

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR Meeting of March 16, 2021

As Approved by the City Council at their regular meeting of April 6, 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 COUNCL MEETINGS WILL BE CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS WHICH SUSPENDS CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT.

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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 6:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Una Glass – By video teleconference
Vice Mayor Sarah Glade Gurney – By video teleconference
Councilmember Neysa Hinton – By video teleconference
Councilmember Diana Rich – By video teleconference
Councilmember Patrick Slayter – By video teleconference

Absent: None

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

Staff: 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
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 protocols for the meeting.

PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS:

The following were presented:

- Proclamation Proclaiming March 2021 as Women’s History Month

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- Just a quick thought on this proclamation.
- When I saw it was going to be on the agenda, I couldn't help but feel extremely proud that I am in such a significant minority on the City Council in regard to gender.
- I think it's absolutely fantastic.
- It's rare to hear of governmental bodies that have such an overwhelming majority of women, which is wrong. It's unfortunate and it's wrong.
- We would go to League City events and hear “oh you live in a County that has a majority of women on the Board of Supervisors, and a majority of cities have a majority of women on the Councils”.
- Wanted to express my own appreciation for all the incredible women that I get to work with.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- We're very happy to have you Councilmember Slayter alongside making history, and I'm hoping many of us in tonight's audience remember Molly McGregor, Mary Ruth's daughter, and the whole group in Sonoma County who put together Women's History Week, that became a month, that became a Countywide event, a Statewide event, and National event right out of Sonoma County.
- Thank you, Mary, Molly, and others for your work long ago.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- It did come out of Sonoma County and it came also from my alma mater, Sonoma State.
- They originated the Women's History Project and moving forward to sharing women's history with the entire nation.
- Certificate of Appreciation – Interim Police Chief Don Mort

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- I really appreciate the opportunity to present Interim Police Chief Don Mort with this certificate of appreciation.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- Don came forth out of retirement enjoying his life in Napa last August and came to our City in a time of need.
- He fit in immediately.
- It was like Don had been in our staff for years.
- It was absolutely seamless.
- We really needed his help, and he brought us his help and we want to show him our appreciation.
- He has left partially, working from his home out of Napa, but Don will be helping us with some special projects and you will be seeing him from time to time in the future with things that he continues to assist us on.
- Thank you, Don.
- It's been a real pleasure.
- We look forward to continuing working with you in the future on these special projects and can't express more thanks to you for all that you've done for us since you arrived here last summer.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I've only been on the Council for a very short time, and yet in that limited period of time, I have come to truly respect Don Mort.
- It was just a pleasure to see his leadership, his compassion, the kind and clear direction that he gave to all of us who worked with him, and to the town as a whole.
- I had a number of really great experiences where individuals would come to me and our Acting Chief Mort would interact with them and provide them very thorough and clear information, respecting their need to be educated and informed, and then did what he could to respond to their needs.
- There's community policing and there's a very healing, productive person we have had in that position.
- I'm very sorry to see him leaving.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I wanted to also recognize Don tonight and thank him.
- I think that we were in a really tight spot, and he just rode in on the white horse and really helped both the City and all of us with his expertise, his specialty in community policing.
- Don is going to stay on with special projects. He hasn't left yet.
- Thank you so much for your service to the City.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I feel we were in something of a pickle.
- We were just so fortunate to have somebody of Don's experience and expertise join our team and really help us make a transition.
- He's just giving us the background of what it feels like in part of our team.
- Thank you, Don, for being with us.
- Thank you for all of your contributions.
- I'm looking forward to your contributions as you help us transition to our new Chief, who we are also very happy to have on board.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- Following Councilmember Rich's comments, I referred a lot of people in urgent, emergency situations to you, Don, as our Acting Chief.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- I heard from them that your relaxed but confident, and secure and compassionate response really saved the day for them.
- I just want to appreciate that.
- I think this is like a little tip to our new Chief; relaxed, confident, secure, compassionate.
- Thank you so much, Don.
- Glad to have you and nice to know you're going to be staying a little bit.

Don Mort commented as follows:

- I don't really care for recognition but I got to say, it has been a pleasure.
- I appreciate all the support from the Council, City Manager, Assistant City Manager, and all the Department Heads have been fantastic.
- You really have a quality Department Head team here that are all working extremely hard.
- It was very easy to work with that team, with everybody having the mindset of, we're making our community better.
- Thank you to all of them for their support.
- I couldn't have done it without any of them.
- At the same time, I have to thank the police officers for welcoming me in.
- The struggles the department has gone through the last couple of years, transitions and so forth, from day one their willingness to at least listen to me and share ideas is truly important and it was outstanding that they allowed me to come in and not just the old guy in the room that didn't look like I've been around a long time, but I do appreciate that.
- The community - everybody's been outstanding. The times I did have an opportunity to walk up and down the street, I loved the interaction with the community.
- It really is special and I do appreciate everybody and everybody's assistance and what they've done.
- Thank you very much.
- You will be in my thoughts.

City Council Action: No formal action.

Reference Order Number: 2021-050

City Manager McLaughlin made the following remarks:

- Wanted to make a couple comments tonight of appreciation for some other folks.
- I noted from my log that I carry, that I have here at home, that by my count, it was a year ago tomorrow that we received the first order, which caused us to clear out of City Hall for many of the Department Heads, commence working from home, starting to experience and deal with a myriad of different health orders and directives.
- Wanted to take the time just for a minute this evening to recognize City staff on this anniversary of one year since we've been involved in the pandemic and experiencing the pandemic.
- Through that period of time, all of our Public Works personnel, all the men and women of our Police Department, have worked just as they always have, serving the community.
- Our Public Works employees have been out in the community doing all of the tasks they always did.
- Our policing has been the same as what it always was, whether dealing with directives or issues, we still had that same high level of service to the community.
- Wanted to recognize and thank all the employees this evening for the past year of really striving to give the extra effort and continue the same service to our community.
- We have had the Building Department and Fire Department staffed throughout.

- We've had the Police Department open for the public the entire time.
- We've had Public Works staff working inside their offices, we've had Finance staff working in person in their offices at City Hall through the entire time.
- We've had a group of Department Heads that have worked partially from home, partially from the office on kind of a rotating basis as needed.
- I think it's really an indication of how well our Department Heads have worked together over the years and how long we've been together, how seamless it really was when we moved into the new world of having to work from our homes.
- I personally never dreamed I would have to be working from my home.
- That's why I moved five minutes away from City Hall, so that that would never happen.
- We were trained in how to respond to an earthquake. We've had to deal with wildfires, and opening shelters. We've had a devastating flood. We've had a full city evacuation at a time when we had all of our electrical power out, but we never trained for a pandemic.
- We had no clue that we would be dealing with the different health orders, the directives, the challenges of a devastating illness.
- The fact that our Department Heads have worked so well as a team over the years.
- The past year I think deserves recognition and I just wanted to take the time tonight to recognize them early in the meeting on this one-year kind of anniversary and thank all the Department Heads, all City staff, and employees for the last year of good service to our community.
- I sincerely appreciate it. I know the Council sincerely appreciates it. I know our public appreciates it. Thank you all very much.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I just want to reiterate what City Manager McLaughlin has just said.
- I know all of us on the Council are just so appreciative of all the work that City staff has done.
- It's been such a difficult year working from home, trying to figure out how to do Zoom meetings, the sound's on and the sound's off, and dealing with documents and files when we're not actually in the building, and providing service to the public when so many of us are working remotely.
- Also, the fear and the upset of the public given our circumstances and our staff has just been right there working and supporting the public and doing their jobs.
- I'm incredibly appreciative of them, and I know so are all of my colleagues. Thank you.
- Things are beginning to look a little brighter, so hopefully we're moving towards a more opened up time here in the future.
- On another subject, I wanted to comment on this because it is all over social media and I felt that we needed to make a response to this.
- A Council colleague from the City of Rohnert Park, Jackie Elward, one of the few African American people elected in our County today received a very disturbing communication from the public that was extremely racist.
- It was just amazingly rude, inappropriate, and completely unacceptable.
- There is information about this up on social media, but I wanted to mention to the Council that the Mayor's group, which I meet with every week, will be talking about this issue on Thursday when we have our regular meeting and talking about how we're going to respond as a group of Mayors.
- Even before that, I plan to send a letter on my City Mayor's letterhead saying how unacceptable this is and supporting Jackie.
- Since this is not an agenda item, I can't ask us all to do a letter together, but if you are so moved as I am, please send her a letter and voice our support.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- This is not acceptable behavior.
- This is absolutely unacceptable by the City of Sebastopol, so we need to send our support to a fellow Councilmember over in the City of Rohnert Park.

PUBLIC COMMENT (for items not on the agenda).

Katie, Sebastopol Senior Center, commented as follows:

- Here to remind everyone that the Senior Center is here for you.
- Even though our building is closed, we're still providing many services for our seniors in the community, all over West County.
- Even if you think that the Senior Center is maybe not for you, or you're not old enough, or whatever, just remember that it's up to us to keep a look out for other community members.
- We've got lots of services, delivering meals, providing free rides, and lots of virtual classes.
- Specifically, I just wanted to bring up two spring events that are happening next month that I invite you all to participate in. There's no age requirement. Anyone can join.
- We're having a little mini fundraiser for the Senior Center. It's going to be a bingo event, all virtual, of course. Two of the sisters from Russian River Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence will be hosting. Raffle prizes, fun for the whole family. You can sign up now on our website.
- It's just a great way to support Senior Center services.
- The next event I just want to tell you about is a poetry event. If you've never seen Rumi's perform, they're incredible. They've been all over, they're an incredible group of performers.

Elizabeth commented as follows:

- Just wanted to say thank you to Mayor Glass, Councilmember Hinton, and Councilmember Rich for having fun with our flamingo plucking.
- Just to give you a quick little overview of that. Displayed a photo of the flamingos. You may have seen them around town.
- It's been our fundraiser for our club that was newly chartered in 2019.
- Wanted to say thank you for the support.
- Wanted to say thank you to the Council and to Councilmember Rich for setting up the CoMission meetings
- That's been such a wonderful investment with our time as well as other service clubs that I'm affiliated with. That's been such a wonderful experience. It's already served such a wonderful purpose.
- We are doing the second annual Easter egg hunt to go, and we have nearly 20 organizations helping such as Toy Works, Tea Town and the Kiwanis Club of Sebastopol.
- That's on April 3rd. We'll be giving out free Easter egg bags for families to take home and do their own Easter egg hunt as well as some local resources, some goodies, provide community connection, and just have some fun.

Marsha commented as follows:

- When we spoke before on the Woodmark project, members of the City Council left the meeting.
- As we understand it, the developer, Pacific West out of Idaho, has withdrawn their application to the Planning Department. If they apply under SB35 to the City, it's no longer a neighborhood issue, it's a citywide issue.
- I'm asking that the Council that left before does not leave again because the concerns are now citywide.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- There are concerns about the increase in population, pedestrian safety, and traffic that now affects the whole city.
- Your voices and opinions are needed. We hope that you stay and listen.

Patty, Burbank Heights, commented as follows:

- Here at Burbank, we are all in favor of affordable housing.
- However, more than 100 of us signed a petition against Woodmark because it's just too big for our neighborhood.
- Here at Burbank, we have one exit and entrance, and even now it's really hard to get out of here on some days, especially if you want to go west, you have to cross a lane of traffic.
- Sometimes you just have to wait forever there.
- During the evacuation, it was really scary.
- Most of us cannot imagine what an extra couple hundred cars would do to our ability to get out of this place.
- My understanding is that Woodmark has 151 parking spaces.
- However, out of the 84 units that they propose, half of them are three bedrooms.
- I think there's going to be a lot of parking on the street, which will turn our quiet little back roads into parking lot by night and by major thoroughfares by day, which is dangerous for the elderly.
- A few of us have been mowed down in the street out there, which is why we finally got the hawk.
- With more traffic, we'll have more accidents.
- Also, there's very little sidewalks on the back streets anyway.
- It just looks like a mess.
- I wondered about farm workers being able to afford the rents there, so I asked a local farm owner if her boys could afford to live there, and she said, well, do you remember so and so? I said, yes. She said, he pays \$2,500 a month for rent. I said, how can he do that? I know what you pay him. How could he afford? She said it's a three-bedroom apartment. There are five boys. One in each bedroom, two sharing the living room. I said, how many cars do they have? She said, they have five. They're all working.
- This is what we can look forward to having across the street from us.
- It scares a lot of us.

Catherine commented as follows:

- I appreciate what you said about the Woodmark Apartment project.
- I'm a resident here in Sebastopol.
- I would be shocked if there is a single person in attendance at this meeting today who thinks that the Woodmark Apartment project, as it is planned now, is a good thing for this community.
- I would be shocked if there were very many people in this town who would think that this is in the best interest of this community.
- I think this is one of the most serious projects for this City and this City Council to be addressing before it's too late.
- I think it's a grave situation and the consequences will last for a very, very long time.
- I can't believe there is really anybody who thinks this is really what kind of affordable housing this community needs for its best interest and development.
- I implore you to find it in you to do what this community needs, which is not a development like Woodmark.

Mayor Glass requested staff to clarify conflict of interest and a brief update on the Woodmark project.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- Discussed the conflict of interest and the Councilmembers that need to absent themselves from the meeting.
- First of all, that applies when they know it's going to be discussed, not when they sit through comments inadvertently.
- Wanted to make that distinction.
- Councilmembers who have a conflict of interest in this situation have that conflict of interest because under The Political Reform Act, they reside within a certain number of feet of where the project is located, so it basically does not mean that they have an interest in the project financially or anything like that.
- They are presumed to have a conflict of interest and really have no option but to leave the meeting when they know it's going to be discussed.
- It's not that they have no interest in the matter.
- To the contrary, they probably are very interested in it, but they have no opportunity to act on that interest because the law presumes that they have a conflict of interest and they have to absent themselves from the meeting.

Councilmember Slayter and Councilmember Hinton both indicated that if this issue was discussed there would be a 500-foot radius proximity conflict and departed the meeting.

Director Svanstrom commented as follows:

- We did receive an application from Woodmark back in December for a regular review of the application.
- They have withdrawn that application, and, while they have not submitted the full SB-35 (actual) application, they have submitted the preapplication and their intent to submit an application to the SB-35 process, which is a streamlined process we're subject to under State Law.
- It does allow us to still look at zoning and building standards and things like that for compliance.
- We have 60 days to do our review to see if they are eligible to go through that process.
- We're doing our due diligence and we're about a month into that.
- We've been working with our outside legal counsel to review.
- There are a number of aspects and we are working those issues to make sure we have dotted all of our I's and crossed all of our T's.
- We have not yet determined they're eligibility to go through the SB-35 application process.
- We will know that at the beginning of next month or so.

Councilmember Slayter and Councilmember Hinton resumed their seats for the meeting.

Due to technical issues, Mayor Glass re-opened public comment for Tiffany.

Tiffany commented as follows:

- I am a resident of Sebastopol and am also part of the group that is very concerned about the Woodmark project.
- My comment tonight is about that project and the safety of our senior citizens and our children.
- My first concern is that the City has recommended routes that are safe to access various school campuses, and these are going to be the same streets that they will have to access in order to leave this development.

- The traffic from this development is going to be directed towards many of these streets that also do not have sidewalks.
- Many of the sidewalks are also uneven, many of them are missing, they're all high-sloped and there is a definite concern for seniors with this issue.
- A few of the streets from this development will also require access to get to town are listed on what is called the Ped Line, a list which is a route from Highway 12 over to Florence.
- This will also create additional safety concerns.
- I'm curious if all of these streets that we're discussing here are part of ADA and do they have all the ADA standards?
- It does seem they would not fall within that because many of them are missing, they're uneven, and have, as I mentioned, steep slopes.
- The City also has a Street Smart Sebastopol document from the year 2000.
- In this it indicates there is a large percentage of residents over 55 with visual impairments and physical limitations, and all of these are definite safety concerns with the condition of our sidewalks, especially with Burbank Heights and Bears Meadow, it does indicate some concern to the safety of those residents.
- Another concern is driving as you're heading towards this development site.
- We know the sun hits at certain times of the day and it makes it extremely difficult to see.
- As we know, there was a resident that was killed a few years before.
- I would ask that the whole City Council and the group review the Street Smart Sebastopol document from 2000 that is on the City's website as it does have a lot of additional information.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I would just like to add, we are making every effort to hear the public regarding concerns about this project, but we are also being very mindful of complying with all the legal requirements that, as a City, we must comply with, particularly because this is an affordable housing project.
- There are a lot of laws about our local jurisdiction and our ability to make rulings on this, so we are being extremely mindful of how we conduct ourselves as this process goes forward.
- I just want the public to understand that.
- We need to make sure that we comply with the law very carefully.

STATEMENTS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BY MAYOR/CITY COUNCILMEMBERS FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA: There were none.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM(S):

Mayor Glass read the consent calendar.

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

City staff indicated Councilmember Hinton made clerical corrections to the minutes which have been incorporated into the final minutes.

Mayor Glass asked for any public comment on the consent calendar items. There were none.

Mayor Glass called for a motion.

MOTION:

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

Discussion:

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- I probably already know the answer but one of the items at the previous meeting that's recorded in these minutes is that I needed to excuse myself due to a conflict.
- I read the minutes. I know the action that was taken because there's been a letter that was sent by the Planning Department.
- Do I need to abstain from the vote on the minutes?

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- Stated no.
- To vote in affirmative for the minutes you are voting that the person taking the minutes was doing a business-like and correct job of recording the minutes.

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

1. Approval of Minutes of the City Council Meeting of March 2, 2021 (Responsible Department: City Administration)

City Council Action: Approved Minutes of the City Council Meeting of March 2, 2021

Minute Order Number: 2021-051

2. Approval of Minutes of the City Council Special Meeting – Closed Session of March 3, 2021 (Responsible Department: City Administration)

City Council Action: Approved Minutes of the City Council Special Meeting – Closed Session of March 3, 2021

Minute Order Number: 2021-052

3. Approval of Subcommittee Recommendation of the “Locals Who Make a Difference” Recognition Program Honoree (Responsible Department: City Council Sub-Committee/Public Works Department)

City Council Action: Approved Subcommittee Recommendation of the “Locals Who Make a Difference” Recognition Program Honoree

Minute Order Number: 2021-053

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

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

Minute Order Number: 2021-054

Resolution Number: 6333-2021

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS: (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.)

5. Informational Presentation from Zero Waste Sonoma on SB 1383; SB 1383 requires a 50 percent reduction in organic waste disposal from 2014 levels by 2020, and a 75 percent reduction by 2025. In addition, SB 1383 requires that not less than 20 percent of edible food that is currently

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

disposed be recovered for human consumption by 2025. (Requestor: Councilmember Rich and Zero Waste Sonoma)

Councilmember Rich presented the agenda item recommending the City Council receive an Informational Presentation from Zero Waste Sonoma on SB 1383; SB 1383 requires a 50 percent reduction in organic waste disposal from 2014 levels by 2020, and a 75 percent reduction by 2025. In addition, SB 1383 requires that not less than 20 percent of edible food that is currently disposed be recovered for human consumption by 2025.

Councilmember Rich introduced Xinci Tan and Leslie Lukas, Zero Waste Sonoma, who made a presentation to the City Council.

Mayor Glass asked for questions.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- Commented on the compost purchase obligation.
- My information shows that the range of purchase obligation for Sebastopol would not be 2,100 to 2,700 but 21,000 to 27,000.
- Can you confirm that's the case?
- I think the slide may have just had an error. It's kind of a substantial one.

Ms. Lukas commented as follows:

- That's substantial.
- Actually off the cuff, 21,000 to 27,000 actually sounds more like it.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- Discussed the impact of all of this in a pretty short time frame.
- I'm wondering if you have any more information we can crunch on the impact of our staff, all of whom are already overworked and are wearing multiple hats.
- I'm concerned about rate payers.
- Do we have any numbers crunched on the impact on rate payers.
- Are you hoping for a County-wide ordinance so we have uniformity city to city?
- Those are my three topic areas of concern.

Ms. Lukas commented as follows:

- Yes, we will be doing model ordinances so that ideally all the jurisdictions would pass the same model ordinance, but it may vary a little bit jurisdiction to jurisdiction.
- We'll be doing the leg work for that and actually we'll be doing most of the leg work for compliance of 1383.
- I did want to do this presentation so that the Council is aware, but that does have some responsibility in this, but we are talking on most of that.
- That's part of the services of the JPA.
- The funding mechanism is that we are here to do the majority of the compliance work for the jurisdiction because we realize jurisdictions don't have a recycling coordinator or an expert on staff.
- Most of that is on us.
- In terms of the rate to the residents, that will be determined by the City itself.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- That is beyond us.
- The regulations do put a lot of work on the haulers to make sure that businesses are in compliance, that they're doing lid flips, all of that.
- You will see that at some point come before the Council.
- That's outside of the agency.

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- Stated Councilmember Rich and I did meet with staff at Zero Waste in late February, they were helpful and supplied us with a preliminary look at what the responsibilities for compliance would be distributed between Recology, Zero Waste Sonoma and City staff.
- We believed we would be able to accommodate that.
- As far as what the new fee may be with Recology, we are looking at a probable rate increase for the rate payers.
- We do not know what that amount is.
- It was stated that we can't estimate that right now, but there will be an additional cost, because many of the tasks under this law are done by Recology.
- I just wanted to assure the Council that as far as City staff is concerned, this looks like something we can readily do.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- Can you explain how the mechanics of recovering edible food from the landfill actually works?
- The way that is phrased gives me pause.

Ms. Lukas commented as follows:

- It's actually edible food from the source.
- It's looking for edible foods from grocery stores or hotels, and event centers when we have events again.
- It's edible food from the source of generation.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- I understand this is not something that the cities in any measurable way have a whole lot of impact from, but how does this relate to sort of the elephant in the room here county-wide, which is the agricultural industries (i.e., grapes and cannabis)?

Ms. Lukas commented as follows:

- Unfortunately, this regulation does not affect the agricultural industry because they don't typically throw away their waste in a landfill.
- This is looking at waste generated from commercial accounts and residential accounts.
- That's managed separately.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- Renewable natural gas, as it's called out in the staff report, it's on renewable because we keep making more garbage that has methane as a byproduct.
- Natural gas is a great marketing scheme.
- It's methane gas.
- Truth in advertising, I suppose from the natural gas industry.
- Which entity is responsible for the inspections?

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- I assume it's going to be some sort of a combination.
- Will there potentially need to be a cooperative agreement between cities, amongst themselves or with the County to do what seems like a fairly high number of inspections every year?

Ms. Lukas commented as follows:

- We are actually working out that detail as you speak.
- We have had a couple meetings with the local enforcement agency through the County because they already have health inspectors going out to the same businesses that we would need to go out to.
- We believe it would make more sense if we can add onto their inspections this component of just making sure that the business is donating food.
- If we have to do it the other way, then we have to hire somebody to go to our initial calculations of tier one businesses which is about 2,000 businesses.
- We're working on that right now to partner with them.
- Because of your relationship with Zero Waste Sonoma, it will be passed onto the jurisdictions.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- What causes someone to be able to be certified to make these kinds of inspections?
- Is there some sort of an agency that grants people license to do this work?

Ms. Lukas commented as follows:

- This is all brand new for the entire State, so we are creating these rules as we speak.
- We're not doing it in a bubble either.
- This is something that my colleagues throughout the State that we're on webinars together, we're taking direction from CalRecycle, and the State agencies.
- We're following the protocol, but that protocol is being created, as we are in compliance with the regulations.
- I think maybe a business opportunity is presenting itself where if we draft up a really nice certification and have counties and cities foot for a modest thousand dollar fee, we will certify your inspectors and send them a nice certificate in a frame or something.
- We have to pay for our unfunded mandate somehow.
- There are modest grants available.
- Is that going to help us pay for this?
- Hopefully, if we get the grants, that will help us pay for it.
- The grant that we went for is food recovery.
- We partnered to help fund refrigerates trucks so they can collect food and distribute it back out.
- We're hoping we can offset some of these funding requirements through grants.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- I'm not sure I was completely clear.
- That slide had a multitude of errors.
- That was the 21 or 27 and there was a misplaced comma.
- Is it 21,000 to 27,000 worth of compost that the City of Sebastopol will need to purchase?

Ms. Lukas stated that is correct.

- I should say procure doesn't necessarily mean purchase.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- There is an element within the regulations that allows a third-party component to actually purchase the compost that may need it.
- This is something that's really interesting about the regulation.
- The reason why the State wanted jurisdiction to purchase compost is to create markets.
- We don't need a market. We're an agricultural county.
- We don't have enough compost.
- We are looking at ways that we can utilize the component within the regulations where we might be able to go around having the jurisdictions actually purchase it.
- I can't promise it at this point because this is something new to CalRecycle.
- They definitely understand our predicament that a city may not need all that compost, yet the ag community does.
- That's another component of the regulations we're still working through with CalRecycle.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- Discussed everything that goes in the green bin, food waste and yard waste.
- Just retail rates, you go down and buy a yard of compost and it's 70 or 80 bucks.
- This is a lot of compost for a small city like Sebastopol, assuming it's an even better price than retail.
- Maybe we can help fund some of our backyard gardeners.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- Maybe you could tell us a little bit more, Ms. Lukas, about the enforcement and the edible food piece, specifically in terms of enforcement.
- It is my understanding that Sebastopol would have the obligation to enforce violations of SB-1383.
- That seems like it potentially could create a substantial burden on staff.
- Maybe you could talk a little bit more about what, in fact, the enforcement piece is, and whether that's solely the obligation of Sebastopol.
- Then, my second question was on the edible foods piece, if you could talk a little bit more about what our specific obligation would be.
- For instance, as I look at our grocery stores, it turns out that all of our grocery stores are within the edible foods size range here in Sebastopol.
- I checked with Planning and she confirmed they are over 10,000 square feet.
- Do we have an obligation to create a donation mechanism or method for them?
- Do we have to simply educate them about the available donation methods?
- Do we have inspection obligations?
- On the general enforcement and then on our obligations as a City in terms of edible foods given that at least our grocery stores would be involved.
- I would appreciate more detail.

Ms. Lukas commented as follows:

- I'll start with the enforcement component first.
- That's the part where we're working to help with health inspectors to go out and look at the businesses as part of regular annual inspections.
- When a business is found that's not in compliance, our tactic is more technical assistance that's provided by the agency.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- Our goal is really to not get to the point of enforcement where the City would actually have to ticket that business, because that is the final point.
- That's the one component that the agency isn't set up to do.
- We don't ticket. We don't have that capacity, but we have the capacity to do technical assistance in education and outreach.
- We really feel that we can get to this compliance level through education and outreach.
- If we can't, then that last final piece would go to the jurisdiction and I'm hoping we don't get there.
- The second component with donatable food and getting that capacity, we can approach it as a regional approach.
- There are food banks in surrounding cities, certainly Santa Rosa has a couple, or a few big food banks available.
- We need to do the food recovery capacity study so we can understand where all these facilities are located and who has capacity for more edible food right now.
- We have to study what is the amount of edible food we're expecting to recover from these grocery stores.
- That's what that capacity study is about and we'll have a better understanding.
- You as Sebastopol may not need to specifically spend it because we can do a regional approach.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- A final question would be when should we have a better impression, a better sense of the impact on our rate payers?
- That's going to be important for everyone who's here within the city limits.

Ms. Lukas commented that the City may be able to answer that better than me, since I believe the City may have received something from Recology on rates.

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- The City has not recalled seeing anything.
- We typically do our rate increases in the summer.
- I would anticipate we will be talking to Recology in the near future.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- Thanks for the presentation.
- I did sub in for Councilmember Rich so I saw the expanded presentation.
- Now that I've seen it again, there's always more that comes to it.
- Two questions. One is, we were focused, of course, on the money part, is the \$27,000 figure an annual cost?

Ms. Lukas commented as follows:

- It would be an annual cost to buy compost.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- 2022 is right around the corner.
- The date I am focused on is January 1, 2025 with 75% reduction in organics disposal, that and a 20% increase of edible food recovery.
- That seems pretty big. That's only three years later.
- What do you think about that?

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

Ms. Lukas commented as follows:

- For the 75% reduction, that's compared to what was being disposed in 2014.
- 2014 is the baseline. That's the good news.
- We've gone through some changes with Recology now.
- They have expanded food recovery and organic collection since that point.
- Now that we will do one in 2021, we'll be able to compare those two numbers and see where we're at and get a pulse of how much more organics we are diverting from the landfill.
- Want to mention it's a statewide goal, not a jurisdiction by jurisdiction goal.

Councilmember Hinton commented what would happen to us if we didn't meet it.

Ms. Lukas commented as follows:

- I can tell you we are doing what we need to do right now to be in compliance.
- CalRecycle, we talk to them frequently and they are impressed with where we're at in Sonoma County.
- That whole M.O.U., that was something we created that now other JPAs are following suit.
- That wasn't something that CalRecycle had thought about at the time, but it's a good way to address through this M.O.U. as an addendum to the agreement.
- I believe we'll be in compliance by that date of January 2022.

Ms. Tan commented as follows:

- Finally, to Ms. Lukas's answer, the way that this SB-1383 is somewhat different from previous State Bills in that as long as the jurisdiction is following certain actions say for example, passing an enforcement ordinance, having organics collection provided to all your residents and businesses.
- As long as you do certain actions that are required in the regulations, you will be in compliance.
- Previous State laws that California has passed required jurisdictions to meet certain goals.
- There's no prescribed goal for us to meet necessarily.
- Like Ms. Lukas said, that 75% diversion rate is a statewide goal.
- For Sebastopol, all you have to worry about is that you're doing the actions that the regulations prescribe.

Mayor Glass opened for public comment. There were none.

Council Deliberations:

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- This is informational.
- Found this actually very useful information.
- That's a lot of compost and this certainly tells us what our obligations are and what we need to plan for.
- I really appreciate your presentation.
- Thank you so much.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- My perception is we have a very sincere citizenry, a lot of activists who will want to take this on as part of their 2021 climate action activity.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- Let's clean up our compost bins, make them better compost and let's clean up our land waste so it doesn't have compost in it.
- We can really motivate our citizens to do that, but it's going to be hard to say in this same breath, we have this goal, but we don't have to meet it.
- If we follow what's prescribed, then we satisfy this.
- It's a little I think either demotivating or confusing or something to our citizenry.
- It's making me stumble.
- If we're going to try, let's do it.
- It's kind of odd to say we are going to clean up our act about compost in landfill and do it right, but then we have to buy back our compost.
- It's sort of like we'll give it to you and then we'll buy it back.
- I find that a little illogical.
- I think we're a community that would rather help our citizens with free compost and free edible food, if somehow there was a way for us to localize this.
- I understand particularly Ms. Lukas's comment about we can think regionally here, because sometimes we need those sorts of solutions, but I think in a lot of ways, particularly the insecurities we've experienced over the last year, that people are going to want to take action, reduce their problematic behavior that leads to landfill problems and also help others who are in need and garden more.
- I think Councilmember Rich and I know two local communities who could be very interested in this work, our Climate Action Committee folks as well as our Zero Waste Subcommittee folks.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- Very briefly, I was appointed to Zero Waste Sonoma and it's been a great experience.
- I just want to thank Ms. Lukas for being here.
- If anyone ever has a chance to check in on some of these meetings, it's an incredibly professional staff and I feel confident that they will, along with our City staff kind of shepherd us through this process.
- They are very, very together, very organized and will have the tools that we need.
- Thank you for being here.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Sometimes we need a regional approach.
- Sometimes we need hyper local committees that are distributing food in their own communities.
- Capture and redistribute.
- I am thinking of particularly our Zero Waste subcommittee and our Climate Action Committee.
- I am thinking about how we can be distributing this food within our own community.
- What about the Senior Center?
- What about the schools?
- Are there opportunities here for us to be capturing some of this, "waste" and just redistributing it to people that actually need it?
- I am really hoping that our local committees start looking at how can we take this hyper local and make sure that we're taking care of the people within our community.
- Thank you very much for your presentation.
- Extremely informative.

City Council Action: None Required. Received the presentation.

Minute Order Number: 2021-055

PUBLIC HEARING(S): None

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

6. Consideration of Approval of Release of Flags Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote to the Museum of the West Sonoma County Historical Society
(Requestor: Vice Mayor Gurney)

Vice Mayor Gurney presented the agenda item recommending the City Council consider Approval of Release of Flags Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote to the Museum of the West Sonoma County Historical Society.

- I was going by the museum when I saw their banner for their upcoming exhibit, the suffrage exhibit.
- Why don't we commemorate that again and do something, change this narrative and celebrate again because of the significance of this last election.
- The exhibit has been delayed due to COVID.
- Wanting to pull out the flags and commemorative material, I contacted Donna and Teresa at the historical museum and asked them if they'd be interested in having the flags or using them in some way.
- That was the way the report was set up in the packet this evening, but there is some late-breaking information.
- The count is that we have 98 of those flags with the flag poles, that's the colors with the stars.
- Then we have six of the smaller banners, which are on the right on your screen that have the dates on them. 38 of the street banners.
- We have a horizontal flag on a pole and then a banner.
- I realized in my narrative that I was calling flags and banners and everything together and using the words interchangeably.
- Michael Carnacchi, our last Councilmember from the last cycle, e-mailed all of us today with his contribution to my idea.
- It's an important correction that Mr. Carnacchi has offered to my thinking.
- I want to say thank you, Mr. Carnacchi, for your input in advance of tonight's meeting for the correction.
- I also want to apologize in the event that I've hurt your feelings by not contacting you earlier.
- What Mr. Carnacchi reminded us of is that the flag that you're seeing on the left of your screen, the one that doesn't have a date, was intended to be flown annually on August 26th to celebrate Women's Equality day.
- It's a universal flag because it doesn't have a date on it.
- It's not a commemorative centennial flag like the vertical banners.
- For historical purposes, I think smaller vertical banners would be the useful ones that would assist the museum in their exhibit, because with the date of the centennial celebration on them, I think it's more valuable and commemorative rather than annually celebratory like the flag with the pole on the left of your screen.
- It's thanks to Mr. Carnacchi's sharper memory that these banners, not the flags, are the subject of this item.
- I think that the more appropriate way to express my interest now, and my request of the Council this evening is for us to consider and discuss working with the Historical Society and the museum to see if they would be able to use these centennial dated vertical banners.
- I'm having to be really clear there about what I was talking about.

- Then, if the Council were interested in that, I would say it would be if they looked at them and understood how to hang them if they were useful to the museum.
- Then I would like them to be allowed to have those vertical banners.
- Not take them now without inspecting them, because it has to be a matter of material that is useful to them in their display, interior, exterior, advertising the exhibit and interestingly the timing right now, I think, is quite better for us, because with the change of regulations over the weekend, I think there's a greater likelihood that this exhibit will be opening sooner rather than continuing to be on hold.
- I would like to give Donna Pitman, the Museum Director and Teresa, the Chair of the Historical Society, the opportunity to add to what I've said or correct me if they have anything they would like to contribute now.

Teresa Ramondo commented as follows:

- Well, this is kind of a new little situation because when we originally heard from Vice Chair Gurney, we were thinking flags on the left and that is what we were looking to use because I first thought banners and then I realized there were flags.
- Certainly, we didn't have a fundraiser this last year for our cemetery walk, so when the opportunity came up to possibly procure these flags for that purpose, it seemed like a great opportunity to do that in conjunction with the reopening of the exhibit for the suffrage exhibit.
- We certainly can't store all of these flags at the museum because we don't have the space.
- The thought of that was really appealing because we might be able to get back some of the money that we didn't get for the cemetery walk and use it for the next exhibit to help pay for the exhibit we put up that nobody got to see yet.
- The banners are lovely and there may be opportunity to use those also as a fundraiser.
- They may be a little more difficult to sell to people, but I think people like to have commemorative kinds of things.
- I have to defer to Ms. Pitman regarding that.
- We can always keep some of these as commemorative for the occasion.
- Women's suffrage is something that can be celebrated year after year whether there is an exhibit at the museum or not.
- If the City is not intending to reuse them on the light poles and put them up year after year, it was the 100-year celebration, so of course it won't be a hundred years again.
- We would have an interest possibly in having those to keep and then perhaps selling some of them to use for that purpose.
- I'll let Ms. Pitman speak to that as well.
- The flags, I understand the Boy Scouts put them on the pole, which was very gracious of them.
- Mr. Carnacchi worked very hard to get this project through.
- They're a little bit more generic and I think more people would probably want to purchase the more generic flag.
- We would be willing to, if those are released to us and we're able to use them for fundraising, we'd be willing to take some of the fundraising from that effort and give back to the Boy Scouts for the energy it took to put them on the poles and put them out for us.
- We're not opposed to having those up every year if that's what the City decides to do, we'd support that.
- We'd also support the opportunity to work with the SDA and the Chamber and any other organizations that want to support some kind of annual event on August 26th to commemorate women's suffrage in the form of a celebration of another kind to keep them alive.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- We are a history organization and that's what we do, we keep history alive and celebrate it.
- There could possibly be some kind of sale for the businesses to be able to provide if we had flags, we could put them out in the businesses or even make up some paper flags to commemorate that if businesses provided some kind of discount for women at the time.
- That's something we could discuss and brainstorm about and collaborate with the business community on those kinds of things or other organizations.
- We were just grateful that Vice Chair Gurney thought of us because we do have the exhibit on display and haven't been able to show it publicly yet.
- I'll let Ms. Pitman speak to that because I know she's excited about the ability to reopen.
- You'll see her doing cartwheels on Main Street soon, because it has been difficult to have such a display and not share it with people.
- We're just happy to have been invited to be here for the opportunity to secure any of those for opportunities to keep them for commemorative purposes or also use them for fundraising.

Ms. Pitman commented as follows:

- First of all, when I heard about this, I got very excited because my mind started brainstorming about what we might be able to do with this, especially in light of the fact that we will get to plan a grand opening before long.
- As my mother taught us years ago, when somebody wants to give you something, just say yes please and thank you.
- Whatever you decide, we'll make good use of.
- In terms of having them, Ms. Ramondo kind of brainstormed some ideas.
- Even the banners with the dates, I'm an ex-teacher.
- Some of the plans for our suffrage exhibit are to take it on the road.
- We currently have a video which Michael and Mary put together on our website.
- It's kind of a review of what we'll be doing when we open.
- In terms of the banners, I hope to take lessons to the classrooms on behalf of the museum when we actually get classes open again.
- These will be really colorful things to show to them when we travel.
- There's a lot of things we can do either way with whatever it is you'd like to send our way.
- I want to say thank you for that very much.

Mayor Glass asked for questions.

Mayor Glass commented if there are 98 flags, 6 small banners, and 38 street banners?

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- There are 98 flags.
- Six small plaza ones.
- 38 street banners.
- The flags also have a pole that goes with them.

Councilmember Rich commented that we have 44 banners that are in discussion here based on Vice Mayor Gurney's modified suggestion now it sounds like.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- That's kind of our max number amount, because I believe Mr. Carnacchi has reported to all of, well, to me, but maybe it was in the email to all of us about the August 26th date, and a commitment to the Boy Scouts to get them on all of Main Street, the flag with the pole.
- Saw it on the City calendar, but I think we're going to make a note of it now.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- Clarified there are 44 banners.
- Have any other nonprofits been approached to determine their interest in using these banners?
- That would be one question.
- Actually, before that, if we were just going to donate some banners to the museum for exhibit purposes, it would be good to know whether the museum would be interested in integrating any of these banners into an exhibit.
- That would be my first question.
- Then, the second question is, have other entities within town that we might want to support been approached about their interest in using these banners?

Ms. Pitman commented as follows:

- We would absolutely incorporate the banners into an exhibit and/or keep a couple of them to make sure they're safe in our archive.
- Then, out front, as far as the attention getting for our grand opening, we could do quite a large display.
- Those kinds of things.
- We wouldn't need them all if other people have an interest.

Councilmember Rich commented:

- For exhibit purposes, just to be clear, how many could you use to incorporate, not just in the immediate future, but long-term for exhibit purposes at the museum?

Ms. Pitman commented as follows:

- I wish Mary were here.
- As the curator, she'd have a better answer.
- I would say half a dozen.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I don't know who would answer my second question.
- Vice Chair Gurney might know about whether any other entities have been approached about their interest in these banners.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I haven't approached any other organizations.
- Like I said, they just popped into my mind when I was at the Post Office looking at the big banner advertising the exhibit that's been frustrated by COVID.
- There may be other organizations that are interested, but given that these are commemorative and have that historical value, I would like us to think of the museum sort of as a first place of resort.
- Ms. Pitman also mentioned an education travel show, on the road, going into the classrooms.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- There's another potential for a place to leave a flag or a banner; a school or a history department at a school.
- I'm concerned that if we press them for a specific answer, I'm not sure they know their number because they haven't made specific plans.
- If we're interested in approaching other organizations, we could certainly do that, and I'm hoping Mr. Carnacchi may have some information on that when he speaks during public comment.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- There's 98 flags, so my question is, how many flagpole holes are there in town?
- I'm guessing that maybe the number that's on Main Street and the number that's at the intersection there so that they go down on Sebastopol Avenue or the highway.
- How many flags would we need to fill up Main Street with all the flagpole holes in the sidewalk?
- How many would we need to do the laterals that go down those streets as well?
- Is there some relationship between that 97 and how many flagpole holes there are?
- Because I'm thinking about, if the City were to retain the flags and put them up or work with the Historical Society to store them and put them up on an annual basis in August, how many would we need in order to have the volume of display that we normally see when we put flags up?
- It's always so impressive to go down Main Street and see so many flags.
- It's the same thing with the flags celebrating women's right to vote.

Councilmember Rich stated Mr. Carnacchi may be able to answer that.

Mayor Glass opened for public comment.

Michael Carnacchi commented as follows:

- Vice Chair Gurney, I apologize for not getting back to you sooner.
- I just read the email a little while ago.
- I didn't have a chance to respond.
- Thank you for that.
- The original intent was to have them fly every August 26th to celebrate Women's Equality Day.
- I can't really say that the Boy Scouts are absolutely committed at this point, but the last time I talked to them they were absolutely okay with it.
- I would have to recheck with them to make sure they're absolutely in on putting those up.
- I don't see any problem with it.
- I think they're really equipped and they can organize it pretty readily.
- They have a pretty good program the way they operate.
- They were flown one American flag, one checkered flag.
- I think they put over 200 American flags and 100 suffrage flags.
- Or 98 or however many there are.
- There's one that fell off the flagpole.
- With regard to the posts with the flag, those were mounted by the Boy Scouts.
- They actually mounted them up.
- We had a workday and mounted them all up.
- We're going to have another workday where we take all of the flags off and seal the poles because the poles need to be sealed up.
- That was the original intention of it.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- I don't know if there's any questions other than what I have already answered.
- As far as other groups that might have some interest, if we were to actually donate the flags, the actual flags themselves.
- It's really hard to talk on Zoom.
- I do not envy you all at this time.
- I really have a hard time with talking to my computer.
- I thought that we would give it to more of the service organizations, like the Lion's Club and the VFW, which are all really hurting for cash.
- I thought maybe they could have some if at some point it was going to be the flags that they can donate.
- It was hard, the banners, the museum, I would be totally fine with them doing whatever they see fit with them.
- Those are a one-use type of thing, they've already flown once, so I don't know.
- I'm talking around in circles here, I'll just stop.

Council Deliberations:

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I think we're in a little bit of a quandary here because I think that Ms. Ramondo and Ms. Pitman are indicating an interest in any configuration of the items that might come their way.
- I'll put out there what my feeling about this is.
- I certainly don't want to deprive the Historical Society or anybody else, but I'm actually very enthusiastic about commemorating the August 26th date on an annual basis.
- I think that would be a wonderful thing for us to do annually.
- I'm feeling very prone to wanting to retain those flags after we've made that big investment in them.
- I'd be interested in, if the Historical Society were to auction some of those as a fundraiser, I'd be interested in one that has a date on it.
- I think that the dated ones actually do have quite a bit of value for fundraising purposes.
- Maybe to some people.
- I'm pretty enthusiastic about using those flags on an annual basis, but I'd like to hear from the rest of my colleagues.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- Well, I want to be clear that after I learned from Mr. Carnacchi that he believed there was a commitment to do those undated flags every year on August 26th I would like to honor that as well.
- I'm trying to limit the conversation to the banners.
- Other people might want to support the annual flags going up so Mr. Carnacchi knows that he can encourage the Boy Scouts.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I'm in full support of the flags going up every year if the Boy Scouts will put them up for us.
- I want to mention about the banners - Councilmember Rich and I, when we talked to our Locals Who Make a Difference subcommittee earlier today, we noted there's a price tag to every time we produce banners, and for Vice Mayor Gurney, she started with Locals Who Make a Difference, and she probably recalls we talked about those being recycled, and we couldn't make

that happen because the photographs that we feature on those banners made it too tough to recycle.

- However, I believe it's really easy to change the top and the bottom, which is just dated.
- We don't have a lot of banners that rotate, and I think that it's a positive, and we could put those up around the August date.
- I would be in support of donating or loaning to the Historical Society for their exhibit, but I just don't know this is the right time, it might be the right time for the nonprofits to raise money but is it the right time for us to donate those banners when, as Vice Mayor Gurney pointed out earlier, it's been this great year of women and the Vice President aet cetera, and we're just opening up again.
- It seems like we should use those for a couple years and reuse them when we have 44 banners instead of it being discussed as a one-use when it doesn't have to be one-use.
- We've vetted this for a long time as having possibly these banners reused for multiple use and multiple days and we could change the top to this year.
- Maybe down the road we could donate them to auction.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- Yes, I think it's honestly great that this is coming up before us and making us focus on these gorgeous flags and give them a little bit more visibility.
- We need to not let these be on the back burner.
- Completely in agreement with the flags going up each year.
- It was beautiful to see them this year.
- I think what I'd like to see is we need a little more PR and pizzazz all around it.
- I'm super interested in what Councilmember Hinton just mentioned, the idea of perhaps retaining these as part of that annual display in some way or reusing them for some other purposes.
- I think what we have here is the beginning of a conversation.
- I certainly would be in favor on the banners of considering any requests from the historical society for a number of banners that they might be able to integrate into ongoing displays.
- To the extent we're going to give them away, what I would support here is agreeing for the Historical Society to be given a certain number of banners that they would be interested in incorporating into displays into the future.
- Then, in terms of other use of those remaining banners, I think there needs to be further discussion and consideration of others who might be interested, other uses, reusing it within our community.
- We spent a lot of money on these.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- Well, it feels like the four of you need to be on the forefront of this.
- That said, though, I like the idea of the annual flying of the flags in August.
- That's something that Sebastopol does that's different and special.
- Over the years there have been minor controversies over, why weren't the flags flown on this day? Why were they flown on that day?
- It's something the community identifies with and it's something that doesn't happen in other places.
- I'm sure there are other small towns that have the tradition, but it's the only one I've directly experienced.

- I think that's a really powerful message, and to have that every other with the suffrage flags and American flags, I think that's great.
- If the Boy Scouts are on board with adding that day to their schedule, which hasn't been an issue, they need their adult volunteers to help out, and that's been possible.
- We also need to ensure that if that's going to be the tradition, that they have storage capacity for virtually 100 flags for all but one day a year.
- That's not an inconsequential thing to store.
- I know what they have down there.
- The City loans them a back corner of one of the buildings down at the Corp Yard.
- We need to make sure that part of it is handled.
- The logistics of that.
- As far as the banners go, I don't know.
- I can see all sides of this.
- Everybody's had a good idea.
- I understand that it did cost the City something for those banners, but at the same time, what's the highest and best use?
- If they go to the Historical Society, and they're able to use them as a fundraiser, well, we're just starting our budget cycle, and if this is part of sort of an in-kind community benefit grant that helps them emerge from being closed, I don't see the harm in that.
- If the City wants to retain one or two or three or four or half a dozen or however many for historical purposes, fine.
- Honestly, I think they're just going to collect dust.
- If the Historical Society has a good use for them as part of displays, as part of fundraisers, Vice Mayor Gurney, you said you would be interested in the one that has the dates on it, I think you're not alone in that.
- I think this is a cool thing to have hanging in your house right above your living room seating area or something.
- Or maybe out on your front porch.
- I don't know.
- I think they're all great.
- I think that's where I'm leaning is let's do that that way, but that's just me.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I have a practical suggestion if we're ready for one.
- Here's what I'm hearing, I think we need to make sure we nail down this August day of display.
- I know Mr. Carnacchi has some relationship and rapport with the Boy Scouts.
- He seems to know what they're doing.
- Councilmember Rich mentioned their flag routine.
- We need to make sure that happens and we also need to get it on the City's calendar.
- I have known Mr. Carnacchi's memory of this commitment.
- Also, it seems like there was some interest in the Historical Society and museum having what I'm going to call first dibs.
- Meaning they aren't certain right now how many banners they might have, but if they could have first dibs for their display, that's part of the question.
- The other question is, are we willing to give them those flags, or are they on loan?

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- My understanding is the traditional flags would be only on loan to the Boy Scouts because we bought them, we own them, and we store them at the Corp Yard.
- If the Historical Society wants some flags, could they have first dibs?
- We have to determine if it's a loan or a gift to them.
- I don't know if they're community grant applicants.
- Maybe somebody wants to answer that question?
- I'll leave it up to you all.
- My purpose is to get the flag and the banners out and about so they're not just rolled up and getting mildew or something.
- We also may need to identify somebody who could want to inquire about other nonprofits who might be interested.
- That's another line item.
- I'm wondering if somebody's interested in that volunteer work.
- I don't know how recyclable these are, and that would be an expense to the City to take dates off, to do something else, the colors, can the design of it be accommodated to some other purpose.
- I don't know that part.
- Maybe the Locals That Make a Difference committee will figure that out for us.
- I don't want to volunteer people for jobs.
- These are the discussion points we need resolved.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- First of all, let's just deal with the flag issue.
- I'm thinking what we need to do is the City retains the flags.
- The City stores the flags at a Corp Yard or wherever the City determines is appropriate.
- The city will have the appropriate department, which I suspect is Public Works, coordinate with the Boy Scouts on August 26th to put them up every year and that our City Clerk maintains that in our City calendar.
- That's what I'm proposing.
- Does that seem like a viable idea?
- I'm asking staff if that's a viable idea.
- First, is it viable?
- Secondly, I'll ask if all of my colleagues are on board with that idea.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- Yes, Mayor Glass, I happen to know that Dennis Thomas from the Boy Scouts stores all their flags and has plenty of space at a trailer right there by the Corp Yard.
- I've seen them load them up.
- I've borrowed them from them.
- They have it all organized.
- Their space is dry, and that space has been allocated to them.
- That's the answer to that.
- They took those helpful pictures.

The Council was in consensus to retain the flags.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- Second would be if the Historical Society might need to borrow some of them for their opening celebration of their exhibit, which hopefully now will be able to be actually exhibited and open sometime soon, I think that we should make those available to the Historical Society to borrow the flags should they want them for that opening.
- Does that seem like a reasonable thing to do?
- Talking about flags right now for them to borrow them should they need any portion of them for their opening.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I have a comment, having borrowed flags from the Boy Scouts, they are very careful about those flags, I know that we own the flags.
- This would need to be coordinated through Superintendent Del Prete, and it would have to be subject to the Boy Scouts.
- I propose it be subject to whatever supervision and check in and check out that is agreeable for the Boy Scouts, because it is the same storage container, and having been the one person from whom one of those darn flags was stolen and I had to create a new one to replace it and deal with the guilt of it, yes, I would be in support of that, but I would suggest that it have to be coordinated with Mr. Thomas and the Boy Scout leadership.

The Council was in consensus.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Now let's get to the banners.
- For the banners, I tend to think that the City probably would like to retain a few of them, a small quantity of them for historic purposes.
- I like the idea of donating them to the Historical Society, frankly, because this is a historical thing.
- They are our organization in town that deals with all things historic.
- They are our historic things.
- That's what they do.
- I kind of like the idea of donating them to them should they want to accept them.
- That's what I tend to think, and I think maybe Councilmember Slayter said that as well.
- I'm kind of hearing some of the rest of you thinking about opening it up to other people.
- I'm just throwing out other ideas.
- More comments?
- What should we do about the banners?

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I proposed to give them first dibs, because I'm not sure they want each and every one of them.
- The other part of that suggestion was if there's somebody who wanted to go around the community and ask if some other group was interested in the remaining flags and banners.
- A person needs to take on the responsibility.
- I don't want to do that necessarily, but Councilmember Rich proposed it, I think, or Councilmember Hinton.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Maybe give them first dibs and see if we can spread them around to more places.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- We're presenting to the Historical Society that they have first dibs on however many they want, but the City will retain a couple of them for historical purposes.
- Maybe we keep them in City Hall or something.
- Does that sound like a good plan?
- The historical society can let us know how many they want.
- Does that make sense?

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- Yes, I'm happy to be the contact person for the Historical Society and work with them on however many banners they want and work with Superintendent Del Prete, and my plan would be at the service organizations next meeting to ask that group if they are interested in any of the banners.
- I would bet that the Historical Society would probably want a maximum of 20.
- Maybe we want 5 to be held by the City.
- That leaves some for others to be claimed if they want to.
- In the meantime, what I say to the Historical Society is that there's a lot of support if they could come up with something cool to do with all these where they wouldn't be sitting in the dust, I would be in support of that.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- Councilmember Rich, I would love to work with you since I brought Ms. Pitman and Ms. Ramondo into this long conversation that has gotten really complicated.
- You have access to the service clubs.
- I have access to the nonprofits.
- Maybe we could both ask the groups.
- We have a CBO meeting coming up tomorrow.
- We might ask around.
- First dibs to Ms. Pitman and Ms. Ramondo for their display, give them some time to do something, or just take the remainder for us to divide, or if you're willing to work together.
- With the rest being stored at City Hall.

The Council was in consensus.

No Formal Vote/Council Consensus.

- City retains flags.
- City stores flags at Corp Yard.
- City will have Public Works coordinate with Boy Scouts on Aug 26th to put them up every year.
- City Clerk maintains that in City Calendar.
- Flags to be made available to the historical society to borrow for the opening and subject to supervision and check in/out with Boy Scouts.

City Council Action:

Minute Order Number: 2021-056

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

7. Discussion and Consideration of Sponsorship of the "Bite-Sized" Gravenstein Apple Fair 2021 at Ragle Ranch Park on Saturday, August 14, one day only; and Traffic Control at the Intersection of

Covert Lane and Ragle Road by the Sebastopol Police Department. (Requestor: Vice Mayor Gurney)

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- By way of a very brief introduction, I sustained the Apple Fair in 2019 in August and I so loved the event.
- It was like a country apple version of Peacetown with lovely handmade items for sale and a lot of local people.
- I thought, how come the City couldn't sponsor this?
- Last year, about this time I put in a request for a sponsorship that was taken off the agenda because COVID hit.
- Literally, that was the meeting when we all went into COVID land, so I'm kind of reupping the idea now with a year of COVID behind us.
- We have an event that historically has brought about 15,000 people to a two-day event outdoors at Ragle Park with all kinds of fun for everybody.
- Last year they did a very clever pivot and did the grab and go.
- I just love that idea.
- It was the parking lot drive-through at the Community Center.
- It kept the apples and apple history alive as a commodity in our community.
- This year, the Director, who's here this evening, has organized with other reduced crew and reduced sponsorship a one-day event that's going to be similar in nature to the old style, but it's going to be executed under COVID standards.
- The staff report indicates that there are two options for people participating.
- They can park and walk up or pull in and shop and pick up their apples.
- Other people, by reservation, can come in for a 90-minute period of time and sit down and enjoy the food they buy, the drinks they buy, music, and do a little bit of their shopping.
- That will be socially distanced with masks and future protocols being observed.
- The event's gone from two-days to the one-day, only on Saturday.
- I also checked last year with our Acting Chief DeVore, and he was supportive and willing to provide police control of the one main intersection into the park that's at Ragle and Covert Lane.
- Unfortunately, my COVID brain remembered, and over the weekend Carmen Snyder and I were connecting with Chief Kilgore about his point of view of police support and he graciously confirmed with us today that he would be willing to offer one-day with two officers to do police control at that intersection and include it within his overtime budget for next fiscal year.
- It's important the note that they've done everything they can to get through COVID and survive.
- The staff report details information that Ms. Snyder gave me, they are very up front about their downsizing to get through.
- They're struggling with membership, putting off the membership drive, and are just reinitiating it now.
- Sponsors are being heavily hit by COVID, that's where my request for sponsorship comes in.
- I would be very grateful if, in addition to the police support that's been confirmed through the Chief, that we would allow them to use our City logo as a sponsor and that we could provide a small financial sponsorship to them.
- Ms. Snyder provided us a \$5,000 sponsorship, which I think would be generous.
- It's a little higher than I anticipated so I asked her to give us a second level, and she's given the details on a \$3,000 sponsorship.
- Perhaps the Council would like to negotiate that through our discussion this evening.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- I think it's really important for us to support an event because we've missed the Apple Blossom Festival now, the parade, and that two-day weekend event that celebrates our apple heritage.
- It's important that we have some events continue, and this is the one that comes up at harvest time as a celebration of the Gravenstein apple.
- That's why I would like us to be as generous as we can in terms of our identification with this event.
- If I may through the Mayor, I'd like to invite Ms. Snyder, Executive Director, to add any comments or tell the story in her own words of a need and interest in the City's support.

Ms. Snyder commented as follows:

- Thank you so much for having me tonight.
- Farm Trails was found in the 1973, and that very year, the founders of Farm Trails created the Gravenstein Apple Fair as the fundraising profit.
- The old apple show used to take place downtown.
- I'm sure y'all are familiar, that ended in World War II.
- It was brought back by Farm Trails.
- It's been at Ragle Park for many years.
- There's a sweet deal with Farm Trails where the members and board help clear the park and establish the park, and we have been there since 1979, I believe.
- I don't know how familiar y'all are with kind of the more recent history of Farm Trails, but when I took over as Executive Director in the fall of 2012, we had a disastrous apple fair that almost broke the bank.
- We had to reimagine how we did the apple fair.
- A lot of people didn't know it was connected to Farm Trails.
- I worked really hard to get kind of some of the old-timers, who had aged out, to come back to the apple fair team, for secession purposes, to train a new generation on how to do the fair and retain the things that are so lovely about the fair and also to connect the dots between Farm Trails and the apple fair.
- Because it was just astonishing to me that most people that I talked to had no idea it was through Farm Trails.
- We have the farm stage, the do-it-yourself arena.
- The Gravenstein apple is always the star of the show, and I think it does a lot to celebrate all of our local agriculture here and rural heritage.
- Farm Trails was able to stabilize.
- We had a lot of really wonderful apple fairs.
- We had established enough financial stability and security that we didn't have to blow it out of the park every year with the apple fair.
- It never occurred to us that there would not be an apple fair because, until this year, we weren't in fire season, it was the dry season.
- When we were not able to produce the apple fair this year, Farm Trails took a huge hit financially, and as soon as we realized we were not able to produce it the staff cut back to 50%.
- We cut all possible costs that we could.
- I wouldn't say we went into a hibernation mode.
- We went into more like everything down to our core mission.
- We put some things on the back burner that were not really core to our mission.
- What we decided to do, as Vice Chair Gurney mentioned, was produce a grab and go event that was more of a place holder for the apple fair and a bit of seasonal continuity.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- We did sell over 8,000 pounds of apples.
- It was amazing.
- We filled up all the slots, we serviced 600 cars.
- Because it was a drive-through event, we were the pass through for the money, but we were just taking a very small portion of the sales because we wanted the farmers to get paid and the vendors to get paid.
- It was not ultimately a fundraiser for us.
- It was more of a community benefit, and we understood that going into it, and that was okay with us.
- It takes resources to produce it, and we're still at 50% time with our staff.
- We again pivoted and created this idea of the bite sized apple fair.
- I'm excited about it because people really appreciated the drive-through option.
- Just the tiny little bit of connection, and they appreciated that they could pop their trunks and have zero contact and get their products.
- I know how eager people are to be outside and to connect.
- To be back in the park, which is so magical.
- The concept is a little bit TBD, because of course it depends on what the County and State guidance will allow.
- There will be a drive-up portion where you can get your products.
- Then a fenced, ticketed portion, so we can raise some much-needed funds as well.
- The apple fair, it will be more expensive to produce that.
- That means having the straw bales.
- We're not doing it overnight, largely because we don't think we can risk having the security cost.
- Which is maybe \$5,000 to \$6,000.
- It's going to be a bare bones budget, but we still want to give people some of the flavor of the apple fair in a way that is comfortable, the way they will feel safe and comfortable.
- That's probably reserved seating, and the maximum capacity will be whatever is permissible.
- I think the only other thing I'll say is, again, the apple fair does fund all of the operations for Farm Trails throughout the year.
- It does bring a lot of people to Sebastopol.
- It celebrates this beautiful park and this really lovely community.
- We use local school groups, we pay them stipends to pay for the parking, which we'll do this year for sure.
- We use all local service providers, Ron Blair does our signs.
- I have information about signs, by the way, if y'all want to chat me on that later, for the banners.
- We use local vendors.
- It not only benefits Farm Trails, but different food businesses and farmers and local crafters and entertainers.
- I'm happy to answer any questions.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- You said this is a community benefit event, and there's probably a question in Councilmembers' minds, why didn't you apply for a community grant?
- I wanted to let everyone know, we went through that question ourselves.
- Farm Trails doesn't qualify as the right number of 501 "C,". We are a 6.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- I don't know the particulars, but we did review the application and made the decision that that wasn't a possible avenue to get a grant from the City there.
- That is one of the reasons we're appealing now for help, in addition to keeping this continuity of our identification with our agricultural history in play.

Mayor Glass asked for questions.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Actually, as a point of information, I'm going to ask City staff about this.
- As I recall, actually, our community grant process does allow for C-6's, because we have received, or we have given grants to the Chamber of Commerce which to my understanding is a C-6.
- I see my fellow budget buddy is nodding.
- Perhaps we do not make that clear enough on the application form.
- We may need to improve that in the future so that other applicants understand that.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- Serving on the Sonoma County Fair Board, this is a big point of discussion about what is going to come, et cetera.
- Do you have any sense about how many, with this new outline that you're guessing at now, I understand you're guessing, how many people might be able to attend and are you at the break-even point versus sponsorships?
- I assume you're going to go for more sponsorships to try to offset the break-even point.
- Maybe you can address how many people you think might be able to attend in the best-case scenario, I know everybody is watching Disneyland, is what I'm hearing, but obviously we're not Disneyland.
- We're trying not to be.
- I'm just talking fair stuff, I'm just curious.
- For me personally, I'm like, sign me up.
- You might be sold out for how many people want to come to the fair and socially distance.
- In your format, I'm wondering what the numbers would be based on the proposal in our staff report.

Ms. Snyder commented as follows:

- Last year we serviced 600 vehicles.
- We sold out of time slots for that.
- We maxed out, and we were conservative in estimating how many vehicles can drive through the Sebastopol Community Center parking lot in an hour.
- I would anticipate that in terms of the drive-through portion, that we would have, I would say at least 1,000 vehicles, probably more.
- For the ticketed portion, the way that I'm looking at it, and I've had conversations with Bert at the park, and I have an upcoming meeting to talk to public health about what they think is possible.
- We're looking at it at a minimum the way that we look at the pumpkin patches and Christmas tree farms.
- I was on calls with our Farm Trails producers who had pumpkin patches and Christmas tree farms.
- We were thinking about it sort of like an outdoor dining or outdoor agricultural experience, in terms of capacity.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- If you can be seated at a picnic table that is at least six feet from another picnic table, the capacity is really dependent on the agricultural settings on the acreage.
- People per acreage, a lot different than an indoor setting, obviously.
- My feeling is that at a minimum, even with the smaller footprint at the park, we would have 200 proceeding.
- This is a very big, like, ballpark answer.
- I would say between 200 to 500 per seating.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- How much do you envision the tickets being?
- Since it's likely to sell out, will you release it locally first?

Ms. Snyder commented as follows:

- Yes, to releasing it locally first and giving a local preference, for sure.
- The tickets, we haven't determined the pricing yet because we have been doing these really intensive cost-benefit analyses and different projections.
- The initial concept is to try to have a ticket that perhaps is \$10, and you bring our own picnic blanket.
- Then there could be a straw bale seating cluster, and again, it's going to be tricky to figure out how we get people to do this with technology.
- It's a whole new ballpark of how to manage it, or a new challenge for us.
- There could be straw bale cluster seating that is perhaps \$15 per person.
- For reserved picnic tables, we might charge a premium price, maybe not per person, but they'll seat a table of eight.
- One person in the group pays for the picnic table.
- That has not all been hammered out.
- It's still just kind of a concept.
- That was the initial thought.
- Depending on the number that we can allow in, we would see how many food vendors we would need to have there.
- We make a very small commission on those sales, so really where we would make money is if we're allowed to serve beer, wine, and cider.
- Yes, a local preference.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- Love the Gravenstein Apple Fair.
- I'm impressed with your proactive approach to keeping it going, one way or another.
- I have a question about the sponsorship request, and I have a couple of questions, some of them might be answered by you, and some may be answered by Director Kwong.
- Please share with us what your other efforts have been so far to develop some sponsorships, what you've done, what you expect to do, what your total sponsorship amount is that you're hoping to pull together and how that compares to sponsorships that you might have pursued in the future.
- What I'm looking for is what efforts are you already doing to pull in those sponsors who have been there for you in the past, and what is your final sponsorship plan?

Ms. Snyder commented as follows:

- We have one sponsor who has already come onboard at the same rate as previous years, so that is fabulous.
- We're really grateful for that.
- They participated in the grab and go all weekend this past year.
- For instance, the Farm Bureau, who has sponsored us ever since I took over in 2013, cut their sponsorship in half.
- It used to be \$5,000, and they cut it to \$2,500.
- Last year they had already cut a check for us, and they said can you please return it.
- I know from many, many ag boards and organizations and ag meetings that we're in just about the pandemic and now the vaccine rollout, their resources are very, very tapped this year.
- We're in conversation, but I'm not expecting our usual sponsorship from them, either.
- Same with American Ag Credit.
- I suspect they will come on at some amount.
- We're seeing all of our sponsorships down thus far.
- I'm going to keep trying and I'm in conversation with Oliver's, they also did not sponsor last year.
- I think that I'll have a better chance of getting sponsorships for this than the grab and go because there will be an actual presence.
- We had tons of tents last year, and there was drive-through visibility.
- This year people will be physically on the grounds.
- Besides on all of our flyers and marketing collateral, the website, the banners, and onsite recognition, it's much more valuable.
- Also, I think that there will be much more buzz around this because it will be an actual opportunity to get outside and have just a little piece of what the fair is like.
- Depending on how things unfold, my entertainment chair yesterday emailed me, he said I'm getting really hopeful.
- I think we might try to have a backup plan to scale up the apple fair.
- I just said, certainly we will ramp up to whatever is permissible in terms of a one-day event.
- We might have a select number of craft vendors there if people are allowed to be circulating.
- It is my strong feeling, if it's permissible, even if a lot of our county is vaccinated, I think the public will not feel comfortable this early being in proximity.
- It's going to take a while to unwind that.
- I just want to be really realistic about that.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I'm going to just ask you the bottom line question.
- There is a process for requesting grant money.
- We've heard that it was available to support the apple fair.
- You're coming before us with a plea.
- What I really want to know, as a Councilmember here, recognizing that we do have a process that was available, and recognizing that there are many others in this community, if we were going to go out and say, hey, we got \$5,000 or \$3,000 or \$1,000 available, there would be others who would apply and plead their case.
- I'm asking you what happens?
- Give us the plea.
- If you said, well, our sponsorships generally were this amount of money, and this year it's going to be this amount of money, in order to cover our baseline costs, we need this amount of money.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- Give us the bottom line dollars pitch that would persuade me as a City Council member in a world of limited money that we should say yes to you here.

Ms. Snyder commented as follows:

- Our sponsorships are typically around \$80,000.
- This year, we're around \$12,500.
- Additionally we used to get T.O.T. reimbursements from the County, as much as \$59,000 a year for advertising reimbursements.
- That fund has completely disappeared.
- In fact, the seed money from that founded Farm Trails.
- We've relied on that for many years.
- That has gone away.
- We decided in the crunch of the pandemic, when we were expecting to be able to hold the 2020 Apple Fair, we just had no sense in the very beginning about how long this was going to last.
- We were right at our membership drive.
- We decided not to pursue members.
- We lost a lot of membership money.
- We were able to bring in \$14,000 this year. It's typically \$25,000 to \$30,000.
- Basically, Farm Trails is going to be out of money in December of 2021.
- If we don't net, and that's with us working, we have two staff members who have been at half pay, not necessarily working only half-time.
- That is without some massive fund-raising efforts on top of netting at least \$30,000 at the bite size apple fair.

Councilmember Rich commented so what you're telling us is that unless you net \$30,000 at the bite size apple fair, Farm Trails will be closing up shop by December of 2021?

Ms. Snyder commented as follows:

- I'm not saying we'll be closing up shop.
- I'm saying that the projections are that we run out of cash on hand at that point.
- That's important information.

Councilmember Rich questioned what is your budget for doing this event?

Ms. Snyder commented as follows:

- Well, it's still a very big question mark right now.
- It's so dependent on scale.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I do have additional questions regarding where this money would come from, out of our budget.
- I have asked Director Kwong those questions.
- I'd be happy to have her share the information with us now, Mayor, if you want to do that.
- Director Kwong, please share with us the information about where this money would come from in our budget.

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- If the Council was to fund this project, I have a question before I can answer that.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- Are we committing to fund this year to the apple fair or because the event is not until next fiscal year?
- I was not clear on if we make a commitment now, is the fund leaving the City in the next fiscal year for this event, or is the fund leaving the City now so that they can have it in their coffer, so they can gear up for the event?
- If the fund is leaving now in this fiscal year, in the City Council budget, there is a line item for other community support and there's adequate funds in that line item to support this program.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- Question either for the Chief or for Director Kwong.
- I'm curious on what the in kind request for traffic control, it states two officers for two days.
- That would be proposed to be absorbed with the previously very short notice withdrawal of the request.
- As mayor then, I remember exactly how that went down, timewise.
- That was a weird deal.
- That is stated here in this particular write-up.
- I'm curious what the cost to the City of that is.

Chief Kilgore commented as follows:

- I did confirm, this would be a one-day event, not a two-day event.
- 9:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M., an eight-hour day.
- Pay at the overtime rate for two officers, depending on if we have an officer or sergeant working that, we're looking at a cost of approximately \$1,000 to \$1,500.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I want to answer Councilmember Rich's question.
- Ms. Snyder gave the pitch from her organizational point of view, but as the sponsoring Councilmember, I would just love to keep the apple industry going in some kind of showy way, instead of having the whole history go quiet for too long a time.
- I would just love to breathe some life into it with some dollars if we can get this on the ground at the park.
- I think it's really important for us to have the history of the heritage, to acknowledge it, and to have some kind of fun in our future, in case we can go outside and have fun.

Mayor Glass questioned are you getting any support out of the County?

Ms. Snyder commented as follows:

- As of yet, we are not.
- Except, we usually we pay the county 10% of the admissions for the use of the park and they are looking at giving us a special waiver this year so that we maybe pay a very small, fixed fee.
- That could be a possible, it's not technically a grant, I guess it's a waiver.
- A grant in-kind, basically.

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

Council Deliberations:

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I just want to echo my agreement with vice mayor gurney that I want to keep the notion of apples and the apple fair and this being an apple area, and our connection with apples alive.
- I think that is an important thing.
- I'm feeling prone to figuring out if there is some level of sponsorship here.
- Certainly, the in-kind for our police support of this event.
- I would like us to think of this as maybe the opening salvo to us thinking about how we are going to support our community as it re-opens and re-launches a lot of the events that A) serve our community, and B) make us a destination.
- In some respects, I was thinking, oh, should we include this as something that is on our community calendar, like, could we do a little bit of an in-kind and ask that we promote this event on our City website and Facebook page, and do some marketing for getting people to visit Sebastopol.
- This is our calendar of events that are happening in Sebastopol.
- Maybe community events that would attract visitors although it sounds like you're expecting to get enough visitors without going nuts and trying to promote things in the Bay Area or whatever.
- At least getting people over the Laguna from Santa Rosa or bring them up Gravenstein Highway and people from nearby cities.
- I think this is not just an isolated thing.
- As the budget subcommittee is going to be thinking about how we're going to expend funds, we need to think about what we are going to do to promote our town with particularly identifiable events that are going to make people want to continue to support our community.
- It's bigger than just Farm Trails.
- It's bigger than the Gravenstein Apple Fair.
- It's, how do we keep putting our attractiveness as a rural food producing local economy, so that people come here, across the Laguna, not just to go to the apple fair, but maybe they stop downtown and they go and buy a dress.
- Or maybe they eat lunch at the fair, but then they want to stay for dinner at one of our restaurants.
- Those things, what are we going to do, what are we as a Council going to do to help us re-launch our economy?
- This is the first thing we're being asked about.
- I'm prone to wanting to support it.
- I think we also need to be thinking of it in a bigger picture of, what are we going to do to help ourselves re-launch?
- This is our first event of the re-launch.
- It's still going to be kind of in a quasi-COVID time.
- We're in a transition mode right now.
- I totally get what Ms. Snyder is saying.
- How many people are we going to have?
- How much will you be open?
- How many tickets will you sell?
- I deal with this problem every day.
- How much can we re-open the Art Center, how many people can we have in our building?
- It's a moving target all the time.
- It's what all the nonprofits are dealing with.
- You have to plan six months in advance, but you don't know what the parameters are going to be.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- What are we going to do to support this really very identified with Sebastopol event, to keep it alive, and know that the parameters of making it happen are kind of a moving target.
- It's that way for most of our nonprofits.
- Anyway, I just wanted to frame this up as I'd like to support this event.
- We need to, as a Council, be thinking about what are we going to do to help us transition back to an open town.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- I agree with everything you just said about strategizing for a re-opening, positioning ourselves properly, all those kind of buzzword terminologies.
- The extremely close location in the county that this annual event has to the city is not lost on me.
- I am an annual attendee at this event.
- Family comes from far away to go to this thing.
- The fact that we can walk there is great.
- All of those being said, I am not in favor of this right now.
- I may be in favor of it at the time of the Community Benefit Grants.
- I think that that is the proper time to take this up.
- These kinds of sponsorships come to us fairly frequently.
- I would say, a couple, maybe three times a year, we have a fairly lengthy discussion about a community benefit program that is off cycle.
- I understand that that is the way sometimes these things go.
- Like, bike to work day.
- There is example "a," it was an off-cycle sponsorship that the Council discussed at some great length and decided to support.
- In this particular instance, I really feel like we need to wait and consider this in concert with all of the other community benefit grant requests that we will be considering at budget time.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- If there was an urgent matter to support this tonight, when the festival is in August, I mean, our tradition is that when Director Kwong started talking about pulling money, that money is generally allocated when the event is in the right fiscal year.
- This event is in August.
- Our fiscal year starts July 1st.
- We're gearing up to go through our community grant process.
- I don't think there's any problem moving this in to that process, which is later this month, next week, I think.
- When the budget subcommittee holds a public meeting with all the nonprofits that will request money and support from the City.
- I love the Gravenstein Apple Fair.
- I think it's super that they're rebranding the mini bite, it's really cool.
- Hopefully, because it does sit out in the county, they are going to get some County support also.
- Not just our City.
- I think that's where it belongs.
- AI would like to move this agenda item over there so that it can have fair consideration with all of our nonprofits at the same time.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

Mayor Glass questioned since a formal community grant application has not been made, would there be a process to include them in our community grant process, or can we just consider the sponsorship? Can we consider the sponsorship within the bounds of our budget process?

City staff commented as follows:

- Like you have discussed, we have done sponsorships in the past which fall outside of the community benefit grant.
- I'm wondering if the budget subcommittee would like to have some discussion about routine sponsorships, like setting aside Council initiative funds, doing something similar to that.
- Instead of bringing it through the community benefit grant process at this juncture.
- I believe if we re-open it, we would want to be fair and re-open the entire process.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I'm not advocating re-opening it.
- But we bring forth to the Council all of our recommendations like this and possibly the bike to work, we're looking at the whole budget picture, not just one-offs.
- I think it would probably be a benefit.
- Whatever we call it, we don't have to call it a community grant.
- We can call it other sponsorships under the same heading.
- We would be aware of this, of bike to work, and whatever else staff would be able to tell us what we've done last year.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I just would like to ask a couple of questions and comments before I move to calling on my colleagues.
- Ms. Snyder, for planning purposes, I'm guessing, this is a lead in question, I'm guessing that you probably need to know something about the commitment of the City for policing services in particular, because it does seem like in planning the event, I'm guessing you need to have that nailed. That you need to know about that.
- Can you live with not knowing until probably early June, how the City is committing to you?
- I mean, sooner, of course, with events is always better.

Ms. Snyder commented as follows:

- I think we've all gotten so nimble, and things have been changing so quickly, I think we're in a very adaptive mode.
- I think mid-to-late July would be tricky, just in terms of commitments and logistics.
- That is a huge piece, the traffic.
- Not just for the benefit of the attendees, but also the neighbors and the whole city.
- June would be fine.
- If there is any commitment of funding, the payment doesn't have to be immediate.
- We just need to be able to budget for it.
- If I could I just make a quick comment about the community benefit grant?
- I didn't miss the grant.
- It was on my calendar, I was very aware of it.
- It wasn't that I didn't want to apply or was trying to bypass that system.
- I've been applying for every single grant that we're eligible for.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- The other piece besides the "C" status is policy number 88, section 5 which says that funds will not be allocated to organizations conducting a fundraising event or activity.
- We identified the apple fair as our primary annual fundraiser.
- That is what gave us pause, the C-3, and the benefit grant could not go to a fundraiser.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- It seems like we're going to need to re-visit the language on our application and take a look at what our policies really are.
- Thank you for the feedback on that.
- I'm glad to know that you can live with a later decision, deadline.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I agree with Councilmember Slayter and Councilmember Hinton's opinions regarding the funding.
- Perhaps for slightly different reasons.
- I don't think it would be appropriate to make a funding decision tonight.
- Part of it is that I'm on the service organizations group with commission, and I can tell you that there are a couple of very wonderful organizations in town that are just desperate for help with fundraising, because they've been unable to do their events.
- I think we need to keep in mind, this is a bigger issue.
- The question that Vice Mayor Gurney and Ms. Snyder have brought before us is something that we need to discuss further, in my opinion.
- However, I don't think that designating limited funds right now, tonight, without some more open process is an appropriate decision making effort for us.
- Despite the fact that I, too, absolutely adore the apple fair, and I'm desperate for it to be the real thing.
- The only suggestion I may make is that I personally would in fact, and maybe this isn't appropriate procedurally, I would be comfortable making the traffic decision tonight.
- I defer to the budget subcommittee on that.
- That is the piece I would be willing to support tonight.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I think we're in an interesting situation.
- For me, it's unfair to delay this decision and put this iconic event sort of, like, towards the end of the shelf, maybe falling off the shelf because we can't commit.
- This was publicly noted, a completely transparent item.
- It was even on last year.
- It's not as if this was new.
- If this was an error, Ms. Snyder and I should have been told last year that we belonged in community grants.
- However, nobody ever suggested that that was the place.
- I think it would be unfair to re-open the community grants now because we would have to re-open it for everybody.
- I think it would be unfair to just consider this as kind of a snuck in community grant, too.
- As I look at it, it's really a public item.
- The issue that we're looking at is sponsorship.
- It's not just helping out somebody who needs a little seed money for something.

- This is an event that we're really closely identified with.
- It's a significant event.
- It's an event we want to put our logo, name, and our stamp on.
- I was amazed to realize our name and logo wasn't there.
- Just like we like our logo being other places where we've adopted their name.
- We call ourselves peace town.
- The home of the Gravenstein apple is also something we're identified with.
- If we delay tonight, the money will come in July.
- That means we lose publicity and identification with this event for March, April, May, and June.
- I think it's a tremendous loss to the City and to our community.
- We should hold this, own this, and cherish this.
- We should take all those seats so we can celebrate ourselves.
- I think our problem tonight is that we don't have a policy as to how to address a sponsorship request.
- We don't have guidelines for that, and we don't have a procedure for that application process.
- Bike to work day, why is it any fairer to allow bike to work day to be sponsored and use our logo, yet it's not fair because of this one, just because of the timing.
- This timing was obvious last year, it's obvious this year.
- Bike to work day is always a day in May.
- They moved their event to September, and we pivoted with them.
- I think we should just pivot now, and I think we should support them.
- I don't know who will come up with this idea for the recommendations for sponsorship, and I'm not sure that that is a budget subcommittee issue because it doesn't just involve money.
- It can be anywhere from \$500 to \$50,000.
- We need to figure that out.
- Maybe that needs to be an agenda item.
- Last point, it's a little grander, which is where the Mayor started out in her thinking.
- We need to figure out how to ignite our economy as we get going.
- This is one way to do that.
- This is one way to claim that we are not coming back, we're not re-opening, we're being who we are, and we're doing it with all the protocols and safety measures and reconvening appropriately that we can do in a celebratory way.
- We also need to figure out in a workshop I guess with commissions, how do we take the next step after that?
- Instead of everything being kind of as it comes in, where we have to do this, is this a good decision to do now or later?
- We just have guidelines and we can follow our own adopted processes and know what our goals are and test those applications or ideas against our goals.
- I think this one really fits in.
- I would ask you to reconsider your no votes and delay votes.
- Time is of the essence.
- Ms. Snyder has demonstrated that she and her limited people who are in great measure volunteers, are being generous with their time, and they're trying to put together the most responsible event that they can.
- I can't think of anything more we would want to support.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- If there was some mini Apple Blossom Festival, I think we would have the same emotion that I have now.
- We need to be Sebastopol, and we need to do this.
- That's where I stand.
- I would ask you to reconsider saying no at this time, and considering not just the police support, which isn't a problem for next year's budget, according to our Chief, but also the use of the logo and some stipend, grant, whatever we want to call it.
- Director Kwong has already told us it's there, so I think we should spend it.
- We should do it.
- We should put our foot down and say, we're going to be back.
- We're going to be Gravenstein apple country one more fall.
- That's where I am.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- My first question to Ms. Snyder is, and again, it just comes from fairness to all.
- Luckily, we still have reserves in the bank right now.
- We're going into a new budget.
- Chances are that those reserves are coming down.
- While the money sits there, we're spending it.
- Ms. Snyder, we're going to have our final, I think our budget discussion, our first one on June 5th, and probably we'll be wrapping up the budget by mid-June.
- What sponsorship opportunities might we miss out on if we don't commit until then to the apple fair?
- Is there any advance promotion that you'll be doing that our logo would be a part of?
- If yes, what would that be?
- What might we miss out on as a sponsor of this year?

Ms. Snyder commented as follows:

- That is always the benefit of coming on sooner than later, the long lead publicity.
- As soon as you come on, we place you on our website
- It's the articles, the flyers, and similarly with the ticket sales, that will be likely through Eventbrite.
- We're really good about recognizing our sponsors.
- The visibility gets even more expanded, because there is just not as many sponsors in a lean year.

Councilmember Hinton questioned if we approve this tonight, does that make us a sponsor, and you're eligible for additional sponsorship?

Ms. Snyder commented as follows:

- We also recognize our in-kind sponsors and the way we do it is a sizing thing.
- It could get bigger down the road.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I have a possible compromise idea here.
- Having spoken to Director Kwong about an item that was mentioned in the staff report, she shared with me that the bike to work amount that has been set aside, that hasn't yet been spent is \$2,000.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- That's a sponsorship for an event.
- We also know the community grant guidelines, and I confirmed it in this budget volume, specifically says not for events.
- What I also know from Director Kwong, that there is some remaining money for shuttle fare in the line item that hasn't been and probably will not likely be spent.
- What about considering allocating \$2,000 as sponsorship to this event that has been proposed to us tonight.
- Looking at, I don't know if we can tonight, but looking at putting together a fund since what we want to do is encourage events, think about the marketing piece that has been mentioned here by many, many people.
- Maybe we should be looking at taking some of that money that is sitting in that line item and considering it as an amount that could be used to sponsor events during the remainder of this budget cycle.
- There is \$17,000, as Director Kwong was telling me, in there for shuttle fare.
- Maybe it's not the time, maybe it's too complicated.
- I can see supporting this since bike to work got supported, \$2,000 for an event.
- Events aren't within the community grant guidelines.
- \$2,000 to this event, and I would also support the police allocation of police time, because honestly, that's a part of any Apple Blossom Festival, or whatever, we get our police involved.
- Trying to propose a supportive compromise.
- I still have hesitation about the money allocation, but I wanted to put that out there.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- Can I ask you a question, you just said the \$17,000 number.
- Where is that?

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- We should probably get the bottom line from Director Kwong on the line item which was other community expenses which had a total of \$31,000, but Director Kwong would be the best source of information about the status, the balance of that account.

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- This fund is under other community support in the Council budget.
- In Council budget, you have the City Council initiative grant, each Councilmember has, I believe, \$500.
- There's other community support, with bike to work day, public arts support.
- There's some funding set aside for library signage.
- Then there's the shuttle fare, there was a bus line that came into the city.
- Since COVID, there has not be any invoicing from the County.
- It's been quite some time that I haven't seen any billing from the County for that service.
- Looking at the Council budget, under other community support, there's adequate funding if you will when this item came up and that was where I thought it could come from.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- Clarification on the shuttle fare, public transit has been free all during COVID, until February 1st.
- That means our local shuttle was free, and all public transit was free.
- Sonoma County Transit.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- Our commitment was to make up the fare, the City subsidized the fare based on historical records.
- We have much of this year, all the way to February 1st, having no fare.
- That is \$17,000, correct, Director Kwong?

Director Kwong stated that is correct.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- What was explained to was that in that budget originally was \$17,000 for shuttle fare.
- \$2,000 for bike to work day. Which just hasn't yet occurred.
- \$10,000 for library signage
- \$2,000 for public art, and \$31,000.
- \$2,000 has been spent on the public art.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- My hand was up for some other reason, but I can answer the question about the library signage.
- Remember back when we did the project, this was during the days with Robert Jacob, during his term, 2012 to 2016.
- We re-landscaped, and we did a whole thematic re-do.
- Parts of that program was to install signage that explains the significance of each area.
- For instance, the area in front of the big wall that faces south, all of those are historic plants.
- That's why we were looking at the public art installation, they're plants that Luther Burbank bio-designed.
- It looks like from this fund, we have a considerable amount of money.
- The point I would make now is that if we gave \$2,000 to bike to work day, \$2,000 to this event.
- I would suggest that many more people in our community identify with Gravenstein apples, would enjoy an outdoor picnic, live music, would go to the park and get on their bike and ride around that morning on bike to work day.
- There are significantly less than the thousands of people that Ms. Snyder is mentioning that would participate.
- I think \$2,000 is a minimum.
- I appreciate Councilmember Rich's suggestion that we can get something done.
- If \$2,000 gets our logo used, and we can commit that, we assist them, and the Police Department helps them on the day of.
- I could be satisfied with that.
- I'm disappointed because I don't see this event at all equating with bike to work day in terms of sponsorship dollars.
- We need to handle that separately.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- My comment is that I would prefer to at least one of the proposals here was for \$3,000.
- I would prefer to make it \$3,000, since I know we have this \$17,000 we haven't expended.
- But it's \$17,000 we haven't expended, but we have a budget that is massively in the negative.
- Saying we haven't spent the money is like saying, oh, we lost a little bit less money, but I'm still fine with it, we don't have to tweak the budget at all.
- I do think it's really important to be promoting this event.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- I do think that it's very difficult to run something like this without knowing significantly ahead of time how much you have to work with.
- I would propose that we do \$3,000 and our police support.

MOTION:

Vice Mayor Gurney moved and Mayor Glass seconded the motion to approve Sponsorship (\$3,000) of the "Bite-Sized" Gravenstein Apple Fair 2021 at Ragle Ranch Park on Saturday, August 14, one day only; and Traffic Control at the Intersection of Covert Lane and Ragle Road by the Sebastopol Police Department

Discussion:

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I've explained what my parameters are.
- I'm willing to support traffic control, plus \$2,000 in event sponsorship, which was done for bike to work day in the past.
- Despite the passionate appeal, and despite the value of the event, that's already pushing it beyond what I was originally comfortable with.
- I would actually like to hear from Councilmember Slayter if he's willing to share his thoughts at this point on whether he's swayed or if he still feels that's a mistake.
- That's important to me.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- I realize the difficulty, that we don't have direction.
- We don't have anything written down that we can point to and say, these are our rules.
- I think that's really unfortunate.
- The agenda setting committee may see a late-night missive regarding that.
- There's that.
- Honestly, I'm just not comfortable with these kinds of one-off requests.
- I realize that this is a signature for the City of Sebastopol.
- Even though it's technically not in, but nobody knows that, only us.
- I was thinking the same thing.
- Can we split the difference?
- Support the traffic control as an in-kind donation, it appears that's relatively simple to absorb into the police budget which is a very large percentage of our annual budget.
- It doesn't create that much of a ripple as a line item.
- That's still where I am.

AMENDED MOTION:

Vice Mayor Gurney amended the motion and Mayor Glass seconded the amended motion to approve Sponsorship of the "Bite-Sized" Gravenstein Apple Fair 2021 at Ragle Ranch Park on Saturday, August 14, one day only; and Traffic Control at the Intersection of Covert Lane and Ragle Road by the Sebastopol Police Department

\$2,000 Sponsorship
Police Support In Kind Donation/Traffic Support

Discussion:

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I just want to clarify this.
- Our pattern generally is once we support an event, we tend to support it again and again, which is a good thing.
- If we pass this tonight, then this will be supporting a next fiscal year event because we want to get in on early advertising.
- I just want to make sure, I'm wondering when they're going to come again, right?
- That just dawned on me.
- We're supporting an event next year, but we're taking it out of this year's funding.
- There's no request for them to ask at this point for a 2022 sponsorship.
- Which going to Councilmember Slayter's one-off comment, I think it's fair to raise that right now.
- I want to make sure what we're approving here, and are we going to be in the same boat next year?

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Yes, we're going to be in the same boat.
- That's why I said, and Councilmember Slayter repeated, we need to figure out our policy about sponsorships so we don't have this happening again and again.
- The agenda review committee can talk about it.
- I've already written it down, and Councilmember Slayter will send a late-night missive about it.
- Maybe he will make a request under his name, however he wants to do it.
- You're exactly right, Councilmember Hinton.
- It's not just about events.
- We sponsor other events.
- It's just the timing and our fiscal budget for this.
- There is an argument to say get on early.
- I feel like by just supporting police, we are getting on early.
- It's maybe just not as big of a logo.
- Maybe it makes sense to take it out of next year's fiscal budget.
- I'd like to make a comment.
- I am in agreement that this one, two kind of thing is really dysfunctional.
- It doesn't work to be in the middle of a budget year, and then go, oh, no, let's put this round peg in the square hole and move this particular line item because we didn't need that money.
- That's not really how we want to be doing things.
- We've now recognized that we have a hole and a deficiency in a way with our policies.
- We haven't ever really defined how we deal with sponsorships.
- We need to look at that.
- We have community grants, which honestly, we give community grants to the Apple Blossom Fair, which, by the way, is an event.
- The Mr. Music, Peacetown event.
- We have not been very consistent.
- This is something we need to discuss and figure out, policy-wise.
- This is not the time to do it.
- Here is something that is before us right now.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- I think we just need to bite the bullet, move forward with the first and the second, and then agenda review will do something tomorrow to get this agendized and look at how We support events.
- We'll work on getting that on the agenda.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- Councilmember Slayter Is absolutely right.
- The one-off approach is wrong.
- If there were a way in this meeting to have a commitment to support other events in sponsorship, then I would be okay supporting this effort.
- I understand that there isn't at this point.
- There isn't a way to look at this money and assess it in this particular context and go, oh, yeah, we can set aside \$15,000 from that line item for sponsorships for other organizations.
- From purposes of integrity and honesty and respecting the other groups in whom I believe and are equally valuable, I can't support a sponsorship, unfortunately, of this particular event. I can certainly support the allocation of police services.
- That's the hard decision.

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

VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmember Hinton, Vice Mayor Gurney and Mayor Glass

Noes: Councilmember Rich and Councilmember Slayter

Absent: None

Abstain: None

City Council Action: Approve Sponsorship of the "Bite-Sized" Gravenstein Apple Fair 2021 at Ragle Ranch Park on Saturday, August 14, one day only; and Traffic Control at the Intersection of Covert Lane and Ragle Road by the Sebastopol Police Department

- **\$2000 Sponsorship**
- **Police Support In Kind Donation/Traffic Support**

Minute Order Number: 2021-057

8. Consideration of Planning Commission Formation (Responsible Department: Planning)

Planning Director Svanstrom presented the agenda item recommending the City Council Consider Planning Commission Formation and provide direction to staff.

Chair Fernandez commented as follows:

- The only other thing I would add would be the discussion on, for example, a commissioner moving out of the area.
- If they're within city limits, and they're taking that spot, what would happen when they move out?
- It could be left to Council interpretation, or it could be more narrowly defined.
- My concern would be if it wasn't clearly defined, and one person was allowed to continue, and maybe they're more liked than somebody else, and if somebody else does it, that could send a bad signal.
- That would be something for you guys to consider.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

Mayor Glass asked for questions.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I'm wondering about the three seats that are up to two business owners and only one non-citizen, non-resident.
- Theoretically we can have all seven commissioners be residents if that was the applicant pool.
- There's no assignment to the seat, it's just a possibility of appointment.

Director Svanstrom commented as follows:

- We're recommending that it continue to be the current way, we have two business owners, but one lives in town.
- We have one business owner who lives outside of city limits and one member who lives outside of city limits.
- Right now, our ordinance, technically, Council controls it.
- Under the code, we could have six business owners who don't live in the city and a non-resident in the zip code area.
- When the Council asked us to review, we said this doesn't really make sense.
- Many communities allow the business owners to be a qualification.
- The other communities that do allow one non-resident, it's in a specific area.
- It's a two-mile radius, in a buffer around the town.
- The city allows one.

Vice Mayor Gurney questioned they do not allow business owners.

Director Svanstrom commented nobody else in the county allows non-resident business owners.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- These are the maximum seats, but no seat is assigned.
- It's a minimum of four residents.
- That would be the only minimum requirement.
- You can't be more than that.
- We don't have to do this.
- Because we have this issue, the applicant pool doesn't always meet the requirements of the Design Review Board.
- We need to lead on flexibility.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I'm sure the Planning Commission spent a whole bunch of time addressing all these questions.
- I had a couple of questions.
- One is, there's a mention in the report of just kind of almost an off-hand comment about absentee business owners that while absentee business owners would be eligible, they likely would not be selected for appointment by the Council.
- That raised the question of, if we don't want absentee business owners, whatever they are, shouldn't we be specifying that since we're making these other changes?
- That was one question.
- What is your perspective on that?

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- Secondly, what is your perspective on the comment that Chair Fernandez had on disqualification if a person moves out, is no longer meeting the qualifications that got them on to the Planning Commission?
- I had a third one.
- Actually, the first one, please answer the first one, which is why not, should we be defining something about absentee business owners?

Director Svanstrom commented as follows:

- I put that in the report – technically they could apply to be on our Planning Commission. However, obviously, you're not going to select somebody who isn't involved in the community .
- You have a really good application that talks about their involvement in the community, and it will be clear through the process itself if someone is in town and whether they are committed to the town or not.

Councilmember Rich questioned what about Chair Fernandez's suggestion that we specify the consequences of an individual moving out of the area, no longer qualified.

Director Svanstrom commented as follows:

- The Commission discussed this and they were happy for Council to decide how to do it.
- There are two options.
- One is if someone does something, and they move out of town and they're a business owner, if one of the out of town slots is available, if someone moves out of town, whether a resident or a business owner, would Council want to review that?
- It could be done in two ways.
- They would need to just leave the Commission and reopen that.
- Or it could come to Council as just a regular agenda item to review, does that fit with whatever the Commission is dealing with at that time?
- Chair Fernandez did express concerns, as to whether that would seem fair to applicants.
- That's something we can make a determination on.
- It should be specified about how it should be handled.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- In regard to setting the geographic parameter.
- You laid out various options.
- One was a buffer around the city limits, such as the two-mile requirement.
- There's no explanation as to why that might not be a good option.
- Your other options, you explained what were the concerns about it.
- Was there a specific concern, or does that seem like a viable option?

Director Svanstrom commented as follows:

- I think the buffer, the way the Commission discussed it, and please chime in as well, it was a discussion to pick the center of town, and do a radius from there out.
- We have a little bit of a weird outline to the city boundaries.
- With three miles, you start getting into different territory, somebody will identify more with other places.
- Thinking about it became more complex.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- We discussed the three miles first, then looked at what it encompasses, rather than the way around.
- Three miles was arbitrarily picked - two miles may work.
- After we looked at the area, we realized some of it may be, we don't want Santa Rosa being part of that.

Mayor Glass opened for public comment. There was none.

Council Deliberations:

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- We keep hearing requests to reduce the size of the Planning Commission.
- We see a dearth of applicants for Planning Commission.
- I think I have not been in favor of reducing the size of the Planning Commission but I'm beginning to see the value in it.
- I think that the quality of the deliberations would not go down.
- I don't know that they would get any better.
- I'm not sure that additional public would attend just simply because the number of Planning Commissioners has been reduced.
- If that happens, that's great.
- I think reducing the size of the Commission now down to seven, by the elimination of the alternate, is something that I can support at this point.
- There appeared to be a fairly large amount of lobbying going on for appointing the current alternate into the vacant seat.
- That seems like a different conversation than this one.
- I'll leave that kind of an unanswered question.
- Which leads to the second one about reducing down to five.
- I think I'm in support of that at this point.
- That seems like it would produce a more lithe and manageable Planning Commission.
- And it would start to mirror what other communities have on their commissions as far as size.
- The third is amending the Municipal Code to allow for up to two business owners who do not reside in the city limits.
- I think for me, the important thing is that a majority of the Planning Commissioners reside in the city.
- If we have one business owner and one resident who is not a business owner, who are outside city limits, that allows for that.
- That is if the body reduces to five.
- If it remains at seven, I think it's four, and we'll look at other breakdowns for that.
- Even two seats in a body of five feels generous to me if somebody is an active business owner and I think that is an interesting question.
- What if the CEO of Safeway applied?
- Can we say no?
- Yes, we can say no.
- It's a curious question.
- I think there needs to be some sort of bounds put on, or a definition of what a business owner in Sebastopol means.
- Maybe a non-franchise.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- Vice Mayor Gurney knows exactly what I'm going to say about the geography.
- How about we use the City water storage site on Pleasant Hill as the center of a circle.
- That's as arbitrary as any other point.
- Something that extends outward, some unknown distance of space, kind of feels right to me.
- It also may exclude some areas.
- I'm not sure what that should look like, as far as a boundary.
- I continue to think that 95472 is much too large.
- I looked at the school district maps and those are even more problematic.
- Those are my initial thoughts.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I'm for reducing the size down to five.
- It always felt strange to me, five members on the City Council, and the Planning Commission was seven members plus an alternate.
- I think if they're asking for us to reduce it, then I think they know best.
- They attend more meetings than I do, for sure.
- I like the idea of just having it kind of happen over time.
- Naturally, as people leave the Commission.
- Certainly not wanting to kick somebody off.
- Then the two members, I agree with Councilmember Slayter as well on it should be the majority are from inside the city limits.
- That would mean in a five-member Planning Commission, three would have to be from inside city limits and we would have a little more room in a seven-member Planning Commission.
- I thought about the geography today.
- Very similar to how I think about our conflict rules, which we experienced earlier tonight, we have a 500-foot conflict rule.
- I think we need to pick a distance from the city lines.
- City lines are city lines.
- I didn't draw them.
- I know it's kind of weird.
- There's one when you walk behind Pacific Market, one street.
- A bunch of streets are inside, then all of a sudden, you're outside, then you're back inside.
- I think that's what we have to live with.
- Anything within 500 feet or 1,000 feet seems appropriate to me.
- It would be easy to figure out because we'd be able to measure it.
- Maybe now is not the time to talk about the alternate rolling in but I guess I generally would be in favor of that since she's not asking to extend her term.
- She's been an active member of the Planning Commission.
- Her colleagues seem to be in favor of that.
- I weigh to what our Planning Commissioners have already spent a long time updating us on.
- Those would be my initial thoughts.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I want to start by thanking the Planning Commission for experiencing this situation with an alternate.

- They've lived with it for a long time. We're getting some feedback based on what they've lived through.
- I'm grateful that they're willing to evaluate it and recommend with such clarity after hours of conversation.
- I'm fine with deleting the alternate seat.
- Their experience tells us it's been difficult.
- I'm not sure if the difficulty is with numbers or how the alternate seat has been filled and lived.
- My understanding is, they come in when somebody is absent, so you don't get a body with a plus one who is fully there, fully participating.
- In any event, I think they've demonstrated to us the concept that has been tried out is unworkable and not helpful to them.
- I'm willing to just go down to seven.
- I'm not willing to automatically seat an alternate, because we have a former process for filling real seats.
- I would rather pursue that interview process.
- Our alternate could apply and be interviewed, and perhaps nobody else would apply.
- I think we need to treat our public consistently.
- When we have a vacancy, we have a vacancy.
- I'm fine with leaving the Commission as a seven-member body.
- In part because it's such a great opportunity for a community member to participate in governance, land use, the open space decisions are really important, too. The parks decisions.
- Our problem is, historically, we've never had money.
- We always have some development, and we seem to roll from one big controversy to the next incoming controversy.
- When we look at a three-person majority, potentially deciding a land use issue, I just don't think that's enough citizen participation.
- Especially if the three-person majority might exclude members of our business community, it might exclude members of our community who live within 500 or 1,000 feet or some blown-up extension of our city.
- I find that is really important, too, because Planning Commissioners are not responsible to the electorate.
- They're not even responsible one-on-one to a Councilmember.
- I can't see that we would empower few people that greatly.
- That's why I like staying at seven.
- I would direct the Planning Commission to put further thought into that.
- I'm comfortable with a four-member majority being residents.
- I think historically, if we track all the appointments, residents have always outnumbered businesspeople.
- Or people who live outside of the city limits, if we include the community member who could live outside.
- I mentioned my problem with restricting seats.
- As long as we have flexibility and they're not assigned, I trust this Council, and any future Council to make the appointments wisely.
- I don't think we need to worry about these theoretical possibilities like the owner of CVS to apply to sit on the Planning Commission.
- Even if somebody did, I would trust the decision makers to handle that circumstance.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- I think the honest part of this is trying to figure out the geography and I'm not sure that 95472 is workable.
- I'm kind of leaning towards Councilmember Hinton and Councilmember Slayter's suggestion, bulging out the city a little bit, some distance.
- I just want to mention, and Councilmember Slayter knows this, the water tank on Pleasant Hill is not the center of the city.
- I thought Councilmember Slayter was going to say, look at the geographic center of town.
- That's literally the geographic center of town.
- If we were to go from a radius from there that was a little bigger than the one-mile radius that includes almost all of town on the map that was circulated, that I circulated, the walk to it map.
- Maybe we can just draw that bigger, or maybe we just bulge out.
- Either way, I think we can come up with some practical solution.
- It would just be great that it would be clear.
- I think we can benefit from defining with examples perhaps the indicia of community-mindedness.
- I trust the decision of future Council to be able to handle that.
- If it would help other people to define that, I think we could work on that, too.
- That's where I am right now in the discussion.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- Looking at the recommendations, just to make this brief here, I'm in agreement with all of the Planning Commission's suggestions.
- The one that I would vary on is having heard Vice Mayor Gurney's comments, in regard to reducing the size of the Commission to five members, I would ask that to the extent that the Planning Commission continues to feel that's a good idea, our direction to them should be to consider as Vice Mayor Gurney suggested what the implications are for the vote balance.
- For instance, if you think about the potential extreme, if you have five, and we continue to have two business owners and two non-city people, you could actually have the majority being non-residents.
- Maybe that's not going to happen, because they would re-define it to require that a majority of the five still be residents. It affects the math.
- I would want a recommendation about whether they had thought through the applications and still want it to be reduced to five.
- In the absence of that, I would stick with seven.
- In terms of moving the alternate in, I understand to become a regular member, I understand Vice Mayor Gurney's concerns.
- I hear a lot of strong support from this particular Planning Commission.
- I would support that decision.
- In terms of the geographic boundary, I'm in agreement with the prior comments that we look at the existing city limits and create some sort of buffer around those city limits, between the amount that Councilmember Hinton was suggesting and the two-mile amount that Cloverdale proposes.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I'm in agreement we should delete the alternate.
- I tend to think that after deleting the alternate, I would tend to think we should leave it at the seven members and see how that goes.

- What I'm understanding is, first of all, the complexity of having the alternate, that makes for longer meetings, more complex decision making process, et cetera.
- If we go down to seven, all the time members, I think that would be a good idea.
- Revisit moving it down to five after we see how the seven works when we're not in alternate universe.
- If that does speed up the process, make it less confusing, et cetera.
- I want there always to be a majority that lives in the city limits.
- No matter what, I want flexibility, but always make sure that we have a majority that lives in the city limits.
- Which always is going to mean if we leave it at seven, that would be four people.
- In terms of the geography, I would advocate for doing "X" number of miles from the city limits, going in a Northerly, Westerly, or Southerly direction.
- Make the Laguna our boundary with the exception of the part of the city limits that falls into that area.
- If we make it a boundary, like, you do the radius thing, our city and our community is pretty much based on what is West of Laguna.
- If we say we're going to make it two miles outside of the city limits, but two of those miles could be going towards Santa Rosa, then you're going to really a different community.
- That's the Santa Rosa universe.
- We're the Sebastopol universe.
- I would suggest that we go perhaps two miles outside of our city limits, except for on the other side of the Laguna.
- Just keep the city limits, on the other side, make it the Laguna, make it the city limits.
- I think we should stick with the process of, we eliminate the alternate, and open up the position because that's our existing process.

The Council was in consensus to eliminate the alternate position.

Chair Fernandez commented as follows:

- Regarding the majority I felt it should be five of the seven. Commission felt four.
- If the agreement is to at some point reduce it to five, it should be revisited.
- Maybe it should be only one outside.
- Maybe at that point it makes sense to have an alternate.
- The idea of the alternate was to make sure we had a quorum. That hasn't been any issue.
- I've always thought that an alternate, when they're filling the position, that they moved it in to fill a position of a Planning Commissioner if they don't show up to the meeting.
- Was the idea if somebody leaves, now you have an alternate that understands the Commission, and they can step in.
- The current Commissioner has been outstanding as far as attendance. She's taken on a lot of projects as well. I know that she would not apply if you opened it up for the public because she doesn't want to fulfill that entire term. She wants to finish her term.
- I don't think there was any mention of if a person moves outside of the area.
- Maybe that is something the Council might want to discuss at a later time.
- Going from the seven to the five, I've been on the Commission with seven, it's worked out fine.
- I know what that is like. I think five would work. On the other hand, it's kind of nice to be able to speak to more than one person and to have committees of three people.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- It's important to have a majority, if somebody is absent, make sure it's always a majority in the city limits, individuals making a decision.
- I put myself in the place, if I was living in the city, and it happened to be somebody outside of the city making the decision, that felt unusual.
- Eliminating the alternate will not increase participation.
- It's just one less thing that is not needed, it will streamline and make things go a little quicker.
- Thank you for allowing me to make additional comments.

Staff stated that the current vacancy is to fill the remainder of a four-year term.

- The Council was in consensus to have the Planning Commission at seven for the time being as opposed to an immediate reduction and to calendar this item to be revisited a year from now.
- The Council was in consensus with four-person majority residents
- The Council discussed geography and directed staff to return to a future Council meeting with graphic examples.
- The Council was in consensus to open up the process again for the vacancy for the partial term.

Staff recapped the Council discussion and direction as follows:

- The action tonight would be to reduce the size of the commission down to seven by eliminating the alternate position.
- You would be opening up the process for the vacancy to fill the remaining term of Beau Anderson.
- You will be revisiting this item in one year in regard to reducing it down to five.
- Amending the code to require a majority to be residents, up to two business owners and up to one non-resident, non-business owner.
- Return to Council with options for the radius.

MOTION:

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

- The action tonight would be to reduce the size of the commission down to seven by eliminating the alternate position.
- You would be opening up the process for the vacancy to fill the remaining term of Anderson.
- You will be revisiting this item in one year in regard to reducing it down to five.
- Amending the code to require a majority to be residents, up to two business owners and up to one non-resident, non-business owner.
- Return to Council with options for the radius.

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 Direction to Staff

Minute Order Number: 2021-058

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS:

9. City Manager-Attorney/City Clerk Reports: There were none.

10. 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 Slayter reported as follows:

- Discussed GSA.
- Ground water sustainability plan is this year's big work.
- Things like baseline water budgets, ground water storage.
- A big part of that is a rural residential outreach, which has its own subcommittee working on that.
- The agency held elections for officers. Chair Hopkins is no longer Chair Hopkins. She is Director Hopkins.
- We now have a new chair. Tom Schwedhelm is the Chair Susan Harvey is the Vice Chair.
- The audit was received and accepted by the board.
- The audit recommended a small budget adjustment to cover some consultant and professional services.
- We undertook a modest budget adjustment.
- SCP - the other utility to report on, the advanced energy center in downtown Santa Rosa is inching towards completion.
- They've been able to pivot a lot of their trainings towards online classes which are available.
- I would recommend everybody look at the Website for some of those trainings.
- There are some that are really quite interesting, that are good for laypeople and some that are very technical in nature.
- They're very well attended.
- They have full sign-ups, and they're very good.
- The headquarters project, which is just down the block from the advanced energy center, that is approaching completion.
- It's a much bigger construction project.
- The legislative update that we have every month - Sacramento was in full swing with the legislative session. Spot bills are being filled in. The trade association is running its first bill.
- We have a really interesting bill that sounds like it would do more than it actually does.
- It's dipping our toes in the water towards legislation and how that can benefit all the customers and CCAs.
- Staff has put together an equity program in relation to the programs.
- Things like electric vehicle rebates, the new electric bicycle program, which is really great for people who are in lower economic strata.
- That's a really good program.
- This is an equity lens, a big document that staff has been working on, towards how to develop programs that benefit all segments of society and can target different segments of society appropriately and culturally appropriately.
- This is just another example of the great work they're doing towards social justice.

Councilmember Rich reported as follows:

- The CoMission service organizations Council is moving full-throttle ahead, aiming for a May summit.
- That group is really collaborative and doing some impressive work.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- Emergency preparedness, I continue to work with Sonoma, with Sebastopol neighborhoods communications unit, and now with the ham radio operators, we went to Oakmont Saturday to do an emergency operations exercise. 4,200 residents, and they got them organized.
- Still working on the communications network.
- Those volunteers are really moving forward pretty quickly at this point.
- The climate action committee and zero waste committee. Both are amazing, very pro-active and engaged.
- The climate action committee is going off to look at inequities, transportation is a focus.
- They have all these subcommittees that are moving forward. There will be reports within the next couple of meetings.
- They also have some issues that they're thinking of bringing before the City Council.
- It will be interesting to see what happens with those.
- They're very empowered, both groups.
- RCPA, I've been auditing that group. Just as a member of the audience.
- Mosquito vector. There will be a lot of mosquitoes around and ticks
- The one thing with the mosquito vector group, they are monitoring, staff is monitoring the Laguna, and was out there on boats observing, and it's blocking the Laguna in places that's never blocked. We've reached out to the foundation.
- We want you to be aware of it because it's an important natural and environmental area to us but also it is a breeding ground for mosquitoes. It's very hard to spray.
- I was surprised that boat outing had not included Sebastopol, it did include some other representatives were invited, but nobody from Sebastopol or the foundation.
- I made a point of objecting to that, and I expect they'll reach out to us in the future.
- I did attend the Cal city update on the Federal Funding.
- It looks like we're still in line to receive, \$1.5 million proposed.
- There are a lot of rules that are applicable.
- I signed up for the time bank, and I mention that because they were very professional, and I would encourage everyone to support that organization.

Councilmember Hinton reported as follows:

- Since the last council meeting, on the 4th of March, I met Ag and Open Space with Director Svanstrom and Ned Kahn.
- We did a little walk.
- That will be coming back to the Council.
- I think we got some good ideas. I'll leave it at that.
- We were all in the call to advocate for getting us, and SCTA, back on the list. Even if we're not 100%.
- That was exciting to listen to.
- The Mayor and I on the budget subcommittee, we've spent at least six hours this week to do all the work for our Sebastopol budget subcommittee and we have another 2 1/2 or 3 hours on this Thursday.

Vice Mayor Gurney reported as follows:

- In addition to these meetings, all the other places we go, and how much coverage we have, it's just remarkable.
- Since March 3rd, I went to the ad hoc committee on the future of public transit.

- The reports are continuing from the three transit operators about the extent of their collaboration, trying to figure out how to approach consolidation. Three different websites, they don't work on the same platform.
- In this consolidation effort, we expect them to have one website and one unified look.
- They don't have a phone system that they share, either.
- They're trying to figure out smaller steps to get to the big steps so we're starting to create a uniform image.
- A uniform scheduling, ease of communication, to the riders calling in.
- The possibility from that meeting was, would communities like to have the transit operators come out and report on this major consolidation effort?
- I was going to bring to the agenda review committee tomorrow, I think it would be good for us to have an informational report.
- There are three transit operators.
- We know Brian already, they're responsible for our main connection to the rest of the county. Rachel, from Santa Rosa city bus, is very focused. If I told her to give us only 15 minutes to orient all of you to the details, so you can understand the complexities they're considering, she would be the person I recommend.
- I want to thank Councilmember Rich and Councilmember Hinton for coming to the SCTA meeting on the 8th and speaking on behalf of Sebastopol
- Let all Councilmembers know it was a 12-0 vote in favor of forwarding our quick strike application to the MTC although we came in that position below the line.
- In working with City staff, Toni from GDH was following all the points I was following about what we need to do to not have our application, so it looks fully competitive.
- Planning money is just planning to keep the SCTA going and the planning work, but we're talking about more infrastructure.
- Hopefully we'll have a strong application as we polish it up on the way in.
- The other big item was the passage of the final draft of the Sonoma climate mobilization strategy.
- I will refer you to look at that long document on the Website.
- It's very complicated, and I think our Climate Action Committee will become familiar with it.
- The program director of RCPA came and explained to them the history of that agency, and how they can help.
- I think she would enjoy contact from that committee.
- We had an initial meeting on the 9th with the water upgrade program with the program manager.
- The staff went on to other meetings about coordinating, getting oriented to who does what in this work, because our staff will not be the main workers on this program.
- I think tomorrow or the next day, we're having a meeting that Holly and I are coming to, to talk about marketing and how to inform our public so we get enrollees.
- Talking about pulling some of our bigger housing units.
- The City reaching out to see if we can help apartment owners, people who may have upgrade potential.
- I went to LANTERN on the 11th.
- They continue to explore new board members and develop their promotional activities.
- This is going to be the lantern walk, a one-day art project.
- Then an evening walk as well.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- They've developed a very strong relationship over time with headquarters, with Ann Hammond, as the new director.
- They have a routine report from headquarters, and involvement with a person from headquarters.
- The library commissioner comes and reports. Matthew from the library reports.
- We've got quite a cluster of people talking library talk together and library future.
- A meeting of the Gravenstein Health Action Coalition.
- Sebastopol received several kudos during the meeting.
- There was a report from Daily Acts who is working on a project that is about surveying the air and water quality, and the impact of pesticides. They're completely surrounded by ag land. They're finding that people have a higher incidence of cancer, particularly breast cancer than anywhere else in the county.
- Sonoma County is ninth, Napa county is eighth in the state for breast cancer.
- Nicole Wickman is part of the team leading this pilot project to research the effects of pesticides on a community.
- There was mentioned Sebastopol as a leader in the no pesticides in public land effort, as one of the very first.
- This goes on our list of accomplishments.
- Another member of the coalition reported on the Tobacco Retail License ordinance.
- Sebastopol was one of the top three ordinances in the state, the only one better than ours, one of them belonged to Berkeley.
- They talked more about the need assessment.
- How that survey work is going to happen.
- Ellen Bauer also reported on the effort that West County Health Centers is making to do the vaccinations.
- There's a possibility that if the high school reopens, they will lose that site.
- It's very gratifying to see in all these different meetings, the recognition for the work this Council and earlier Councils has done.
- Also the more frequent networking.
- It's happening more comfortably and immediately and intuitively within the community members, knowing somebody else and that they can lean on each other.
- It's one of the great impacts of the work that CoMission has done.
- I have a whole meeting schedule for next week and beyond.
- More to report at the next meeting.

Mayor Glass reported as follows:

- Since the last City Council meeting, went to the Libby Park ribbon cutting. Which apparently the video was very popular.
- Thank you to Holly Hansen and staff and Director Svanstrom for participating in that.
- I thought it went over quite well.
- We've been working on the budget.
- I've gone to a couple of Mayors' meetings.
- I did bring up the issue that we had talked about, at the Council meeting a couple of weeks ago, about our seeing if we can get collaboration on our legal issue that has to do with the timing of releasing records.
- As you may recall, we discussed it. Several of the other cities got hit by this same kind of lawsuit.

City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

- I asked if everybody was interested in us collaborating on seeing if we can get the League of CA Cities to do something about this.
- They were.
- I'm passing this on to our representative of the League of CA Cities Councilmember Hinton
- This is to try and get the league to intervene in these kind of bogus lawsuits that are going on.
- We have the support of the other mayors.
- I also at our meeting a week and a half ago, there was a report on COVID, the COVID situation.
- We've vaccinated over 70% of the most vulnerable group in this county.
- Over 70% of the people age 75 and up, who account for a very significant percentage of the deaths in the county.
- Kudos to our county.
- I know people get really frustrated and say I can't get a vaccine, but we actually have done a good job of vaccinating the people that are the most vulnerable.
- I also brought up the issue of just all kinds of general enforcement issues.
- There are some other small cities that may be interested in collaborating on the kinds of small enforcement things that we have to do.
- We already have a relationship with our Building Department, but what other kinds of enforcement that we have to do, like, we might be able to work with some of the small cities to contract with the same organization and see if we can do some sharing.
- Other mayors were interested in that.
- The representatives to the COC cities committee, that is advocating for more input by the individual cities on COC disbursements, and this was that continuum of care, which administers our homelessness funds met and Don Schwartz, he's been kind of leading the charge to try to re-arrange how that is structured on a county level.
- The whole thing got very changed because Barbie Robinson is now leaving the CDC.
- There's a lot of changes that will be going on in the County.
- That is continuing to be an issue that this group is advocating for, to try and get more City input.
- Acknowledgment of the small cities' needs in terms of homeless funding.

11. Council Communications Received: None

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

CLOSED SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Meeting will be adjourned to the City Council Regular Meeting Scheduled for April 6, 2021 at 6:00 pm (VIRTUAL ZOOM PLATFORM)

Mayor Glass adjourned the Regular City Council Meeting at 11:47 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

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

