like us if this were a good time to explore the suggestions that Councilmember Rich has made as to the process for the rest of this discussion.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- The housing subcommittee has been engaging with issues of lack of housing for really four or five years - quite a long time.
- We have been engaging with West County Community Services and we've engaged with County supervisors and we've engaged with the South County Homeless Issues Committee which has a number of elected and staff people from around the County on it.
- We've been doing a lot of different work.

- Councilmember Slayter spent a lot of time working last year with Tom Schwedhelm who has done a lot of work on homeless issues
- We have gained quite a bit of contacts and institutional memory on this.
- I'm not seeing that there's an ownership of the relationship with WCCS, but that's not the issue at hand.
- When I hear let's have a subcommittee on it, I think of myself as somebody that has run organizations that contracts with somebody to do particular services and to my mind I think that the primary purpose of hiring somebody is to work, have them work with management and get direction from management.
- We don't have a subcommittee that has oversight over the Community Center and we own the Community Center.
- We don't have a subcommittee that has oversight over the Senior Center and we actually own the Senior Center also.
- So to my mind the primary relationship should be between City management and our contractor but other people may differ with me on that.
- I just feel like there's just so much potential we have already run into each other on this issue.
- I'm working on this. Councilmember Rich is working on that. Councilmember Slayter is working on this. I just don't want to get in that position again.
- It seems to me that having management interface with the organization that we chose to contract with
- We have a City Manager and City Attorney to do contracts and I am not clear that the details of a contract need to be sub out by the Council.
- I think that's why we have a City Manager and City Attorney.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- Number one I want to recognize how wonderful this community is, look at all these City Councilmember who want to be with solving or addressing the issues of the unhoused, very complicated issues, applaud everyone's interest and recognize the value of our City.
- I would like to suggest that we look at what tasks we really think need to be addressed that we as a City Council might want to parse out to a couple of City Councilmembers.
- What are the tasks. What would be the City Councilmember's roles because we may find when we look at the list, sanitation, mental health, and we turn to Tim Miller in the room and our staff who is represented in the room they say we got it covered or they might say, you know what, it would be great to have some help facilitating these items.
- Could we look at tasks and then maybe first ask our West County Community Services representative here whether he feels there's a role for City Councilmembers, are we going to get in the way, and same thing for staff, is there a role for us there.
- I will highlight the fact we've been benefiting recently from some reports out and those have been very useful.
- Who going to keep doing those reports out.
- Could we maybe ask our staff and Tim Miller whether they feel there's a need for us on a continuing basis to be there to facilitate.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I feel that's putting them in a very uncomfortable position because who decides what the structure of things is us as a body.
- I think the primary task is to ensure that the information that the various Councilmembers who have been involved in this over the past four or five years, the contact information the grant information, all of the logistic information, all of that gets passed on to our new contractor so that they can take that

information and use it wisely and implement their professional expertise in working to resolve the issues at hand.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I do see this differently and that's why I'm in favor of a standing committee.
- Than the Senior Center or Community Center which properties we own because they have the board of directors that does this work and meets monthly.
- Park Village, the other property that we've been charged with overseeing does not have a separate board of directors, we just have a contract.
- It's great that we have professionals that help us with that work but those other properties do have board of directors.
- Ives pool as well, board of directors, so that's why I believe this should be a standing committee.
- I see it differently than those three properties.

Tim Miller, WCCS, commented as follows:

- Speaking for West County Community Services, the Golden Rule is the person with the gold makes the rule.
- We will within workable function refer to what the City decides we sign the contract for outreach with the City and however the City would like us to report is how we'll do it.
- We'd all like to avoid a duplicative process which we're serving more than one group rather than just reporting to just one.
- Either Park Village or homeless outreach services are not just an educational function or trash function or law enforcement function, it's a social service function. That's the work we're committed to do.
- However the City sees fit to respond or asks us to respond is how we'll do it.
- I do think reporting to a City Council or County committee providing details and information is one thing and reporting can be enough.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- Obviously it's up to the Council, I think it's useful to have City Council dealing with issues of unhoused from the discussion of policy issues in that regard it bodes well to have a committee in place to deal with those issues in detail and then report back to the full Council
- That is a Council decision with explicit direction to your staff which would be able to expect staff to go forth and take care of what you directed staff to do.
- You're considering making policy decisions then you may need a committee to vet all these decisions and come back with a recommendation that they consider in detail from the point of view of Councilmembers.
- The only other comment I will make is the Park Village committee was originally established to discuss the budget for the operations of Park Village every year, was sort of like a mini budget committee in the sense that again it was tasked with looking at all of the details and operational costs of operating Park Village out there.
- I think at this point in time staff could do that function very well.
- With the larger issues of homelessness, et cetera, that's for Council to decide whether it's going to be continuing policy decisions you need vetted by couple of your colleagues to come back with recommendation.

Mayor Glass opened for public comment.

Adrienne Lauby commented as follows:

- Again, I am Adrienne Lauby, Co-Founder of Homeless action of Sonoma County and President of the board of SAVS.
- One thing useful as you think about this is there's a lot of change going on right now in the homeless issue.
- The money that's available and the change in thinking from let's build a few shelters and then wait for long-term housing to be built that is really shifting, we're getting a lot more money from both the Federal and state government and I think you all are considering interim solutions, just ways to get people off the street into tiny villages or RV parks, so on.
- So I expect there to be a lot of work that you couldn't do it before. Now there's possibilities.
- I think a standing committee makes a lot of sense.
- There's a lot of pretty delicate issues in terms of how people's opinions of homeless people are and homeless people themselves needing the care.
- I think having a committee that goes on is good.
- What I would expect as an advocate and activist is a committee that's got some members on it who are really engaged in the issue and willing to go the extra mile, stay up late and get up early in the morning and be responsive to the community, get to know some of the homeless people, and if this does become a standing committee with Brown Act then of course we'll also be there to talk to you on a regular basis.
- So I am laying it out in front of you saying, please, I hope whoever volunteers for this committee or whoever is appointed will take it very seriously.
- I do just want to say it goes beyond of the West County contract, as important as that it is there's a lot of other irons in the fire here and I hope to be working with you on some of them.

Suzanne Lande commented as follows:

- I'm speaking in addition to what Adrian said, I have great respect for West County Community Services, and also for SAVS
- The more collaboration there is, for instance, tiny homes, I think there could be collaboration that could really help the homeless community.
- I also think all of you know that I'm one of the volunteers who's with homeless really a lot.
- One of the things I really am noticing more of is we need more mental health services, badly.

Kyle Falbo commented as follows:

- First I want to applaud this body with tackling the issue of the unhoused.
- I agree with the assessment the committee in its current form is tasks with roles that both exceed its originally defined scope and could be branded to focus its task and directions beyond the West County contract.
- What I feel this boils down to is messaging.
- I for one would appreciate informational updates directly from City contractors opposed to a filtering that comes through a subcommittee.
- Yes there could be a subcommittee related to housing but in terms of the West County contract I'd like to hear from them directly.

Council Discussion and/or Deliberations:

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I'm understanding the idea of having a continuing standing committee.

- Everyone heard my opinion, I'd like to see a combination of two committees, there's a huge amount of institutional work and memory that is been done on the unhoused and housing issues that was in our committee and it's apparent there's another committee that wants to take over that role.
- I think combining them makes sense to me if we're going to have a committee.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- It's been really interesting to me to hear all of these comments and I think at this point I'm in support of a one standing committee, and I'm thinking rebranded as the committee for the unhoused because that seems to be the current acceptable language.
- I'd like to see the City Council look at what the tasks of that committee would be and have that committee then report back perhaps monthly for a while to us.
- I don't see a need for two committees. We don't need extra committees.
- We need one committee and we've got two City Councilmembers and members of the public in addition to our own experience seeing how much work recently has been needed on this issue.
- All of that supports some sort of standing committee presence.
- I do not see a role for housing committee any longer.
- I heard comments from about the housing element now being firmly in the court of our planning director.
- I'm not aware of any other needs for housing committee and understand that we meet regularly.
- If there's another need for a committee we can bring it back to the table.
- I propose one committee, committee for the unhoused, however anyone would propose here.
- That we do a little bit of work on what the tasks of that committee would be so we can define them so we can hopefully prevent the problem identified and we've all experienced where there's lack of clarity about the jurisdiction of the committee.

Mayor Glass requested clarification if Councilmember Rich was suggesting that we terminate the housing committee and use the name of the Park Village committee.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- Yes but I am not talking about membership.
- I'm talking about tasks.
- I think we need to terminate the housing committee and we need, I guess the Park Village committee would instead be called the committee for the unhoused.
- You captured it correctly and that it would be a standing committee for the unhoused, recognizing that we can always decide it doesn't need to be there but it makes it transparent in public.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- The fact that the Park Village committee helped administer and develop the contract with WCCS okay, great. That was work that needed to be done. That committee existed for that work.
- West County Community Services has their contract, they have been managing Park Village -- per the contract with staff as appropriate.
- I'm not sure that the Park Village committee, I've not heard a report in 2,3 of 4 years or in a long time
- That said, when we discussed this two weeks ago and when Mayor Glass and I were discussing the report for the housing committee we realize there'd was no more need for housing committee.
- The work that that committee was tasked with doing is ongoing and being done by staff and now we're moving into the new phase with the housing update and Planning Commission and planning director will manage that process and eventually will make its way back to Council.
- The housing committee didn't see a need to exist in its former state.

- So we have two committees, neither one of which is what we're looking to do.
- I think both committees need to be terminated.
- We need to do a brand new committee about services for the unhoused.
- I agree with the numbers of the public who said it's not just about administering the contract with WCCS.
- That historical work of the Park Village contract to me is irrelevant, it's a different contract, a different situation, yes it's the same organization but it's different and the work that needs to be done with the community volunteers, who I can't thank enough, I say that every time, the group of advocates, the deep knowledge, and the advocacy and of the heart that is given is remarkable.
- So Suzanne and Arthur and all of those fine people and people who have now stepped away a little bit, have done a lot of really great people in our committee doing their darnedest to help with this situation.
- So where I am, neither committee and that a new committee with a clear and defined set of tasks and a goal, be it far-reaching aspirational, that's fine.
- We talk about transparency, I think for transparency for the community members who are homeless, experiencing difficulty in that way, for members of the public who are advocates, for us, for staff, and the last thing I want to do is kick this down the road but in a lot of ways what I'd like to see is a menu and a devoted staff report for a new committee.
- If we put it together this evening I'd be on board for that as well.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- Thank you I want to thank Councilmember Slayter for putting it together.
- A while ago I said we're looking at Park Village going to expanded purpose a way of saying new and better committee that covers all of this.
- The conversation is feeling territorial as if our committee will go and we don't have valuable purpose and I don't feel that way remotely.
- We've had a lot of contribution from the four members involved and additional contributions from Councilmember Rich in the volunteer work she did on safe parking so we know each of us is really committed to moving the needle here on our circumstance of the unhoused
- Do we want to talk about assignments, are there people who want to volunteer for this.
- I'm not certain I need to be on the new committee, we're talking about merging, forming a new committee, we need this to be assigned out, I believe, as a task to perhaps the two people who are the most interested the volunteers tonight of the people this group has most confidence in who can design the purpose of this committee and come back to us with a long description
- We have a number of people in our public who are waiting for item number 7 and this is number 5.
- I suggest if it's acceptable to the Council if we could find the two volunteers to step up and define this, I'm just going to say new committee, and we all let them do that work and bring back a description of purpose and timeline.
- I think there is based on the City Manager's statement and interest in this being a standing committee rather than an ad hoc, standing until we feel it's no longer useful
- So that's my suggestion if two people want to tackle what we said tonight and put it together in a packaged purpose that we can look at fresh and simply without an hour and half of discussion in advance.
- Let's look for the two people who want to tackle this problem and come back with the definition of the committee its purpose and see if those are the two people who then have our confidence to go forward on as a way of merging on the sub topic before the big topic.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- That sounds like a good suggestion to me.

- I would be interested in volunteering for the defining part doesn't mean I'll be on the committee but I am interested in defining part.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- Councilmember Rich, I was going to volunteer you to be part of this defining committee if you would be interested.
- You've shown a lot of initiative on this subject and you're also the one person, that doesn't have a horse in this race, but I know your commitment and compassion you show and connection you do have to the groups who are well-represented tonight as a member of the public has mentioned so I am hopeful you will say yes you're interested.
- The Mayor is interested as well.
- I wonder if Councilmember Hinton would be interested because I'd appreciate her combining with Councilmember Rich if that's a possibility.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I just want to remind the Council or the public not only I worked on Park Village but also did the homeless counts and slept for S.A.Y.
- Homelessness is high on my priority list.
- I didn't participate in the fire or police committees this year so I was hoping to stay on this committee and would be both interested in defining it and also as a member in the future.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I just wanted to confirm that yes I would be interested in participating fully.
- My interest goes beyond formulating the committee and I do believe it would be useful to have individuals involved in formulating it who did at least have some interest in continuing on as standing committee members.
- I'd be happy to work with anyone on the City Council in either of those roles.
- Having worked on the safe overnight parking project, I just want to make it clear can that my experience there is that it took a lot of time.
- It took a lot of effort and it took a lot of relationship-building.
- I understand that everyone on the City Council has all the skills necessary to do all of that but I think it's important to recognize that as we embark on this project.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I'm going to defer to the Mayor, if it's important for you to help define the committee, but I'd be willing to back out of that portion with the statement that I would like to work on the committee moving forward.
- You have the experience from the housing committee, I just want to continue to throw my hat into the ring for this standing committee after that work is done.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- The Mayor has indicated from all her work there's a lot of institutional knowledge that can be passed on, contact list, information, grants, et cetera, and so, I'm going to understand that that would happen regardless of who is on this defining committee.
- The housing subcommittee would graciously pass along all of that information as did the safe parking volunteers pass along all their information to the housing Subcommittee.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I would like to mention that this is in the primary work I've done in the past five years and apparently some other people would rather do it than me.
- I do feel like part of my transmitting information isn't just doing listed it's giving the nuance of, I talk to this person, I participated in this, this is how this is gone along, et cetera.
- By disbanding the housing subcommittee and also the law enforcement subcommittee I don't have any committees left.
- I'd be fine with helping to define this committee. Then I guess I'll less to do which everybody does.
- I know everybody is being sensitive to how much time I do not have but I do feel that it is important for me to contribute something to defining this committee.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I'd just say to the extent that I get appointed to engage I would be thrilled to work with you in determining what the tasks are.
- That's become pretty clear here we just don't have a sense of exactly what needs to be done.
- So that would be an incredible contribution that would benefit not just the City Council and not just the result here but also our community.
- Mayor Glass, you are completely committed to the community including the unhoused and everyone else in this wonderful town so I think we would benefit greatly no matter if it's you and me working on it or you and someone else from having your input.
- I'd have to say if I am part of putting together a report out on what this committee could do I will be completely comfortable if the City Council then decides to appoint different members to actually do the work that's involved.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I do want to mention there's different skillsets and things that need to be done here and part of what I want to acknowledge the incredible amount of work Councilmember Rich and Councilmember Slayter have put into the unhoused committee over the past year and the part that I have done which is a different kind of thing is to be out there in the County community, in County government, in statewide government to try and work in coalition as a whole in our County to try and resolve these problems
- I have been less on the ground in that respect, but I think that contacts and the information about the people that I have been working within coalition in the regional thing is a really important thing for an ongoing committee to understand.
- Those kind of contacts need to be made as well.
- I see this as two different areas that we've both worked in towards solving, this really pretty bad problem.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- Law enforcement committee doesn't exist and housing committee doesn't exist. So I feel your pain.
- I'm going to make a motion that we appoint Mayor Glass and Councilmember Rich as the ad hoc to develop a proposal to come to the full Council for a committee made to be determined and membership of that committee to be determined.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- Actually we've talked about this a lot tonight and this issue of standing in ad hoc and what committees are we going to have has been on the agenda since the end of July so I'm not interested in this taking a lot longer.
- I think this conversation informed a lot of the decisions that could be made in the two week future at the next meeting.

- I would really like this to be sooner than later, no point to draw it out into an ad hoc that takes 6 months to figure it out.
- We need this to be put in play so we know where we're going when we look to assignments in December.
- I'm anticipating we can agree to a purpose at the next meeting we can agree to the status, there's some consensus tonight that it's standing, that gives it long-term if we know the purpose, we know its status and all we need is to select members and I'd want to do that at the next meeting because of the critical nature of unhoused situation with Morris street in front the of us and sweep of encampments tomorrow morning.
- We can't roll this out for some longer review so I'm wondering if we have to call this ad hoc if it's possible for the people involved you Mayor Glass because you'd like to be and I believe Councilmember Rich if you would two would be willing to do this and return to Mary to put on the next agenda.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- As you know I'm in Sacramento right now and here for a week so, that means I can't work on this until next week and I know Councilmember Rich is actually out of town right now too.
- I just want to make sure that we have enough time to get this done.
- I think we should have it done by the next meeting or following one.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- Let's look at statement as very brief, 100 words or less. This is not complicated.
- I think we need to resolve this and if we're going to move forward with this ad hoc committee I want to acknowledge Councilmember Hinton has expressed graciously that she will defer to the Mayor and that she's interested in the formal appointment assuming we do come up with standing committee.

Mayor Glass commented I thought we were going for more than statement of purpose that we were going to talk about some tasks that we'd provide tasks for the Council to consider.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- That's actually part of the purpose
- I think Mayor Glass and I can put together the essentials pretty simply.
- I know you, Mayor Glass have a lot of experience and I'm happy to do the basic e-mail content that would be a starting conversation for us.
- I already have the beginning of what would be the description and the scope and I can easily send that to you.

City staff discussed the deadlines for the October 5th Council Meeting and restated the motion.

MOTION:

Councilmember Slayter moved and Mayor Glass seconded the motion to appoint Mayor Glass and Councilmember Rich as an ad hoc committee that can continue through the end of October to develop a proposal of tasks and timelines that will be returned to the full Council with the committee's name to and membership to be determined at the next meeting.

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

VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmembers Hinton, Rich, Slayter, Vice Mayor Gurney and Mayor Glass

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

City Council Action: Appointed Mayor Glass and Councilmember Rich as an ad hoc committee that can continue through the end of October to develop a proposal of tasks and timelines that will be returned to the full Council with the committee's name to and membership to be determined at the next meeting.

Minute Order Number: 2021-233

MOTION:

Vice Mayor Gurney moved and Councilmember Hinton seconded the motion to disband the following committees:

- Housing Committee
- Park Village Committee

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

VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmembers Hinton, Rich, Slayter, Vice Mayor Gurney and Mayor Glass

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

City Council Action: Approved disbanding the following committees:

- Housing Committee
- Park Village Committee

Minute Order Number: 2021-234

MOTION:

Vice Mayor Gurney moved and Councilmember Rich seconded the motion to affirm the actions for Disbanding of Various Committees as Discussed at the September 7, 2021 City Council Meeting.

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

VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmembers Hinton, Rich, Slayter, Vice Mayor Gurney and Mayor Glass

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

City Council Action: Affirmed the actions for Disbanding of Various Committees as Discussed at the September 7, 2021 City Council Meeting.

Minute Order Number: 2021-235

Mayor Glass called for a break at 8:28pm and reconvened the meeting at 8:35 pm.

6. Discussion of Future City Council Meetings for In Person Only or Hybrid Meetings assuming that the Executive Order would expire and AB 361 not acted upon as of this meeting date. If the Executive Order is extended or if AB 361 is adopted as Law, it is recommended that the City continue to conduct virtual meetings as long as there is a state-proclaimed state of emergency. (Responsible Department: City Manager)

City staff presented the agenda item recommending the City Council discuss the Future City Council Meetings for In Person Only or Hybrid Meetings assuming that the Executive Order would expire and AB 361 not acted upon as

of this meeting date. If the Executive Order is extended or if AB 361 is adopted as Law, it is recommended that the City continue to conduct virtual meetings as long as there is a state-proclaimed state of emergency.

Mayor Glass asked for questions.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I think the first decision and my recommendation would be to whether or not, if the Council would like to continue for all City meetings, not just City Council, this would be Planning Commission, our boards, our committees
- Decision would be to continue our virtual meetings as we've done in the past under the new law AB 361 which would allow the continuation of these meetings as long as we're in a state of emergency or go in person or hybrid.

City staff commented as follows:

- The Council does not have to go that direction.
- The Council can choose to go to an in-person or hybrid meeting, but that conversation would need to take place without the Mayor in attendance because there are conversations about cost, locations, and she would have a conflict with one of the locations that is being considered
- I do want to re-emphasize the figures that are in the staff report, we were just able to get the October meetings up and running.
- Those would not be the continued cost.
- We've been working with Catherine from the center of arts, Mark from the Community Center, we're still having continuing conversations.
- There are a lot of moving parts.
- There are grants out there for equipment and things like that, so, again, this is just for the October meeting, the cost that you see in the staff reports.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented if the Council makes this decision, does it apply to all other bodies or are they going to be asked their preference as well?

City staff commented as follows:

- I would recommend that this be consistent with all other bodies.
- The two departments to really focus on this would be myself and then the planning department.
- I believe it's their preference.
- I know it is the planning director's preference to continue the virtual meetings until such time that we don't have a declaration anymore, but again, that would be a Council decision.
- I would recommend it be consistent for all bodies and commissions.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- If we did it in person or hybrid are the costs related really to the location or the hybrid?
- I'm thinking of the Youth Annex if we went back to a hybrid in our old location, which many times that room is not full, I might want to point out, is that still the cost?
- How does that compare to what the cost used to be?
- How much more is it now?

Mayor Glass departed the meeting.

City staff commented as follows:

- The costs are going to be more because it depends on the type of meeting that the Council chooses to do.
- Whether you do it in person, which would mean we would go back to the old way of just livestreaming, we would not have the zoom format anymore.
- However, the old way needed an upgrade of the equipment. The sound did not work in that room, we did not have a dedicated line for the Internet.
- That would be a one-time cost to upgrade that.
- There is a purchase of additional equipment that we would need to get.
- The Community Center has a grant and they are purchasing some equipment, but they were not prepared as of this meeting to be able to purchase that yet, so the figures that you see for now are renting the professional equipment for the October meeting, but we are still working with the Community Center and the Center for the Arts to determine the final cost.
- They will not be near that. Every day it's a moving figure.
- We're figuring out something new where there might not be a cost because they're also looking at having an I.T. person to be able to be on board for us.
- We did in the past pay the Community Center.
- I believe it was like around \$900 quarterly to have the meetings in the Youth Annex, but those were just to set up the rooms, to have someone there to put it up, take it down.
- That was before livestreaming and everything else.
- This was to be able to have a professional meeting whether you're doing it in person or hybrid.

Councilmember Rich commented am I understanding that the \$1900 amount that is in the staff report would be solely for the month of October and that the continuing monthly cost might be less than that, is that correct?

City staff commented as follows:

- That is correct.
- So clarifying the month of October, that first meeting would be the \$1900.
- Because that would mean we would have to rent professional equipment for sound, the zoom, we would have to have noise canceling headphones because if everyone has a zoom computer at the Council, if the Council chooses to be in person and then have the zoom meetings, there is a lot of noise that would be taking place, a lot of echoing, a lot of that.
- This is the rental of that equipment as well as the audio person to be there on-site, so that is what the \$1900 is for.
- We would also need to do that for the Planning Commission which would be an additional \$1900 to do that as well.
- That is because we were looking to try to get something done within two weeks.
- But yes, moving forward we are in talks with the Community Center and center of the arts for how this figure can be reduced.
- There are grants the Community Center is looking at.
- There is also purchase of equipment that we're looking to talking with the center of the arts to see if we can purchase some of that equipment, there's also the dedication of a DSL line that's a one-time cost.
- It will eventually be reduced but it will take a while to get those figures ironed out.
- It would probably take a few months to the beginning of the year to get those details ironed out.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- Staff mentioned that these expenses would apply even if we were going to be completely in person.

- Is hybrid the same cost as in person?

City staff commented as follows:

- There would be an additional laptop and camera and things like that that it would still be the same cost because you're still trying to do professional services out to the community through livestream, so we still need the dedicated line, we still need the upgraded equipment, you still need a sound that is better than a microphone, so yes, it's still the same cost.
- If you're hybrid, you would have an additional camera and probably noise-canceling headphones -- if you have your zoom on, you won't have that echo.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- What if we instead were looking at not doing it immediately but giving some time to get the appropriate setup, would that reduce that initial cost substantially, do you think?
- Guesstimate

City staff commented as follows:

- Definitely the longer you don't go in person, the lower cost there is to it.
- We wouldn't have to initially put out for the next couple months the \$1900 for the first meeting.
- I don't know when the purchase of the equipment would take place.
- We would be coordinating that with the Community Center, so they have grants.
- They were not prepared this month to be able to purchase that.
- The cost would be reduced -- pushing it out there for a few months, if the Council was wanting to look at going back to in person, say, the first of the year, it would save us those rentals cost for the next few months until the time we can purchase the equipment.
- Just as a reminder, when you purchase the equipment, it's like a laptop, within one or two years it's out of technology, so we're also looking at rental to see what the costs are and things like that.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- Does the municipal code specify meeting locations or schedule?
- I know it says schedule, does it also say location?

City staff commented as follows:

- It does but it also has the option in there, or other locations
- It says the Youth Annex is the primary location for City Council meetings, but it also says you could look at other locations.

Please note: For these minutes only, City staff inserted language from code for clarity: All regular meetings of the City Council shall be held in the Sebastopol Youth Annex/Teen Center, 425 Morris St., Sebastopol, Sonoma County, California, or other such place as shall be designated in the notice of such meeting. In the event the meeting is in such place other than the Youth Annex, notice shall be given as required by law.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- Over the years we've had meetings at the big hall and we've had a couple meetings at the vet's hall, so for the arts facility back in the day, we even had one at the high school library.
- I appreciate the diligence on this, and I just want to make sure we weren't potentially setting up a situation where we needed to figure out a way around our municipal code.
- Thanks for all the research.

- I know that our expenses went up for meetings substantially in the budget committee and we're discussing that for a variety of reasons, but is this over and above even what we budgeted?

Director Kwong commented if Council is looking at the long term to go back in person and have to be sharing costs with the Community Center for purchasing all this equipment or rental or whatever that might be, yes, it is above and beyond what we have in the budget right now. follows:

Mark, Community Center, commented as follows:

- Essentially right now what we're looking at is a third-party company called PCD Live coming in and running the meeting.
- Our goal is to be able to do it in-house and bring that cost down, because it's substantially more through this third-party company.
- Jeff Sterling, who is a member of that, he brought figures down toward the end before it went to zoom the last time, so there was a comfort level that was expressed to me through the city to have them engaged, which I completely understand.
- But that's our goal.
- Our goal would be we're moving fast with a third-party company.
- If we don't have to move that fast, and we can get more creative to figure out how we can put it together internally to keep costs down and get something consistent as a format going down the road.

City staff commented as follows:

- I wasn't sure about the timing.
- I know you and I talked about it would take a couple months so you and I could come up with this creative solution so the costs was greatly reduced.
- We were talking about the November-December time frame to make sure everything was ironed out.

Mayor Glass returned to the meeting.

Mayor Glass commented the first decision would be per my recommendation, as I said earlier, would be to discuss whether or not the Council wants to go virtual or not.

Mayor Glass opened for public comment.

Kyle Falbo commented as follows:

- Power of technology to break down barriers has been increasingly apparent over the last 18 months.
- As an educator, to see the way my students and colleagues have been able to take advantage of technology, to produce educational environments that increase access to all has been inspiring to say the least.
- Universal design for learning improves teaching for all people in how students learn.
- One of the main principles of universal design is the act of producing content that is accessible to those in need actually creates benefit for all.
- Just a quick glance at the recorded video content of Council meetings prior to 2020, we see, as Mary has mentioned, we're not up to a standard we should expect.
- At some point in the future, there will likely be a desire to return to in-person meetings.
- However, this should not be hastily run to without any serious consideration to the benefit that a hybrid model would bring to both accessibility and engagement with the public.

- In terms of cost, there are plenty of available cheap options that would allow for automated, quality or teleconferencing that would adapt to a personal meeting and allow for an online engagement.
- People interested in those solutions are encouraged to reach out to any of these boards regionally for this setup for quite some time.

Council Discussion and/or Deliberations:

The Council was in consensus to continue virtual meetings.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- I would just suggest rather than absolute, is that we say something like in three months or perhaps it is on the same schedule as what has been on the consent calendar now for renewal, the local emergency, and that we kind of just have a check-in given things change so rapidly.
- So rather than saying, yes, we're going to stick with online meetings, how about we say we're going to stick with them for this period of time which maybe that is a logical period of time.
- I would recommend if the decision were to stay virtual or in person or hybrid that we not discuss locations tonight so that we can work with both venues to bring those items back at a future meeting so we can have a more detailed meeting when we have all those specifics nailed down.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I'm very much in support of a hybrid model eventually.
- I agree with the proposal from our City Clerk, that we look at that probably our first meeting in December when staff can provide a more accurate assessment, estimate of the costs involved and hopefully have a better opportunity to make sure that we're going to be able to do it in a workable fashion for our community.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I also agree with the City proposal
- I think it's really important now to stay virtual.
- I also want to recognize that the staff members that we've heard from also prefer virtual right now.
- The staff needs time to explore the possibilities.
- Our collaborators need time to discuss this option.
- Before we make the conversion we need to have a model or test meeting to see if it is effective.
- The one meeting that I attended hybrid where I was the person on zoom to a board did not work well at all.
- I couldn't hear, I couldn't see, and I think that system needs some time to be perfected and vetted for us.
- So I support our City proposal
- I appreciate all the research that's been done on this, and hopefully we're ahead of the game so we have a solution in place when we need to test it.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I think that your comments regarding it not working well, refer to where we have all been to meetings in places like supervisors' meetings and all that where they have all those magic screens that come down from the ceiling and everybody just pushes a button and everyone is wearing headphones and it's all great, but that's not what we have in Sebastopol.
- Our staff needs to figure out what kind of alternatives at what price we could afford if we are going to move forward with a hybrid model.

- I personally really believe that a hybrid model is important as we go into the future, not next week, but I do really agree that technology has enabled so many other people to participate in our meetings and that it is a very important option to offer.
- So what I'm hearing is that we're directing staff to continue to research locations, costs, et cetera, and we will revisit this in somewhere a little less than 60 days.
- We will bring it back sometime in December and that will give us and the locations we're discussing more time to look at the cost and all that.

City staff commented as follows:

- I do want to put a little plug out there for our community members.
- We are probably the only City that has not really been bombed where our community members are so respectful on these zoom meetings, and I just want to applaud them through livestream or through zoom when they're here how respectful they've been.
- I have heard a lot of comments about the ability for the transparency, parents that have kids at school that are able to come to these zoom meetings and not have to come sit for hours in person to wait for their item
- I want to thank the public because it shows the kind of community we have.

The Council was in consensus to stay virtual until December when Council will review future Council meetings.

City Council Action: No formal action. The Council was in consensus to stay virtual until December when Council will review future Council meetings.

Minute Order Number: 2021-236

7. Discussion and Consideration of Letter to Sonoma County on Local Coastal Plan (LCP) (Requestor: Mayor Glass)

Mayor Glass introduced the agenda item recommending the City Council authorize the Mayor to send a letter under the Mayor's signature expressing the City's concerns.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Basically our County is in the process of updating its local coastal program.
- Just to reiterate for those members of the public who are actually not here for this item, a land use policy in a coastal area is governed by a local coastal program where as the rest of the policy in the system is regulated by the general plan.
- The County has both a general plan and we have a local coastal program.
- Our LCP is being updated at this point.
- It is updated periodically, and when we update it, it has to be actually vetted first through the planning process so it goes through the County's Planning Commission, then it goes through our supervisors, and it eventually has to be approved by the Coastal Commission.
- At this point, County staff has been working on an LCP update.
- They have held multiple public meetings and informational sections and listening sessions along the coast regarding the LCP update.
- At this point, I have received communication from a number of citizens' groups as well as coastal advocates as well as the coastal mac, which is the municipal advisory committee, and as well as the Bodega Bay fire district.
- Concerns about the draft LCP as it is.
- Why should we be talking about this here in Sebastopol, you may ask?

- Well, the reason is that the LCP governs land use on the coast and that impacts us as a City.
- Not only does it impact us as residents of Sonoma County who go to the coast to use the coast and enjoy the coast, but it also impacts levels of service here in our City.
- For example, growth population density and tourism on the coast impacts traffic in our town.
- The more intense that use becomes, the more the impact is on our City.
- short-term rentals.
- here are a huge number of short-term rentals out at the coast.
- short-term rentals, a lot of them are smaller rental units which could have been more affordable, but instead a lot of our housing stock is being taken up with that.
- We have a significant amount of calls from the Bodega Bay fire district are tourism related, and since we provide reciprocal service to them, that could affect our fire department.
- These are all things to consider.

Planning Director Svansson presented the agenda item recommending the City Council authorize the Mayor to send a letter under the Mayor's signature expressing the City's concerns.

Mayor Glass asked for questions.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I appreciate your focus on traffic and the conditions of our roads that have a great impact on our town.
- For appreciation of our meeting this evening, do we have a draft letter?
- The staff said it would be available before the meeting, but I'm not able to find it.

City staff displayed the draft letter on the screen.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented I'm anticipating, madam mayor, that you would want to edit it and make it your own letter.

Mayor Glass stated that is correct.

Mayor Glass opened for public comment.

Dee Swanhuysen commented as follows:

- I'm just wanting to say that the coast belongs to everyone.
- Because of the amount of tourists, because of the increase in economic activity, because of the rental Airbnb or whatever it's called, I can't get to the coast.
- I feel I shouldn't go to the coast. There's too many people already.
- Now this local coastal plan is increasing the number of people and development on the coast, and so local residents can no longer visit, ethically speaking?
- It's just not acceptable.
- The coast is going to be decreased by 3 feet in a few years, and we're going to lose access to Bodega Head.
- Is that being addressed in the local coastal plan, and how does that affect how many people can go out there?
- The economy of Sebastopol is tied with all of these issues as well as our citizens being unable to feel good about going and visiting their coast.

Padi Selwyn commented as follows:

- Preserve Rural Sonoma County - which got started as a result of a City Council meeting in Sebastopol.
- We were concerned about land issues, so we thank the City Council having more care about our land use.
- The coastal plan simply paves the way for another Jersey shore.
- A group of us have been working the last several years dissecting the document.
- We have Planning Commissioners.
- We have very knowledgeable people poring through this document to understand what they are suggesting.
- It basically allows for a lot more commercialization, more visitors' attraction.
- Get this, there is even a boardwalk planned.
- So it's both ironic and appalling that our Sonoma coast is now threatened by a document that's supposed to protect it.
- The coast cannot handle more commercialization in the face of water shortages, wildfire threats, limited forest services and there are serious considerations for the City of Sebastopol which is a gateway to the coast.
- We applaud the City of Sebastopol for considering sending a letter to the County, and we urge you to add your voice and ask that this draft, which is so terribly flawed, go back to Sonoma for a very extensive rewrite.

Reuben commented as follows:

- I want to ask the coastal plan to go back to the planning committee for revision that will hopefully take into consideration the years of committee input as well as the County Coastal Commission eight-page letter that listed important elements that need to be included and that will protect the coast rather than encouraging commercial development.
- Since Sebastopol is the gateway to the coast, Sebastopol needs to have a say in the update, and this letter will help slow down the approval process and it will allow the LCP to be properly and completely revised to protect the coast rather than to develop the coast.

Jill Lippit commented as follows:

- I'm a resident of the coast and part of the study you have just referred to.
- I want to commend Sebastopol to see how connected you are to us and how our future fate is entwined.
- There is another issue that hasn't been raised, although, Mayor Glass, you had a wonderful listing of the many impacts that this LCP would have.
- This LCP is, for more than 20 years the original LCP really did protect and defend the coast from unmitigated development, unmitigated commercialization.
- The LCP that the Planning Commission was prepared to vote on the 7th of October has so many loopholes, as Reuben just said.
- The Coastal Commission had eight pages of finely detailed objections which were not included in the LCP, were not addressed.
- Most importantly -- they had things that were going to fast-track - dense development on open space, and as the coast gets more developed, it will have a ripple effect on the agricultural open spaces between Sebastopol and the coast.
- There's more population -- tourist-based population, second home population developed in the open space on the coast.
- It will be like a magnet that will ripple onto the lands that are not protected by the local coastal plan, the lands that are under the general plan which are much more able to be developed, and what you're going to have is this ripple effect, the spreading development that, again, there is nothing in this local coastal

plan that provides that any development take into consideration the impacts on water resources, on traffic and public safety, on the environment.

- All of those things were in the original LCP, but their lip service is paid in this current one, but if you read it carefully, there are so many loopholes you can drive a Mack truck through and you can do pretty much -- once you get a permit as it's currently written, there is no appeal.
- There is no appeal to the board of supervisors, there is no appeal to the Planning Commission, there is no appeal even to the Coastal Commission.
- That's how this LCP that is about, was about to be maybe approved was written.
- So it's definitely -- it's so flawed and it will impact not just the coast but you as well in the ways that have been mentioned and what I just said.
- There will be way more pressure to develop open spaces that are not as protected as ours.

Council Discussion and/or Deliberations:

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- First claim a bit of ignorance on this.
- I have not read and studied the old plan, nor have I read and studied the new plan.
- I've seen bits and pieces of them, so what's changed and what hasn't changed?
- I absolutely guarantee that there are people in attendance at this meeting who know significantly more than I do about this.
- With that caveat, I would also like to propose that rather than simply listing valid concerns, I would also like to suggest that any communication with the County, that's everyone from the project planner up, that we provide solid suggestions, that we say this is what we think the plan says now, and we have a suggestion that will improve it in our opinion.
- I don't want to send a letter listing complaints, it's not very constructive, and it doesn't really help the County improve the plan.
- I would also like to suggest that maybe the Mayor meet with the project planner one on one and just have an open-ended conversation where our position can be shared verbally rather than just in a letter.
- I think that would be a really valuable process.
- So I'm in favor of sending a letter, but I'm also in favor of being as constructive as we possibly can.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I appreciate Councilmember Slayter's suggestions, they're really valuable.
- I don't know that there's all the time to be as thorough as you suggest.
- They remain really good suggestions and I think submitting a written letter is very important because it's formal.
- It goes out on City letterhead and it's signed by the Mayor and it's official and it represents the viewpoint of this Council authorizing her.
- That has great political significance.
- I want to thank our public members who have hung in this long meeting for this item and there are a few other people that didn't make it until this moment.
- I appreciate those people who did speak up and I appreciate all the e-mailers.
- The Council got a significant correspondence on this.
- I think that means a lot to us when we hear a united voice from so many people.
- I'm going to suggest, Madam Mayor, if I may say something personal to you, I think this is one of the most important letters of your lifetime.

- Consider the work that you've done as staff to Supervisor Reilly who was the long-tenured Coastal Commissioner and Chair of the Commission, and in your work for the Sebastopol City Council and your work as a Director of Coast Walks
- This is a very significant piece for you to achieve, and I'm hoping for you a really heartfelt delivery where you can be the coastal warrior that you have been recognized as an individual.
- I'm grateful you're our Mayor and I feel very comfortable authorizing you to send a letter.
- I am comfortable having you do a one on one with the planner if you're interested in that.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I appreciate this greatly.
- It reflects the town of Sebastopol in the many ways I mentioned, and I've never seen so many consistent e-mails on one topic imploring us to do something that clearly is really meaningful.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- We all love the coast having grown up here.
- It's important.
- Obviously we know the impact to our town when we have a lot of tourism that drives through.
- The fire department out there trying to do emergency response and again I agree with Councilmember Slayter
- I'm not averse to what's in the old plan, what's in the new plan, either, but I respect the coastal advocates that are behind us that they know, and with your background I'm sure you can write a great letter that represents us all in our opinions.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I think we have a really mega threshold issue here when we look at our life now and our future, and that is really to ask ourselves, do we want to continue to increase our reliance on tourism because of the detrimental impacts?
- Look what's been listed.
- With climate change; We're looking at drought; we're looking at fires; we're looking at a burden on emergency services; we're looking at burdens on our roads; loss of open space, impacts on our recreation.
- I think we really need to rethink our economies, the model of our economy and ask ourselves, do we want to compel people to travel here and there to spend money so that place over there gets more money.
- It really just doesn't make sense when we think of the life and the lessons that we've experienced through COVID.
- This is our opportunity to just live differently and not spend so much time traveling to somewhere else and making that person dependent on our dollars.
- We really could localize our economies and live a much healthier world.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I would be happy to talk to the planner.
- I'm also listening to this incredible preponderance of concerns on behalf of coastal advocates, environmentalists, coastal residents, so I feel that it is appropriate for the City to express that we are concerned that these specific impacts be addressed in the LCP.

- The additional thing that was not included in your packet was this really quite lengthy letter from the coastal commission with a long list of specifics that needed to be improved in this current draft of the LCP.
- The other thing I just have to say is that the coastal act is really pretty specific about the public having access to the process.
- I actually cannot understand how this LCP could say that there could not be an appeal to the Coastal Commission because that's actually in the coastal act.
- So I don't see how our County couldn't say, no, no, no, that doesn't matter anymore because it's part of the coastal act.
- In any case, I'm sure that we have staff at the County who have worked very hard on this and are concerned and care about the coast, but I think that there is a huge amount of feedback here that's saying there is a problem with this and we need to go back to the drawing board and fix a number of things.

MOTION:

Councilmember Hinton moved and Councilmember Rich seconded the motion to approve authorization for Mayor to send a letter under the Mayor's signature expressing the City's concerns.

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

VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmembers Hinton, Rich, Slayter, Vice Mayor Gurney and Mayor Glass

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

City Council Action: Approved authorization for Mayor to send a letter under the Mayor's signature expressing the City's concerns.

Minute Order Number: 2021-237

7. Discussion of Geographical boundaries for Planning Commission (Responsible Department: Planning Department)

Planning Director Svansson presented the agenda item recommending the City Council Review the alternative geographies and provide direction to staff. Staff will return to the Council with an updated Ordinance for the Planning Commission structure (SMC 2.24) and eligibility based on Council's direction given at its March 16, 2021 meeting and direction on this item tonight.

Planning Commission Chair Paul Fritz commented as follows:

- I remember when we talked about this on the Commission, we did suggest that it would be nice to change the boundary.
- The zip codes seemed a little kind of unwieldy and kind of far-ranging and a strange shape.
- We didn't have a lot of opinion about the exact distance.
- We did talk about a 2 or 3-mile and we hadn't seen the map at that time, so seeing the maps, it's kind of nice to see where that boundary could potentially be.
- We didn't have a strong opinion other than it should probably be something other than the zip code boundary.
- A little closer in seemed to make more sense.
- From the Planning Commission's standpoint, we would just like to see probably a different boundary than 95472 zip code seemed to make more sense.

Mayor Glass asked for questions.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- You mentioned that you received calls from people who live down on Hessel Road.
- When you look at this 2 or 3-mile radius, do you have a sense from your interactions with people outside the immediate City limits of which boundary would capture more effectively that population that reaches out to you, anyway, with questions?

Director Svanstrom commented as follows:

- We actually get questions from people as far as Bohemian Highway.
- Until you start to get an Occidental mailing address, it's not clear to people it's not Sebastopol city limits.
- I think any of the geographies are quite workable.
- The thing I think about is this is also combined with City Council takes the responsibility to interview candidates and make sure that they are committed to the City very seriously, and so to me, whatever geography you choose, I'm sure that combined with your interview process will be just fine in terms of workability for the City.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I tend to like the larger 3-mile radius.
- Do you foresee any downsides to that larger radius that you would like to alert us to?

Director Svanstrom commented as follows:

- The only thing I would do, and I know Chair Fritz did comment on this to me when we talked about it with the Planning Commission, is not to include people who live in a different city jurisdiction, such as Santa Rosa City limits.
- I think that's an inappropriate thing to do as well, as they are already in another incorporated City.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Vice Mayor Gurney mentioned using the school district boundaries which sounds like an interesting
- A pretty good idea to me, and the reason for that is it does seem to me like it might be easier to administer
- You can get a map, you can find out what addresses are included in those districts.
- Does that seem like it might be easier to administer to you, or do you see problems with that?

Director Svanstrom commented as follows:

- I think that's actually, from a resident standpoint, easier for knowing whether or not you qualify.
- It's a lot easier because all you have to do is look at your tax bill
- It's a much clearer thing than a boundary as a buffer boundary will inevitably go through half a parcel - what if the house is on the other side.
- People know what school district they are in, and that's also included just in our GIS database. If you click on your lot, it tells you what the school district is.
- You would be able to pretty easily go from staff side and the public side to identify that.
- I'm actually trying to get that view up along with the other maps so you can kind of see the geography by comparison, if you like. [showed boundaries on map]
- You can see the outline of Fulton Road and Fulton Road is right there.

- It does go further to the South, so Hessel is here, and it's a little tighter in as you go up Bodega Highway than the buffer map would be.
- [Emailed the map to the Council to be able to be read easier.]

Mayor Glass opened for public comment. There was none.

Council Discussion and/or Deliberations:

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I just want to mention for historical purposes I was the Councilmember who brought forward the idea of having a non-resident community member seat.
- For me the greatest significance is that the person who might hold that seat, it's limited to one seat only, maximum one, be demonstrating citizenship in our community.
- What does that mean?
- Well, you attend schools here, you go to church here, you shop here, you participate in activities here whether that's sports or classes.
- You volunteer serving our non-profits, you join our service organizations, you go to meetings here.
- In other words, people from outside our little boundaries travel to this place to belong.
- It's that sense of belonging and participation that is important to me.
- I felt very strongly that I could trust the Council and future Councils to take that measure of an interested applicant.
- It's really kind of clear who cares about this place and who doesn't, and if distance is a factor, there is always that physical measure further or closer.
- There's that measure of address, all those sorts of things.
- The school district map appealed to me because it's something people are familiar with.
- It already has imposed that sense of, you might say belonging but it doesn't seem quite the same as belonging in a community with a range of people and a range of ages and all the rest where this school community is essentially families and young people and younger parents.
- I liked it because those people are already coming in to town.
- Those are the feeder schools to Analy High School.
- So there is this longstanding identification from that map to our community.
- I felt that was really comfortable.
- Of course, with the merger of the high school, it had to run through my brain, well, what about North of town?
- We're not Analy High School anymore, we're West County High School, and I thought for me that was a boundary shift that didn't feel real because Forestville is their own community and they need to be recognized from us.
- I didn't feel just because of the high school merger there was a reason to revise my thinking.
- I wanted to check it to see if I need to do update it.
- So the school district map, especially with Director Svanstrom saying, there is this ease of interpretation, I really appreciated that.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- I appreciate what the Vice Mayor said about folks who live outside of our bounds participating in our community.
- However, my position will not change from what it has been in the past, and that is we are not, as the City of Sebastopol, granted an automatic seat on the City of Sonoma Planning Commission.
- They have theirs and we have ours.

- If the Planning Commission boundaries did not include anybody outside the City limit, that would be okay with me.
- I'm a bit provincial about that.
- That's the word I used before, and I think it still applies.
- The 3-mile boundary to me is entirely too large.
- The 2-mile boundary is getting something that I might be able to compromise to, but honestly, I took that map and I drew a 1-mile boundary, and that even looked better to me.
- The school districts, that's just as arbitrary in a lot of ways as the zip code.
- We had no say in what those boundaries are, and they're close by, but to me it's still arbitrary.
- For me the smaller the better, and that's my take.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I'm on the opposite end of the scale.
- I would go either with the 3-mile boundary or with the school district map.
- Either would be acceptable to me as engaging the community outside our City limits is important, I agree with that, and I also agree with the comments about our ability to interview people and understand pretty quickly how engaged they are.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I was with Councilmember Slayter the last time on this, and I agree again this time.
- I find it interesting the school boundaries because of ease of figuring out where you are, but not interested enough to go with it.
- The 3-mile boundary because it borders Santa Rosa is a sign to me that that's too big.
- I was automatically leaning to the 1-mile, and I guess I would be willing to compromise somewhere in that, but I'm also more for the narrow approach.
- When you look at those roads, even though people shop in our town that live outside town, it's a different thing to weigh in on the planning of our City.
- We are a City, and I think our citizens should be the primary ones to weigh in.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I just wanted to remind us that someone who owns a business here has no residency requirement in town.
- They can have a business on main street and live in Bodega Bay or the City of Sonoma.
- Obviously the interview process is the key one, but we have to realize to some degree, residency is already flexible and why do we do that?
- Because our business community is pretty impacted by our land use decisions, and similarly, residents outside of our boundaries who are near enough or participatory enough to belong here are impacted by our decision.
- And I think probably Mary and Kari and other staff members who receive calls have heard often, as have Councilmembers, what do you mean I can't vote in your town?
- Because they think they can because they feel like they belong here, and potentially their address says Sebastopol, too.
- I'm just recommending, let's just nail this down and let Director Svanstrom to get on with the changes so by December we can have a full Planning Commission.
- It's important that we be fully functioning with all seats being wise and creative and dedicated.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- Since I've been on the Council, the decision about the business owner was made prior to my time on the Council, and I'm not sure if that's just unique to Sebastopol.
- I think it is. Other cities don't necessarily do that.
- My question for staff is are we discussing going down to a five-member Planning Commission because that's what the Planning Commission asked us for in December, and I know we're not making that decision tonight, but it was mentioned in the staff report.
- So it sounds like that's a future deliberation. Am I correct on that?

Director Svanstrom commented as follows:

- I believe the consensus of the Council was to reduce the Commission to seven at the March meeting and to potentially consider a future reduction after that, so we're now at seven, do it at seven for a period of time and potentially revisit it.
- Of course, it's at the Council's pleasure to revisit as you choose.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I don't agree to reducing the Planning Commission.
- If there was consensus that didn't include me when this comes back, I'll have the same position.
- I'm just letting Councilmember Slayter know.
- Because we have these rather solid disagreements, I think, if that's one of them.
- I did want to point out, let's look at the outliers.
- We have Cloverdale to the East, Sebastopol to the West.
- We are people that aren't so populated that we rely on people who live here.
- We have lots of pass-through traffic to each of those cities, and that's something that's common.
- If those cities allow a non-resident in some area.
- We would not be alone in allowing that non-resident.
- The City of Sonoma, they have all of Sonoma Valley they have to deal with and there are political tensions right now about who is taking care of Sonoma Valley.
- Fortunately, the City of Sonoma has allowed that area to be part of their Planning Commission appointments. Cloverdale, one mile. That's pretty small. I don't know Cloverdale well enough to know what they draw from.
- Obviously in the West County, I would say we have probably a bigger service area because we pretty much go out to the coast and we're the gateway to the whole coast.
- I think we draw probably from a bigger geographic area than Cloverdale.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I haven't come to a resolution, so in many respects, I actually liked Vice Mayor Gurney's idea of doing the school districts because I do think the school districts are related to Sebastopol, those particular school districts, and I think it's easy to administer.
- On the other hand, I actually agree with Councilmember Slayter and Councilmember Hinton that the people that live close are the people with a stake in the game, and it's one thing if you have a business in town so you're really engaged with the town, and so you don't go into town but you're doing stuff in the town.
- But the land use decisions aren't just all about business, they're about affecting people's homes.
- They're affecting what's going on in their street.
- That makes me like the idea of keeping it pretty tight seems really appropriate.
- This does not seem like the most momentous decision in the world.
- I think the coast commission thing was way more critical than this.

- I'm kind of falling on the let's do what's easy to administer, let's go with the school districts.

MOTION:

Councilmember Rich moved and Vice Mayor Gurney seconded the motion to approve the Planning Commission geography using the school district boundary.

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

VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmembers Rich, Vice Mayor Gurney and Mayor Glass

Noes: Councilmembers Hinton and Slayter

Absent: None

Abstain: None

City Council Action: Approved the Planning Commission geography using the school district boundary.

Minute Order Number: 2021-238

Councilmember Rich departed the meeting at 10:13 pm.

8. Discussion of City Council Position on Resolution(s) for the League of California Cities Conference 2021 to be held September 22-24, 2021 in Sacramento, CA for Voting by Designated Representative(s) (City Administration)

City staff presented the agenda item recommending the City Council Discuss and Consider direction to the voting delegate or alternate(s) for voting at the annual League of CA Cities Conference.

Mayor Glass asked for questions. There were no questions.

Mayor Glass opened for public comment. There was none.

Council Discussion and/or Deliberations:

MOTION:

Vice Mayor Gurney moved and Councilmember Hinton seconded the motion to provide direction to support the first resolution, take no position on the second resolution and approve the minor amendments to the proposed By Laws for voting at the annual League of CA Cities Conference.

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

VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmembers Hinton, Slayter, Vice Mayor Gurney and Mayor Glass

Noes: None

Absent: Councilmember Rich

Abstain: None

City Council Action: Approved direction to support the first resolution, take no position on the second resolution and approve the minor amendments to the proposed By Laws for voting at the annual League of CA Cities Conference.

Minute Order Number: 2021-239

9. Discussion of Council Direction to Staff on City Council Initiatives Fund (Responsible Department: Administrative Services/City Administration)

City staff presented the agenda item recommending the City Council Direct City Staff to Review this item in the FY 22-23 Budget Funding the City Council Initiatives Fund.

Mayor Glass asked for questions.

Mayor Glass commented that this is only fair and it seems really just like a terrible oversight that newly elected people can't participate.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- My position is that this needs to be eliminated.
- It is not functioning in the way that it was originally intended, and that was for small projects that a Councilmember may want to undertake in performance of their elected official, a little help to get over the hump or whatever it was.
- I believe Councilmember Chai's original idea and I think it functioned as intended for a few years, but it's basically become a way for a Councilmember to make a donation to a favored organization, which is fine, but I'm not sure that using public funds to do that is the best use.
- So I'm in favor of this going away.

Vice Mayor Gurney questioned if it was possible tonight that we could eliminate this fund from the budget, given the agenda item?

City staff commented that as the agenda item is not written that way, it's not written that way, would not recommend that action.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin concurred.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I want to agree with Councilmember Slayter because I think he's just right.
- This fund was set up to financially empower a Councilmember to do a project or complete a task.
- It wasn't meant to be a gift to your favorite nonprofit in town or your favorite cause in town or the cause of that evening, whatever.
- My first choice would be to eliminate it from the budget entirely, and actually, I thought somewhere in our budget conversations we covered that, but apparently it came through in the budget and I was going, darn, I think we meant, we, meaning Councilmember Slayter and I, had thought we were eliminating it.
- Perhaps I'm remembering it incorrectly.
- My thought would be to eliminate it and come back.
- if we can't do that tonight, come back with that as an agenda item.
- I would be willing to sponsor that.
- Perhaps Councilmember Slayter would want to join me.
- If we have to do this, I believe it's a cleanup to cover some consequence which we never meant to happen since we came up with the original idea.
- Cleaning up is a good thing, but I think eliminating it is important, the whole line item in the budget.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- It's a really interesting conversation.

- First of all, I've been very vocal all along on this because when I came in 2017, the outgoing Councilmembers had quickly spent their initial funds and we were told, too bad, so sad, you don't get anything.
- It was kind of frustrating because the budget was only half over and I didn't realize that's how politics worked.
- I felt it was unfair, so I brought it up that Diana or any member should have the same ability to have initiative funds like any Councilmember, special counsel until light of when the election is.
- That said, this is also the first time, because I only came on the Council in '17 that I heard what the original institutional memory was.
- It's never been discussed that that's what initiative funds were meant to be used for in any agenda item I ever read.
- I just kind of followed the others and everybody just kind of gave it to their favorite charity.
- With that said, tonight I'm voting to offer it to New members because I think that's right and fair, and if Councilmembers want to sponsor to get rid of it, then I would want to have more background about what other Councils do and what the board of supes do.
- I believe initiative funds are pretty common in other jurisdictions, and if that's the way it's meant to be used, then maybe it doesn't mean it needs to go away, maybe it means it needs to be explained to everybody that that's the intent.
- Because this is the first I've heard about that, actually.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- I do remember the same thing.
- At some point it was brought up in the budget discussions this year of the elimination of this.
- We're on the same track of remembering things, and honestly I was surprised that it wasn't in our budget.
- That's how difficult it is to have eyes on literally everything.
- So I agree that, fair is fair.
- Cleanup is fine but I would certainly be willing to co-sponsor that with you, Vice Mayor Gurney, for a full Council discussion on that intent and potential elimination.

Mayor Glass opened for public comment. There was none.

Council Discussion and/or Deliberations:

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I think everyone agrees that if it is to continue, it needs to be on the agenda and we decide if it's going to continue.
- I say we clean it up tonight and re-agenda it and take a closer look.
- I think if we want to eliminate it, we should give those of us in this who want to spend the money, we give the offer to spend it.
- Some people get thing taken away, and I don't want it to be unfair, either.
- I'm attached to this being created and if we do a staff report, maybe I'll say that in some nice way.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- There is no election this year
- It doesn't come into play this year.

MOTION:

Councilmember Hinton moved and Vice Mayor Gurney seconded the motion to that we move to clean up the Council initiative funds to allow new electives to participate in the new elections and get their initiative funds. Mayor Glass called for a roll call vote. City staff conducted a roll call vote.

VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmembers Hinton, Slayter, Vice Mayor Gurney and Mayor Glass

Noes: None

Absent: Councilmember Rich

Abstain: None

City Council Action: Approved move to clean up the Council initiative funds to allow new electives to participate in the new elections and get their initiative funds.

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

Minute Order Number: 2021-240

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS:

11. City Manager-Attorney/City Clerk Reports: There were none.
12. 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 Hinton reported the following:

- Attended RRWA watershed association lunch meeting because I'm the vice chair and we learned all about more drought information
- These are technical meetings.

Vice Mayor Gurney reported as follows:

- SCTA, RCPA met.
- We talked at length about all these subjects, the electric vehicle strategy update.
- This relates particularly to those short in-town trips.
- We looked at the resolution to ban new gas stations.
- There is a particular wording changed to not accept new applications so those stations that are in the pipeline are not impacted by the resolution. It passed unanimously.
- We looked at funding for our transit operators.
- This is the American recovery plan money.
- The four operators got together and collaboratively divvied up the money.
- They are amazing as they work together.
- We looked at the final draft of the comprehensive transportation plan.
- I worked with Toni Bertolero to make sure Sebastopol's portion of that was on point and just right.
- She confirmed that with me.
- We also had a 2021 call for projects with a deadline like two or three days after the meeting, and I spoke with Toni Bertolero and she was on that one as well and had our applications ready.
- They were the items in the CIP that we designated for at work.
- I also participated in a formal meeting on the parklets
- It was centered about the parklets in front of Screamin Mimi's
- We shared the concerns that some of the businesses have which is litter, garbage, visibility problems because of the tents, people standing in front of the windows.

- For the nearby windows who have rented to have that highly visible location with display windows, and there was, I think, an evolving collaborative spirit, and I might say more polite altitude.
- Hopefully this group will work out the issues.
- City Engineer Joe Gaffney has contacted Cal Trans to make the park permanent.
- I did attend the CBO meeting as well.
- Chief Kilgore was the presenter and the CBO organizations really enjoyed the opportunity to talk to him.
- He only had 20 minutes and he gave an introduction to himself and how he's managing the office and discussed what's happening about diversifying recruitment, what about the homeless population, why does Analy High School parents get notified so late about incidents there.
- He was very gracious and he was very well received in reports after the meeting.
- We also talked about the impact of delta variant as the CBOs were planning their reopening's and hoping to ramp up.
- I can say there is a morale problem.
- It's been really hard for them to experience this sort of extra punch that everybody was hoping wouldn't happen.
- The report on schools opening also was shared because there's some school people present, and the report is that students are doing well wearing masks, they're doing well with the merger remarkably so.
- I attended the Lantern meeting.
- Lantern is in a similar situation to the last report.
- They're hoping to expand their board and get more input.
- They wanted to meet with the City Manager who very graciously is going to be available to them to meet to talk about details about the JPA, in other words, our landlord-tenant relationship because they want to try and understand how best to improve the library.
- I think there is potential to have it adopted as a goal of the Council.
- It's not formal yet, it's not on our CIP and they might be asking for something like that, but I think the conversation offered to have with them will help focus them a lot.
- I went to the Gravenstein Health Action meeting yesterday, and having sat with the group several times.
- I had several conversations in the mental health field whether that's physical health, mental health, kind of drilling into that shared focus and making sure that people know what the other people are doing and starting to adopt the same language, the same concerns, the same priorities.
- It's a remarkable group. There is a guest speaker, I hope I'm saying her name right, Denya Kandaya. She spoke about how to operationalize equity.
- That's the bureaucratic term for what we all need to do, we need to operationalize equity.
- She had some very helpful remarks there.
- Otherwise board members reported on the number of meetings that they attend because they're trying to do all kinds of networking to bring the West County health concerns together, so we have people working more together with more impact.

Mayor Glass reported as follows:

- I had actually several meetings with various parties regarding potential locations for the people who are camping in the Laguna and that's when that issue of the potential location that is behind the teen center at the Youth Annex was brought up in several of those meetings, including with staff.
- Then I also attended a meeting with a number of the housing advocates and met the WCCS' new social worker which seems definitely the right person for the job.
- I went to a presentation by an organization in Sonoma County that is manufacturing basically tiny homes, small shelters, very small - the City of Petaluma was putting it on. The City of Petaluma just contracted for 35 of them. There were a number of people from various cities there. Tim Miller was also there.

- These little manufactured units, were extremely well insulated so they don't require a lot of energy to make them comfortable, and they erected it in one hour, so they're just kind of these panels that get put together in pretty short order, and they're prewired, so there's no requirement for having to put in electricity because it's all prewired.
- The cost to the City of Petaluma was about \$12,000 per unit compared to spending \$400,000 to create an apartment for somebody,
- At this point we're in a crisis, so obviously it's better to immediately be able to do something about the crisis than to keep twiddling our thumbs about the \$400,000 apartments.
- The City of Petaluma seems pretty excited about the project.

13. Council Communications Received: None

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

ADJOURNMENT OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

September 21, 2021 City Council Meeting will be adjourned to the City Council Regular Meeting of October 5, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Glass adjourned the regular City Council Meeting at 10:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

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