

*City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities*

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR Meeting of May 19, 2021

As Approved by the City Council at their regular meeting of June 01, 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.

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

The Sebastopol City Council welcomes you 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

*City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities*

with all requirements of this chapter and all otherwise applicable provisions of law relating to a specific type of meeting or proceeding.

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

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) ADVISORY

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

Consistent with Executive Order N-29-20, in-person participation by the public will not be permitted and no physical location from which the public may observe the meeting will be available. Remote public participation information is available on the City website.

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

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

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

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

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

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

9:30 am Convene Special City Council Meeting (ZOOM VIRTUAL FORMAT)

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Glass called the regular meeting to order at 9:35 am.

ROLL CALL:

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

City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities

Absent: Councilmember Slayter – By video teleconference
None
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
Public Works Superintendent Dante Del Prete

STUDY SESSION:

Council Priority Setting Session

Goals and Priorities for FY 21-22 City Budget

1. Fiscal Outlook and Resources Update
2. Celebrate Recent Accomplishments
3. Fiscal Challenges and Organizational Constraints
4. Discussion of Council Priorities for FY 21-22 Budget Considerations.

This item is to discuss Council consensus/direction for budgetary items for set aside funding discussed at this meeting and direct the City budget committee to review set aside requests prior to submission of final FY 21-22 City budget to the City Council Public Hearing (Responsible Department: Administrative Services/Budget Committee)

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Requested Director Kwong provide a brief update on the fiscal outlook and resources.
- You can tell us kind of where we stand.
- You are the person who deals with our projections, et cetera, from the consultants that project our tax revenue, et cetera.
- Maybe you can give us a brief update on that?

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- I think the only item today is to discuss Council priorities in the 2021/22 budget consideration.
- This item came before the Council as a study session to discuss some of the budget items for the upcoming budget.
- As we prepare the budget for '21 and '22, I think we want to say we are expecting to recover from the shelter in place with very limited reopening.
- There's still a lot of uncertainties out there.
- As far as revenue, it is very conservative.
- We are still taking the conservative approach and still maintaining the baseline services.
- We do know we are going to get \$1.4 million from the Federal Government. There is huge excitement about it.

City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities

- How that will come about, we don't have all the information yet.
- What we know as of now is that half of it will be in the fiscal year '21 and '22.
- The second half will probably be in '22 and '23.
- There's also the \$370,000 that came from the County regarding the Sebastopol Inn hotel.
- That money we did receive.
- The revenues are up, but not a whole lot.
- Expenses are a little bit down, but we still are in a big, big hole.
- The purpose of this item today is for the Council to discuss and give direction to the budget subcommittee about the priorities.
- The relaunched Sebastopol as one of the item listed in the staff report and discussed the use of the \$370,000 fund from the County of Sonoma.
- Some of the contracted services there's a place holder in the budget for that.
- I believe that's all I can think of at this point.
- With that, I'm just going to say that it's recommended that the Council discuss and give direction to the budget subcommittee for what they would like to see in the upcoming budget.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- As to kind of encapsulate, as I recall, we were down around \$2 million in the pandemic fiscal year compared to what we had done before.
- We took a really big hit.
- That's down \$2 million out of around \$9 million.
- I think I may be exaggerating that slightly, because it didn't turn out to be quite as bad as we thought it was going to be.
- Everybody needs to really understand that this money we're getting from the feds, the \$1.4 million, that's not a windfall.
- That's a backstop.
- That's helping to make us whole from the fiscal year '20 and '21 for how much revenue we lost.
- Even if we got it all at once, we're getting it in the next fiscal year and it doesn't fully compensate us for how much money we were down.
- Now we know that it's actually going to come in two chunks.
- The way that our budget works, which I frankly think is kind of wacky because I'm an accounting person.
- The way our budget works is about when we get the money.
- If we're only getting half of that money in the fiscal year that we are working on the budget for now, that just means we have an additional \$750,000 or \$700,000 to make up for the big loss from the prior year.
- We're still running at a deficit.
- This is a problem.
- We're getting this make up in two fiscal years.
- It's not like we have this big pile of money.
- Then, as we found out yesterday, we have the \$370,000 in the bank.
- We have that also.
- However, just remember, we have been drawing down from our reserves, the prior year, because our expenses are going up and our revenue isn't.
- Part of those expenses that are going up are structural in that we have MOUs with our unions.
- We have to spend specific amounts in raises.

City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities

- We have to spend specific amounts in increased health care costs.
- Those have a big impact on all of our departmental expenses.
- The reason why we are meeting here today is because the budget subcommittee, since this is a morning meeting and study session, Councilmember Hinton and I received a budget that was basically what each department was saying that they wanted and what they were saying they felt would be their expenses for this upcoming year.
- However, it didn't include any new initiatives and it didn't include looking at things that we had discussed as a Council in terms of what we would be doing in the future, and it didn't address specific issues like any money we need to spend on recovering from the pandemic, et cetera.
- Since we were lacking in direction on that, that's why we are having this study session, is that Councilmember Hinton and I are faced with knowing we would be putting out a budget and then we didn't think it was appropriate to have the budget discussions.
- We shouldn't be discussing all the details of a program while we're doing the deliberation of the budget, which we will be doing in June.
- We will be finalizing the budget.
- All that said, in the staff report you can see that there was a list of potential items to discuss.
- The first one is Relaunch Sebastopol and discussion of the money that we just have gotten from the County.
- Then community vitality.
- Issues regarding the funding or how to expend sponsorship funds, et cetera.
- Anyway, we have a list of seven items there.
- Before we start, I think I will ask, are there any additional items that we want to add onto here that we could put on our list of things that the budget subcommittee needs to be considering as we put together placeholders in our budget?

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I just want to recapture.
- We're getting reimbursed, not the \$1.4 million from the Feds, only \$700,000.
- In our process of putting together this budget and at this meeting and agenda, we realized what we had originally reported out which everybody thought was \$1.4 million in this fiscal year, that now is going to drop in two fiscal cycles.
- I just want to make that one really clear.
- That was a surprise to us.
- It might be a surprise to you.
- Then to also recap, and Ana can add to it as well again
- The money we got from the County, while it's great, that \$370,000 is a one-time drop-in.
- It was all located to make up three years of TOT that we will now be missing from our budget, plus I think a little bit of money, I can't remember the differential, around \$40,000, to work on homeless mitigation or any impact to our community from the site.
- The \$370,000 is really meant to go over at least the TOT portion of that three years.
- I kind of wanted to put that out there.
- If we were to spend that all this year, we would be short in subsequent years.
- Just remember that is a one-time, and it doesn't sound like we're getting anything else to mitigate that lack of TOT for the hotel conversion.
- Anyway, maybe Director Kwong wants to address the specifics if anybody wants to know.
- I couldn't quite remember.

City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities

- I was looking for the math.
- If any Councilmember wants to add to that?
- There was one more thing I wanted to point out.
- So far in our budget discussions, we have three separate departments in the City that are asking for additional money for personnel.
- I don't know that was indicated in this.
- But it is a consideration that if we, as a Council, are supportive of additional personnel in our City, that will also impact the budget and cost us money that we can't allocate elsewhere.
- I don't think this addresses that.
- Maybe the whole Council isn't aware of that yet because we haven't rolled out the budget.
- In full transparency, I think we should throw that on the table.
- Those are issues being talked about.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Yes, that is certainly the case.
- I think actually what Councilmember Hinton said is reminding me of a couple of the items on here.
- Some of them are thinking about what can we do, should we expend money now to figure out how to save money going forward?
- Should we expend money now in order to find out information regarding how to better reduce our expenses or enhance our income?
- Do we need to have money to enhance our income?
- Those are a couple of the issues on here.
- I think we're not just thinking about things in terms of encapsulated expenses this year.
- We're also thinking about, what can we do as we go forward that might help us have additional revenue and be in better shape five, ten, and whatever years down the road.
- That's what this is about.
- I go back to my question, there are seven items on here.
- Is there anything specifically that needs to be added onto this list of things?
- The first is a concept of spending money on relaunching Sebastopol.
- We are recovering from the pandemic.
- What do we do to relaunch our economy, to get our businesses going, et cetera?
- The next item is discussion of the uses of the funding from the County of Sonoma which is primarily related to homelessness, community outreach, social work kinds of things, and providing a more mental health response through our law enforcement department.
- The third item is a contract for community vitality and funding for the concept of community vitality.
- The fourth item is financial policies for grant sponsorships and the community benefit grants.
- How we would reallocate that and how we would move that around in the budget and what would those be?
- Then there's the fire and emergency services expenses and whether we should, as was discussed last night, be hiring a consultant.
- There's also an issue regarding capital equipment expenses there.
- Then there's funding that the Climate Action Committee might want.
- I think we heard about that last night. I think we understand what's going on there.

*City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities*

- Then a discussion of funding for consultants to advise regarding municipal financial enhancement.
- Those are the items that are on there now.
- Is there anything that we have missed that we need to discuss that might have an impact on our budget and that we might need to put a placeholder in our budget for either on the expense side or on the income side?

Mayor Glass opened for questions or comments.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- Fit my priorities into this list.
- I think that's all workable.
- I just wanted to say by way of introduction, I see three levels of responsibility here.
- We have the departments doing their budgeting for ongoing services.
- We have the budget subcommittee looking at our fiscal responsibility.
- We have a sustainable system for our City to keep operating.
- I think the Council's responsibility at this moment is to insert our community values into that budget.
- Staff work and our own volunteer time.
- I say that because we are at this moment not just coming out of a pandemic.
- I think we have to be real and remember back a little farther, we have floods, and fires.
- We have experienced Black Lives Matter, George Floyd's murder, and Asian hate crimes.
- We really have cultural context in this historic moment for the community and our responsibility is to make sure those play out in our budget.
- We need to optimize what we can do.
- I had that feeling, competing for that money.
- I don't think that's our responsibility.
- I think we really do need to optimize and see how much we can do as a Council to make sure our community is whole and healthy and has a sense of belonging.
- As we come out of all these historic events, I think we're learning that that's one of the most significant components here.
- We want to belong to each other.
- We want to belong to our businesses.
- We want to belong to our non-profits.
- We want to build that networking so we can do more together rather than individually.
- My interests really group around the responsibilities that I have, transportation, climate protection, community health, and the vitality of our businesses.
- As we go through the conversation, I'm just kind of doing this preamble in telling you I'm looking at big concepts, a really big concept of community health, and then also an assertive concept of marketing. Marketing for ourselves, our community, our city, and our businesses.
- That's my approach to today's conversation.
- I hope I can be helpful as we go along.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I would like to propose as we go through this, we have the seven items.

City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities

- What Councilmember Hinton and I are trying to do is figure out what placeholders to put in the budget.
- We actually have to deal with the numbers.
- We don't know exactly what the numbers are going to be in some instances.
- What we're trying to find direction on here is, how much a priority some of the items are and what they constitute, where we shoehorn them into the budget and for how much.
- I'm suggesting for each one of the items we come to a conclusion at the end where we can come up with a rank that will help to guide Councilmember Hinton and me.
- That we come up with a ballpark amount.
- For all of these things, we may not know an amount because we're going to have to go out for an RFP for some of these things.
- If we can have a ballpark, we know we can end up with a bottom line on the budget.
- One of the things we have done in the past is for years and years, we go through the year and we have our budget.
- Then we come along with a new initiative.
- There we are halfway through the year and we agree on some new initiative and it really isn't within the budget.
- We're not planning very well for how much money we have coming in and how much money we have going out.
- We're trying to get that a little bit under control here.
- It's probably not going to be perfect.
- At least we will have a little bit of a better handle on things now that we have by not doing this.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- I'm finding this, it's chicken versus egg here.
- The Council hasn't seen the draft budget.
- We're not sure what is being proposed or recommended by the budget committee.
- I would anticipate that some of the things that I have noted as priorities are already in the budget.
- I think of it like a construction contract.
- If a certain finish hasn't been selected, say bathroom tile or something, a builder will put in a construction budget an allowance, which is a certain amount of money that is for the owners to spend.
- That's already in the budget and allowed for.
- Anything over that needs to then be covered by the homeowner or the project owner, anything under that turns into a refund for the owner.
- In a lot of ways, I think that's the way this operates.
- We are providing reasonable and appropriate allowances or estimates for so many of these things.
- I'm sure we will discuss this more.
- I'm going to get my stake in the ground for continuing our fiscal conservativeness, conservation, and right out of the gate devote a meaningful percentage to our future retirement obligation account.
- I know I'm a broken record on this.
- I'm a broken record because I see that number continuing to climb.
- As it climbs, the hole gets deeper.

City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities

- We need to continue to make significant and meaningful contributions to that fund.
- We can't wait for the State to provide a bailout.
- If the State ends up doing a bailout in some form, great.
- Then we have a nice amount of money that we can devote to other uses.
- The other thing I think that is important is in a lot of ways using the savings accounts, reserve accounts to set things aside for matching grant opportunities or to get some engineering done so that a project is, as the industry says, shovel ready.
- Those opportunities happen with some regularity.
- For us to be ready is, I think it's really prudent of us to approach it that way.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- You haven't seen the budget yet.
- These items that are listed here are for the most part not in the budget.
- We haven't gotten direction on it.
- Councilmember Hinton and I felt like, well, what are we going to do without any input from the Council, stick stuff in the budget?

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- To follow up on Councilmember Slayter's comment.
- We didn't put any money into our pension because we couldn't, because we were borrowing out of reserves during COVID.
- We lost traction where we had been gaining.
- I felt good about it.
- The CIP, we talked about getting these projects shovel ready.
- We recognize that we haven't done that in the past.
- I think Toni, who we have been working with, we have talked about projects upcoming and that's part of the CIP.
- Why we felt we needed to fund all these projects realistically and put the money away and put the money back in reserves.
- When we talk about the Council and community values, I love the open checkbook.
- I love to fund everything and say yes all the time.
- It really came down to the budget subcommittee looking at each other and going, my gosh, we can't recommend them all.
- Which ones do we recommend at least in the first round?
- We needed feedback, which is why this meeting is being held today.
- We felt like we needed the community to give feedback, and all of you.
- Everything is not getting funded.
- Everything on this list can't.
- We can't make our reserves whole.
- We can't fund our pension liability and fund all these.
- Mayor Glass just kind of stated it, but I wanted to restate, that is why we are here.
- It's a little chicken versus egg.
- We were flying blind and said, we can't fly blind.
- Sorry.
- We have spent more than 20 hours so far.
- There's a lot of demands and people are asking for things and we can't say yes to all of them.

City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I would propose for each item we rank it to see if we can get consensus on ranking.
- Then a dollar amount.
- Frankly, putting together a budget is kind of like a Rubix cube.
- You have to fit all the pieces together.
- That's part of the work we are doing.
- We need some advice from all of you about what we should focus on as we try to move the budget items around.
- I would suggest that for each of these items at the end we do a ranking of one through five.
- Five being the most important and one being the least important.
- Then that helps us as we go through and figure out what budget is.
- We also are advised by whatever information everybody has about how much we might be able to spend in this arena.
- Then Councilmember Hinton and I can take that information and try to figure out what to do with it.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I think it's one through seven.
- That doesn't include the pension liability that Councilmember Slayter just spoke about, which might be eight.
- It doesn't include additional staffing, which we know is sitting out there, even though I think we can't necessarily maybe speak to it for our departments, which would make it nine items, if we went ahead and added those two things.
- I'm going to add personnel on here.
- Personnel for departments.
- Number eight is pension.
- Number nine is going to be personnel.

Mayor Glass opened for general public comment.

Sunali commented as follows:

- I'm excited to be here and share with you.
- I know you have gotten highlights and tidbits of some things from the Climate Action Committee.
- After listening to all of you, I'm excited because it hits on so many of these notes of racism, the Black Lives Matter movement, community vitality, marketing for the city, and climate change.
- It's so wide encompassing.
- I know we haven't had a chance to submit a formal proposal to be sanctioned and endorsed by the Council yet.
- Given that you are going to be earmarking and budgeting, I thought it was important that we get a little bookmark in there so that as we work through our design process, if we need any funding from the City, there's a place that we come and access that through via placards for pieces to have cohesiveness or stands to display them.
- I don't know how much of the project proposal and outline you are all aware of.
- The idea is a community art project where all community members are invited to participate in the creation of pieces that will educate and entertain and engage the community in all these item matters.

*City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities*

- Things that we could possibly perceive needing budget for is website design.
- Literal nuts and bolts.
- Our intention is to have as much community involvement as possible as well as using of upcycled materials.
- I could also see needing some budget to offer folks to contribute their time and resources to the project who might otherwise not be financially able or privileged to just volunteer their time.
- That's a component.
- All of the components are still on the drawing board.
- We have another meeting tonight.
- We have live community support.
- The art department at San Rosa Junior College.
- In a short period of time we have garnered a lot of excitement and enthusiasm.
- I think it would meet a lot of the components the City is looking at.
- Our request is to set aside \$3,000.
- I put \$3,333 just as a little earmark with the intention that we would give you a full proposal and itemized layout if we wanted to access those funds.

Joyce commented as follows:

- I'm part of the Community Church of Sebastopol outreach committee.
- We would like to advocate for the expansion of the Safe Parking Program.
- We have done it at our church for five years.
- It's very successful.
- The greatest need is for funding for West County Community Services (WCCS) to provide case management.
- People that are homeless, living in their cars, take so much energy just to survive.
- They need help to move on.
- We have had one person there for two years.
- Happily there, but not moving on.
- We are thinking of building huts for some of the safe parkers.
- We need services here.
- They are vetted by Catholic charities.
- They don't provide ongoing services.
- A lot of the services are only available to Santa Rosa residents.
- We need to step up and do something to help our homeless move out.
- I think that's going to be through funding through WCCS.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Questioned if she had a conflict of interest.
- The comment regarding the upcycle art project, I have something of a conflict.
- I just want to know whether I can engage with that.
- Sounds great to me.
- However, as everybody knows, I work for the Sebastopol Center for the Arts.
- I don't think that money is going to the Center, but it's a partner in the project.
- I don't know where I stand on being able to say anything about that.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities

- I could help better on that if we did know whether the Center for the Arts is actually receiving any money from that.
- Assuming possibly that they are, my advice would be, if that item is discussed and/or action proposed that you would abstain from that item while it's being discussed.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- It looks like Sunali is shaking her head on whether any money would go to the Art Center.
- I think it's just that we are a partner in it.
- I know as a partner, if we're not getting any money from it, City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin, can I participate or shall I recuse myself?

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented given there's uncertainty, I would recommend you abstain when that discussion takes place.

Item Number 1:

Relaunch Sebastopol

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- The concept of relaunch Sebastopol is, what do we need to do in order to get our economy going again and to get our community engaged with itself again and moving forward?
- Part of this was that this idea be, let's talk about what needs to get done instead of who is doing it and the contracts, et cetera.
- I think we need direction on what as a Council do we want to do in terms of relaunch?
- Do we want to spend money on promoting our town as a destination?
- Do we want to spend money on promoting Sebastopol as a place where people can go shopping locally?
- Are we promoting that to our population here in Sebastopol?
- Are we promoting to the county as a whole, et cetera?
- I know our merchants are feeling very neglected and as though they need help to get going on getting more customers into their doors.
- This is, I think, a good investment.
- The more customers that our merchants have, we get more money in sales tax.
- They are vital to our community, to our economy.
- They are vital to providing services to our community.
- I just want to open up that idea.
- Some of the questions are, do we need to do an RFP for somebody to do we're open for business campaign for the city?
- We can't promote individual businesses but we can promote ourselves.
- Should we give some additional money to Holly Hansen, our public outreach person, to do a social media campaign to get people coming to Sebastopol?
- That's the question.
- What do we need to do to help our downtown?
- How much money should we put into it?
- That's the question.
- There's all of these items that could be done.
- It is actually related to community vitality.
- Looking for people's comments on that.

City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- This is a big discussion point.
- We weren't able at the end of the May 4th meeting to spend a lot of time on the five subject groupings presented in that report on relaunch.
- I think there's another dimension to relaunch that we want to consider, just another way of looking at the same thing.
- That's really relaunching our citizens so they are out and about.
- Not just relaunching our businesses and making sure we have more revenue.
- We want to relaunch our citizens.
- That gets me to two points.
- One is transportation.
- I think it's a priority.
- It may be in the budget already that we continue the free shuttle.
- The local 24.
- It's also a priority, I think, that we look at updating our bicycle master plan in conjunction with the County. The estimates I have on that are \$12,000 to \$15,000.
- I think it might be a little more than that because we want to engage our community in that process.
- The other opportunity that I think is really important in terms of this relaunch for our citizens to get out and about is looking at our identity, moving closer to being the city of the Laguna so that's a draw for people outside of Sebastopol to come and see.
- It's also a way for people to get recreation, to be healthy and to do that, I think, we have to devote some money and time to park maintenance, if not park improvements.
- A couple of categories in looking at relaunching from a citizen out of the house point of view that I would add to the discussion.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I have been reviewing the May 4 relaunch Sebastopol list.
- It's impressively thorough.
- I have to say that, yes, I think it's very important that we direct some money toward these relaunch Sebastopol concepts.
- The promotion of events, addressing the park and a broader beautiful indication of downtown effort and promotion of businesses, community engagement, all of those factors are important.
- As to how much money we need to assign to those, I really have no concept.
- I'm hoping others can come up with details in that area.
- In terms of prioritizing it, yes.
- We have to.
- I will share that I did reach out to the Sebastopol Downtown Association (SDA).
- They were strongly in favor of money being directed toward advertising.
- Also, interestingly toward additional support for Public Works to ensure we beautify our downtown to make it more attractive.
- Pointing to the comment that was made by Vice Mayor Gurney, more engaging for our community members.
- That's my initial comments on this topic.
- I think it's very important.

City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I would be in favor of at least putting a placeholder in here for \$50,000.
- I think that we need to do an RFP on it and listen to different people that are professionals about relaunch concepts and have it include the list of what everybody is mentioning.
- Also, I've been in media business and worked for the newspaper.
- There's advertising versus, if we did an RFP, a variety of ideas.
- Those are articles that look like they are written but are really developed.
- They are bought and paid for in spreads.
- A combination of things, including beautifying the downtown.
- I recently talked to somebody who was talking about our launch of the farm market.
- I pulled up files from 1990.
- That was an effort pushed forth from the SDA, it was called basically to get people to come downtown on Sunday.
- The traffic had just been changed.
- The traffic patterns from the two-way to one-way street.
- We need a concerted marketing effort combined with maybe beautifying and cleanup.
- I think this is important.
- We spent the last year doing projects.
- We have been focused on our committee and getting through COVID.
- Now we have to not only invite, as Vice Mayor Gurney said, our own people out of their homes to come back into town and the 40,000 that live out in the West County, but also others.
- This is just a great place to be.
- That's my feedback on this one.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I think the marketing effort needs to really be directed to a specific concept and be all encompassing so that it's not just that we run ads telling people to come here, buy our food, etc.
- We need to really engage with somebody that packages a concept, as Councilmember Hinton said, there's the actually placed working with that someone doing public relations to get articles written on us is what we really need to do, in addition to doing social media and general advertising.
- We need free media, which is more effective than paid-for media.
- It takes paying somebody to place the free media.
- I am in favor of the idea of putting out an RFP to hear proposals for what some of our great marketing minds can come up with in terms of how to promote our town and promote it to various constituencies.
- Not just our people that live here, people in our 50,000 service area, our people in the entire county as well as visitors from the Bay Area.
- I'm in favor of that notion.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- Just to add to that, I feel like we have already developed this campaign, because we paid CoMission to have the campaign.
- We launched last summer.
- We thought we were launching.

*City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities*

- We fell back into COVID.
- I feel like we have already done the base work.
- We have a campaign.
- We have banners.
- I like those logos.
- We approved them.
- I feel like we have invested time and money in this.
- Now we just have to get more now that we are actually opening up.
- I wanted to add that.
- I don't think we need to start from scratch.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I am really interested in asking how, if we are looking at placeholders and setting aside monetary amounts, Councilmember Hinton put out the number of \$50,000 as a placeholder, I think that, as I look at the comments I have received and I ponder the differences we could make downtown that would be inviting, I come back to the issue of Public Works and considering the addition of staff members to really have the time to clean the streets, to clean the sidewalks, to do planters, to keep our flowerbeds looking like flowerbeds instead of weed beds.
- I ask you, Mayor Glass, whether we need to engage our Public Works Superintendent, we need to get a sense of what that cost might be that would be associated with that.
- Whether that discussion would be here or later on.
- I'm uncertain.
- That seems like a concrete thing we might want to fill out if we're looking at numbers.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Can we ask Superintendent Del Prete what it would take to beef up our downtown beautifying efforts?

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- There's a lot of consideration that needs to go into that.
- I'm not sure, the budget committee will have to deal with actual figures.
- Today it might be difficult to give actual figures.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- My question to Superintendent Del Prete was going to be, I know you have few resources, is there any change of deploying our staff more in the downtown area?
- Are you so stretched that that being able to do the kinds of things that Council is talking about here is not viable with our existing staff?

Superintendent Del Prete commented as follows:

- We are down a few staff members right now for one reason or another.
- We are trying to recruit additional staff.
- We are in a staffing crunch.
- When infrastructure and emergencies come up, landscape maintenance drops to the bottom of the priority list.
- It's unfortunate.

*City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities*

- It reflects on the quality.
- If we have weeds in front of our water wellhouse, we could have the best water quality in the world and the perception would be that we have a bad water system.
- I would like to plant that seed.
- As far as staffing levels, we are chasing down, per our conversation last night, we are constantly on sewer lateral replacements, which are an emergency.
- We are constantly pulling staff to work on water service leaks which are an emergency.
- I have authorized overtime every two weeks to pressure wash the downtown sidewalks.
- We don't do that as often during the rainy season simply because we don't need it.
- We try to divert some of that time to looking at the trash cans and making sure we swap out trash cans with newer, cleaner ones.
- We are doing our best to allocate time to the downtown.
- When I have time available, I do walk downtown, try to talk to merchants.
- I send out my public notices, which are great.
- They generate a lot of responses.
- That's a good conduit for communication with me and downtown businesses as well.
- We don't have enough time or resources to maintain all the landscaping that we have.
- The parks are old.
- Fencing comes around every year, there's a discussion.
- We talk about the General Plan and how we want to take the fencing down.
- Are we going to take that fencing down in the next five years?
- Can we afford it?
- That's another question.
- Whether we add more staff, I was talking to someone yesterday trying to encourage the Adopt-A-Landscape program, trying to push that community involvement as much as I can.
- When we are low on staff and busy with projects that take priority like water and sewer projects, it's really difficult to get to those weeds.
- The other thing that's been a significant uptick in the last three years is the amount of time we spend on vandalism and cleaning up some of the areas of our unhoused or homeless encampments has had a significant uptick.
- All of those items to eat up just hours in our schedule.
- I'm not sure if that was answering all your questions.
- I tried to give you a broad picture of where we are at.

Mayor Glass questioned as it stands right now, your budget request, the line item you have in for personnel, actually does include the positions that are currently vacant. You are down a few, is that correct?

Superintendent Del Prete commented as follows:

- That's correct.
- I am not asking for any additional personnel at this time simply because we are in a time of recovery.
- I want to make do the best I can for now.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- You are even more down just because of attrition right now and you are recruiting.

*City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities*

- You have fewer people than you would normally have right now just because of someone leaving the State?

Superintendent Del Prete commented as follows:

- Previously, I had two temps, summer hire positions that helped offset some of the additional maintenance that requires additional personnel.
- We can't have somebody working alone.
- For street painting, it requires a second staff person for safety, to keep their head up and make sure the traffic control is in place and such.
- Those summer hire positions have gone away.
- I'm currently trying to activate one of them right now until I can fill the position that I lost to a vacancy.
- I also have an additional position that isn't filled but we are holding that position until further notice of an employee's status.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I'm just trying to think outside the box here.
- What about, would there be a potential for having a contractor that does some downtown beautifying things that have to do with nice flowers and flower baskets and things like that? Would that be less expensive to have a contractor do something like that?
- Just trying to think outside the box here.

Superintendent Del Prete commented as follows:

- One item that was discussed in years past was because of the prominence of the crosswalks, the street smart crosswalks and their location and orientation to downtown, subbing the maintenance and upkeep of those out to make sure that they were constantly in good shape and looked presentable and constantly maintained to a better status than we are currently able to do.
- I have been trying to encourage the Adopt-A-Landscape program.
- We have one of our adoptees on screen here.
- They are doing a wonderful job.
- I spoke to another one yesterday about the Post Office crosswalk.
- I think to contract out, we would have a clearly defined area that would offset ours.
- That's something that I could look into to see what would be the best cost-effective option.
- Literally, the best thing for our buck.
- I could look into that per contract.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- You live in a tough world.
- We're in an old city that all needs fixing, remodel, and upgrade.
- I just want to say, I'm in support of beautifying downtown.
- That makes a lot of sense.
- We have fallen into this what's called a shabby look, which I think implies failure.
- That's not who we are.
- We have to get our image back so that it looks more like the high self-esteem we have.
- I think our discussion when we go back to the marketing element, we have to remember that downtown is not our exclusive commercial area.

*City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities*

- It's important because as public property we have our five municipal lots centered downtown, but we have the Barlow to the east.
- We have to the north businesses centered around Pacific Market and Sebastopol Hardware.
- We have south Sebastopol with the market being the community center.
- We have a lot to market beyond downtown.
- I think we have to keep in mind in an RFP that we work collaboratively for all of ourselves, and we don't have such a small focus for the effort.
- Beautifying is easier down there perhaps because the crosswalks create an opportunity to beautify.
- We have had improvements up on the north end of town as the big parking lot up there has been redone.
- We have the south of town that doesn't even have complete sidewalks anymore.
- We have to make sure that with the deficiencies we have, our business community remains united in its mentality.
- I wonder if we need to put on our political agenda or work agenda for the Council to look at a business improvement district or expanding the boundaries of what is called the SDA and looking at an intellectual effort in terms of policies and, I don't know, a taxing effort so that we can build on the united vision that we are actually experiencing in the pandemic and as we come out of the pandemic to keep hold of that so that our business community is bigger than we think and we include all the others, many of whom are real economic engines for our town.
- I'm building on Councilmember Hinton's concept to make sure that it's broad enough to look at a bigger area than we have talked about in terms of beautifying but now in terms of marketing.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I just want to comment on that.
- The concept of the business improvement district, that was one of the things that I thought might come out of item number seven, which is the consultants regarding municipal finance management and initiatives we can take.
- I would think we might be able to think about that as being one of the outcomes we would be looking for there.
- It's been a goal of mine for a very long time to expand the business district.
- I have talked about it before.
- I have talked about it with the SDA.
- I think that that business district has been in place for 30 or 40 years.
- To Vice Mayor Gurney's point, we are so much bigger if we look at where tax revenue comes from.
- I mean, we should be promoting the entire town.
- To go back to the point where we have already made an investment in a new marketing campaign last summer that really could be expanded for the entire town.
- It just included banners in downtown.
- We already invested in that.
- It was a good campaign.
- Let's expand on it and spread it throughout the town, for sure, long-term, yes, expand that business district.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

*City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities*

- To summarize what I'm hearing is, the notion of business improvement district, we will talk about that in item seven.
- I'm hearing that there seems like a fair amount of consensus that people are in favor of us promoting our town, promoting that we are open for business, et cetera.
- I would gather putting out an RFP to ask for marketing companies to come up with a potential solution to our promoting our town.
- Councilmember Hinton suggested the number \$50,000.
- Does anybody else have thoughts about that?
- I'm thinking look for a placeholder number.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- We're talking about an RFP, having someone come in to give us some direction on advertising.
- I have to suggest that maybe we need to ask the question about whether we should instead be considering an employee.
- Should we be looking at the possibility of someone who might, in a long-term way, I understand we don't have long-term funds, but that might have an investment in our community as a member of our staff
- If we need a minimum placeholder, \$50,000.
- I'm thinking it's going to take more than that.
- If we want to be realistic, maybe we look at more like \$75,000 or \$80,000.
- We can always take it down as we go through our discussion.

Mayor Glass commented I have been thinking about that also that we can do things if we have staffing to do some of these things that could be managed by in-house staff and that we wouldn't be incurring as much expense.

Mayor Glass opened for public comment. There was none.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- I'm not sure where it fits.
- Some of the conversation was similar to this.
- I know there's a survey out for making the parks permanent.
- I think that it would be prudent for us to include some sort of budget for Public Works to, at this point, the information that I have is that there's tremendous support for at least one or more of them becoming permanent.
- I didn't want this to slip past without thinking some of the conversation here was related to that.
- I think that there's a huge benefit to those parklets, certainly in the temporary form, they have been quite popular.
- One in particular is overwhelmingly popular.
- To have some sort of budget for the creation of design and construction for it being permanent is a good idea.
- I don't know what that means from a dollar perspective.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I will suggest that this comment about the RFP and marketing also roll into item number three, the community vitality position if we are looking at staff, work with staff.

City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities

- Let's revisit this when we get through that conversation as well as we are looking at numbers and responsibilities.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- Endorsing the need to set aside funds, including funds for the parklets.
- That has been done with completely free labor, primarily through Joe Maloney donated lumber.
- There's interest in improving them.
- The Screaming Mimi's parklet, but that would take an investment of some funding.

Item Number 2

Uses from funding from County of Sonoma

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- We received this report out from this apparent committee of two of our Councilmembers regarding services for the homeless, which is certainly something that I think is useful information, but not new information.
- Something that I certainly support.
- However, as I have said, we have set up a potential Brown Act problem because Councilmember Slayter and I as the housing committee have been working on these issues for well over a year.
- We have been meeting with WCCS.
- We talked about a plan for the funding coming from the County, and I talked about it when I became mayor in December and I have talked about it at numerous meetings with Elderberry Commons, that my plan, and the housing committee's plan was that first we get Elderberry Commons working properly and have that a successful project.
- The second thing would be bringing in funding from, which the housing committee negotiated from the County, which is exactly \$370,000 more than the City of Santa Rosa got, because they got zero, in terms of compensation for their lost TOT.
- Finally, we would take some of that funding and contract with WCCS for an overarching contract for WCCS to be providing homeless outreach and social services and also interfacing with our law enforcement department on those kinds of issues.
- Councilmember Slayter and I have both talked about this at multiple meetings.
- We have been in discussion with WCCS for a long time.
- I'm actually baffled about why staff did not explain to the other members of the Council who started working on this outside of the housing committee why they didn't explain that this could be a potential Brown Act problem and that we are stepping on each other's toes.
- The thing that's important here is taking care of addressing this issue.
- The thing that's important here is taking care of the homeless and the unhoused.
- The thing that's important here is reaching our policy goal.
- I'm really having issues with the process.
- This is something that the housing committee has been working on for a long time.
- That lack of communication there and the lack of feedback about what each other are doing is just really a problem for me.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- Staff is unaware of any Brown Act violations.

*City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities*

- We would have brought that up and brought that to the attention of whomever we believed might be engaging in a Brown Act violation.
- My understanding is that what the de facto committee was working on involved safe parking and services potentially from WCCS to engage specifically with the campers, you would call them, I guess, parkers on Morris Street and with the Safe Parking Program people.
- I never had an understanding that that was an overlap with what other Councilmembers were doing that might utilize those services.
- The proposal was specific to the safe parking persons and the Morris Street camping persons.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Believes it is clear that Councilmember Slayter and I have been working on this and we have been talking to West County Community Services?
- The housing committee has talked about this multiple times.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented I understood it to be with respect to Elderberry Commons and other areas not related to a specific safe parking proposal and not related to engaging with Morris Street campers.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Councilmember Slayter and I both specifically spoke multiple times at Council meetings about the notion of doing a wraparound contract with WCCS to encompass all of these issues that would include outreach to homeless, everything that has to do with homeless support interfacing with our Police Department and interfacing with the public regarding homelessness issues.
- There hasn't been some big Brown Act violation.
- I am just really disappointed that after Councilmember Slayter and I talking about this multiple times that this was uncommunicated to our fellow Council people.
- We are stepping on each other's toes.
- I have been talking with Tim Miller once a month about specifically this.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- If staff becomes aware of Brown Act violations, staff is experienced and knowledgeable about the Brown Act and would certainly advise Councilmembers if we saw a Brown Act violation.
- I have not seen a Brown Act violation.
- I will say also that when staff is asked to assist Councilmembers, what staff does is assist Councilmembers.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- It appears this could be found to be an intrusion on the work that the housing subcommittee has been doing.
- I believe Councilmember Slayter feels the same way.
- We have been working on this issue.
- I'm really glad that the self-appointed homelessness subcommittee made the great progress that you have made.
- I think it's really admirable.
- However, I'm feeling like we have two sets of people working on the same things and we're sort of siloed into different areas.
- I see that as problematic.

City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- On this particular issue that's being discussed, it's the safe overnight parking discussions that Vice Mayor Gurney and I have had as we were approached by members of the community who were interested in this topic.
- I will tell you that in each case when I spoke with anyone who I approached, the churches and Mr. Miller of WCCS, and when I reported out to our staff, I did ask the question about whether there was an ongoing project with Mr. Miller.
- Don't give me any details.
- To the extent you are having discussions with anyone on the City Council about safe overnight parking at the churches or case management for Morris Street, that please, let me know.
- I'm a collaborative person.
- I'm honestly thinking, Mayor Glass, that what we are going to discover as we move forward with this discussion is, I'm hoping, since there's an overarching project that apparently, we already have you and Councilmember Slayter working on, that hopefully this information that we have gathered will supplement and be a piece of that bigger project.
- I just want you to know that as a Councilmember, my goal is to respond to the public interest, to fill out those projects to the extent that I can, to inform my fellow Councilmembers as best I can within the Brown Act limitations, which is one person, and to participate in any solution that's offered to the community.
- That's my role.
- I do feel that in this particular instance, Vice Mayor Gurney and I were true to that role and are doing our part to contribute.
- You will see in the memo and the report out that we provided.
- We gathered this information.
- We're hoping that it will benefit the discussion making in this Council.
- We are not a self-appointed subcommittee.
- We are two members who were reaching out to the community.
- We did not represent as a subcommittee.
- We represented as two Councilmembers who are reaching out to the community.
- Finally, I have to say, if I had heard maybe a year ago or whenever it was that there was some discussion, I didn't hear safe overnight parking, I didn't hear Morris Street.
- I also have not recently heard any reports out that would indicate that the housing subcommittee was working on this project.
- Believe me, if I had, I don't want to be doing duplicate work.
- I want all of us to be moving forward in the right direction.
- But I will tell you that I will continue to work to respond to the community interests and to bring projects forward so the City Council can decide what the City Council wants to do with the projects.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I do understand that you were working in the interest of getting something done and in the interest of the public and our community.
- However, I feel very clear that I talked about this notion when I became mayor in December and that I spoke about this at multiple meetings which staff had attended where we talked about the concept of the kind of one, two, three thing.

*City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities*

- We need to get Elderberry Commons going and get the money and contract with WCCS.
- I do not understand why no one conveyed this to you.
- I find it rather baffling.
- I think Councilmember Slayter will agree that we have conveyed this information multiple times.
- I don't know if Councilmember Slayter wants to say anything.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- The thing that concerns me about this is that I received the document whenever it was late yesterday or early this morning that was multiple pages from two Councilmembers.
- The overlap is less of a concern for me.
- My particular concern is that to me, this feels like a project that should have been vetted by the full Council and given sanction ahead of the significant and meaningful work that's been done.
- I'm finding myself in a bit of a strange position here.
- I completely and wholeheartedly support the work that has been done.
- The lack of information and for it to have been presented, it's not final by any means, there's a ton of things that need to happen.
- So much work has been done behind a curtain and that's a little difficult for me.
- I have a hard time supporting that much work being done with the rest of the Council and the community not being aware of the time and effort that's been put into it.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- This is an awkward conversation whenever these things come up.
- I just want to go back to, we put this in our budget last year.
- We put this thought of a case manager to work with our unhoused as a placeholder in our budget.
- Councilmember Rich wasn't on the Council.
- But I clearly know, because we recommended it, but it was kind of put on hold because then the Sebastopol Inn negotiation came up.
- We had changes in our Police Department.
- This person was supposed to work with our Police Department.
- I know the vision was always to work with WCCS.
- Vice Mayor Gurney and I already work with them on Park Village.
- I'm getting all the names all mixed up.
- I feel bad, because Councilmember Rich, I know how it feels to be a new Councilmember.
- You don't have this history.
- We all want the same thing.
- I participated two years in the homeless count in Sebastopol.
- We want the same thing.
- I wanted to weigh in.
- The only person not on one of the subcommittees to say I think everybody has the right intent.
- I do hate to say I bring it back to staff, because staff, we can't talk to each other because of the Brown Act.
- Sometimes that gets us in these awkward spots.
- We're like, hey, didn't you know what I was working on?
- I'm sorry to say, I love our staff, but I really think that the things that are similar, we can't hire two people.

*City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities*

- They have to cover the safe parking and all our homeless in town.
- We are a tiny town.
- I just feel like there is crossover.
- WCCS is crossover.
- We all get to work on helping our city move forward and the homeless and housing and we need to be careful.
- Staff needs to help guide us so we don't run into these issues.
- I just really kind of feel bad.
- We did have a placeholder in the budget last year.
- That's the point.
- We did have this discussion.
- We wanted this moving forward.
- We still want it.
- Back to our priorities, I think this is high priority for all of us.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I think we all agree on high priorities.
- Let's talk about the elevation of the priorities.
- There is no de facto subcommittee.
- There are only two of us looking at the possibilities amongst our community to gain support from churches for safe parking.
- The interest in grabbing WCCS as our own provider has existed for a very long time, over a lot of issues going all the way back to management of Park Village, Morris Street, and now Elderberry Commons.
- Potentially some safe parking.
- I'm hoping that people actually don't feel threatened by this idea.
- We're just doing groundwork out in the community.
- To elevate our work to some level of threat I think isn't in our hearts.
- Maybe it's in our minds.
- I don't know.
- I think we have to let it go and look at the information that's in the report out.
- One thing we have learned coming out of the pandemic is that we can't always work in silos.
- The government silo doesn't exist.
- The government bureaucracy silo has to be bigger.
- Now we have community members, our church community, faith community considering stepping up to deal with a problem that is not just a government problem but really a societal problem of homelessness.
- I'm hopeful that Councilmember Rich, we have spoken enough and with Councilmember Hinton's comments as well as no member of any committee to assure all of you that I think we're on the same page here.
- We all have a whole lot more information just from unofficial legwork.
- That's really what it's been.
- We have a lot of interest in addressing the issues.
- We have a whole lot of good will.
- We also have a very skillful provider who wants to work with us.

City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities

- I encourage this to go forward and all of the issues in our list from May 4th about the funding from the County of Sonoma.
- Let's talk about how we can most beneficially use that money to serve our community.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I'm just making it clear, we have an official housing subcommittee.
- If you don't want us to be the official housing subcommittee anymore, we can dissolve the committee.
- I am not okay with having other people doing things that are the purview of our committee without getting input.
- That's what I'm trying to say.
- I think I am 100% behind everything in your report.
- It was always the intention that everything that was associated with homeless services was going to go into a contract with WCCS.
- I did bring up in agenda review, actually, the notion of we have two different things that need to be dealt with here.
- One is long-term homeless wraparound services that include social services from WCCS that would include outreach to the homeless on Morris Street, include safe parking and include long-term mental health issues that are in our community.
- That that be a contract with WCCS.
- There's a second issue, which is emergency response to mental health crises and social service crises.
- That is a CAHOOTs model.
- That is a separate kind of activity.
- I have actually had a discussion with Mr. Miller about this.
- What he would see as his purview and what we would see as a CAHOOTs model purview.
- What I am anxious to do, the reason I'm being a pain in the neck and bringing this up right now is that we have an overlap of activities.
- It begets problems.
- I have been talking with Mr. Miller on a repeated basis about these specific issues.
- Somehow there's a lack of community about that this is what the housing committee thought was their purview and apparently, it's also everybody else's purview.
- What's important here today, I do understand, is allocating this money.
- We have been on board with this all along as Councilmember Hinton said.
- There was a budget placeholder for this last year.
- I had talked with Mr. Miller about what the cost would be involved with him providing these kinds of services.
- I think all of this information is useful.
- But we do, as a Council, need to resolve who is doing what.
- That may not be the question for today.
- The question for today is how are we going to use this \$370,000 and put it into the budget?

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I wish I had known.
- I just have to put that out there.
- Today is about setting goals.

*City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities*

- I agree, with you, Mayor Glass.
- Your leadership is always apparent.
- I agree that now is not the time to sort out these issues.
- I also agree that I don't want to be in a situation where I have other City Councilmembers that are working judiciously on something and I don't even know about.
- At some point, please, agenda committee, let's try to sort these out so that I at least, and perhaps others don't step into it.
- That's one comment.
- The other comment is I do want to directly address Councilmember Slayter's suggestion that our work has happened behind a curtain.
- That certainly wasn't my intent.
- It should not be categorized in that fashion.
- I have to object to that.
- I did report out as soon as I thought there was any substance to it, as I recall.
- I think it was earlier this month.
- There was not a huge amount of staff time.
- Just so everyone knows.
- It was my volunteer time as City Councilperson.
- I worked pretty quickly.
- I reported pretty promptly out to the City Council because I certainly don't want to move forward with any projects that aren't supported fully by this great City Council.
- Secondly, not trying to hide anything behind and actually did report out and did my best to engage people.
- That's what that report out was.
- It was kind of an information dump so now Mayor Glass and the rest of you can do what you think is appropriate.
- Then finally, I just want to say how wonderful and inspiring it is to me that all of us care so much about this.
- That Mayor Glass and Councilmember Slayter, you have been working so hard at this project.
- I'm hoping that the information gathering, which is honestly what it has been, that Councilmember Gurney and I were able to put together is going to be useful on this project.
- It's not an ownership thing.
- I want this to be productive for the town.
- I pass off that information.
- Do what you can with it.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- All of this information is extremely useful and will be very vital to the project.
- I have no doubt about that.
- We have some procedural issues here.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- Getting back to the budget on this, when we did the placeholder the last year, we talked about the possibility of sharing. I think it was more the emergency response CAHOOTs plan with a neighboring city.
- I think I recall a conversation with someone that said that that wouldn't work.

*City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities*

- It was partnering up with another city closer to them.
- We were looking at funding half, which is where our placeholder came from, we could no longer combine.
- In light of that, I will just go out on a limb here and say, as I have already stated, this is TOT replacement money that's supposed to cover three years.
- I'm not in favor of spending it all this year.
- I do think the priority, when you look at the two separate models, which Mayor Glass listed, would be the Morris Street safe parking and overall mental health position, which is what I recall us envisioning last year.
- Because we do have the County, I realize they are slow and maybe never get to us for the emergency response to mental health.
- If we have to prioritize, I'm going to go out on a limb and say, that's what I'm looking at.
- I think in my adding one position versus two at the same time, that's what I would advocate for today.

Mayor Glass questioned if Councilmember Hinton was advocating for one position related to the WCCS outreach model?

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- Stated that is correct.
- It would focus on our current unhoused.
- I think in a priority situation, they are both good models.
- We have a brand-new Police Chief.
- I think we did envision that that person would not only be a case manager but would also work in conjunction with the Police Department.
- For this year's budget, I would be hard pressed to advocate for both positions, which you recapped.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I think we have agreement that WCCS would be a great provider to offer case management services from Park Village experience, hopefully Elderberry Commons will come in, but we don't know when that will be.
- Meanwhile, we have street campers on Morris Street who have been problematic for the Council, probably for the last two or two and a half years.
- We also have the opportunity to work with the faith community to build safe parking units.
- I would be supportive of dedicating some money to WCCS to provide that case management to Morris Street and the safe parking.
- I'm very comfortable having provided all information to the full Council about any community work about safe parking.
- It is yours if you want it.
- I can be out of that if it matters to Mayor Glass and Councilmember Slayter to take it on.
- You have a lot of groundwork.
- You have a lot of relationship building.
- Make use of it.
- I think we have great potential in our community because our community heart really supports making sure people are safe overnight.

City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities

- That's, I think, the focus here rather than the personalities or procedures.
- Let's go for it.
- Let's work with WCCS and see how much more work we might do with them in the future through Elderberry Commons.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I completely agree.
- The reason why, frankly, we didn't do a lot of outreach previously was that I feel it's really important that we have a case manager and we have WCCS as in a professional staff people helping to coordinate these activities.
- West County Community Services has access to the County's homeless information system.
- They are able to coordinate activities from all the various faith-based groups and volunteers that are working on this issue.
- I think the idea of giving them funding and that their role is not just to be only like a siloed caseworker.
- Their work is also to be an organizer, to pull together all those people that are doing all this great work already.
- The Community Church and the Christian church down here that provides showers for the homeless population.
- I see their role as making sure that they are pulling everybody together and that everybody is sharing information and that WCCS, as a contracted provider with the County who has access to information, databases, et cetera, that volunteer groups don't have access to.
- That way they can be a conduit from the faith organizations and the volunteer groups into the continuum of care, which is in the coordinated entry program that's available for homelessness in the county.
- That's why their role is really important of pulling everybody together to make this whole thing work.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- The difficulty is our size in so many ways.
- We are big enough to have the problems but we're not big enough to need a social services department or dedicated staff working only on these issues.
- Not to say that maybe there isn't enough work for a dedicated staff member.
- But we just don't have that expertise as a small city.
- In WCCS, we have a well-known and very trusted partner now for years.
- The ability for us to contract with them would be, I think, a tremendous opportunity for both WCCS and the City.
- The question becomes for me about logistics.
- Is that something that would need to be issued as an RFP and they would need to respond to it so that all interested parties could have an equal footing in order to be eligible or take part in that?
- Or is that something that can be part of an expanded contract through the agreement that's in place?
- Would we need to issue an RFP?
- Is this something we can roll into, under the umbrella that existed with the agreement for Park Village with WCCS?

City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- I raised this issue with outside counsel several years ago.
- The Council has alternatives of contracting directly because WCCS is a known entity.
- Or the Council could do an RFP.
- An RFP is not required.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- On the consideration of the CAHOOTs model, which I also see in the staff report you have downtown streets team, to me those are almost the same thing.
- I realize they're not quite the same thing.
- I think that a service provider for one would most likely be a reasonable and expert advice person for the other one.
- The law enforcement subcommittee, I believe, will be having recommendations on this with some greater details and specifics.
- I think from a general standpoint, I'm strongly in favor of law enforcement doing law enforcement things and social services doing social service things.
- The ask of law enforcement to take over these things, it's been a long, slow slide for us as a country, much less of us as a small city in Northern California.
- A reset is needed.
- I'm in support of that.
- I'm also not necessarily ready, because we don't know what these things cost, we don't know what the services would actually be.
- I think in general terms, I'm in favor of it.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- Did speak with Mr. Miller.
- The number he came up with was \$67,000 for an annual case manager to do a broad range of services, which is the outreach, the coordination, and all of those things.
- That's without all the details hammered down about exactly what, it is a placeholder
- Something around there.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I know Councilmember Rich sent a spreadsheet on numbers around that ballpark.
- I'm thinking \$65,000, \$75,000 as a placeholder, that's good for me.
- From everybody's concern and angst, I think everybody is really in support of that.
- Let's put the placeholder in there.
- The issue about the CAHOOTs issue, that is a separate issue.
- The County has something that's run by the CDC that is more of a CAHOOTs kind of team that they have been trying to put together.
- Meanwhile, there are others working on a CA thing.
- All of those separate, each one of them are paying a consultant to look at it, what they're doing.
- It's big hunks of change in terms of what the CAHOOTs consultant is looking at.
- I do agree, our first line of defense is that money that we want to put into WCCS for a case manager and expand services through there.
- It seems to me what probably would be best if staff can work with WCCS to expand on our existing contract and to come up with a laundry list that Mr. Miller would recommend in terms of

*City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities*

what those services would include and that come forward as a different agenda item sometime in the near future so we can look at it, include safe park, include outreach to homeless people, into the entry system in the county, et cetera.

- I would also think that we might want to ask staff to specifically find out how much it would cost to just get a preliminary, very one or two-day consult with the CAHOOTs people so that we could be thinking about that for the future.
- That would be a team of people that would be working with our Police Department.
- That would be another thing.
- I have no idea what that would cost and perhaps we could ask staff to check that out.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- Regarding the set-aside as to the safe overnight parking.
- One of the pieces of information that was shared with us was that there would be for the three churches who were expressing interest in some facility improvements.
- There would be a cost associated with their hosting the overnight parking.
- My request is that if we look at the set-aside, that we include \$7,000 to cover those potential facility improvements and reimbursement.
- It's items to permit security for the church, allow access to restrooms, and a possible portable toilet and head washing station at one location.
- Modifying a door within the facility to provide security but access to the safe parkers.
- Some reimbursement for increased insurance premiums.
- A number to consider adding in there in order to reimburse the churches to the extent they sign on.
- On the CAHOOTs project, it sounds like we are choosing between one or the other for this fiscal year.
- If that's the case, I'm all for the provision of homeless services, especially as we move out of the pandemic and we see that the rest of our space.
- I think that's a comment we heard from Robert Hillman last night during our City Council meeting.
- I think WCCS would facilitate that for everyone so it can become shared space.
- I have a lot of support for the process if it's one or the other, I'm going for the homeless services.
- If we could do both, that would be great.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I'm thinking that what you are saying is perhaps bumping that number from about \$67,000 to \$75,000 so we have enough money funding in there to do site improvements that the volunteer participants, the faith-based organizations might need in order to do safe parking, does that make sense?

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- The tentative information that we gathered was that the cost associated with the full-time case manager at WCCS, when you add in transportation and other elements, it was \$75,900, plus \$6,900 for the facility improvement which brought our tentative number up to \$82,800.
- That is a different number from what you have.
- If you are a placeholder, I would go with \$83,000.

*City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities*

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I do think we might be able to tie it in with our Park Village contract.
- I believe we pay less for our case manager at Park Village.
- I do still think we need to do a reasonable bid process.
- We have three separate numbers out there for a case manager.
- I'm sure that will come back to the Council.
- Just to say that with fiscal responsibility and wanting to stretch this money out, we want to make sure that if we have a preferred provider, that we are paying close to what we have been paying someone to manage Park Village.
- To me, it's a similar situation.
- I want to throw that money out there as the number keeps growing in this discussion.
- A placeholder is a placeholder.
- I don't think we need the highest placeholder.
- We have to go through the bid process.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- Does this number relate to a number on top of the Park Village contract or does it assume everything, and we need to clarify that?
- Before we discuss the CAHOOTs issue, I feel like I need to hear the details of the audit of the Police Department.
- I need to hear public response to the issues of that audit.
- That information, the report, our discussion and the public comment is going to inform us as to the decision to how we deal with, I'm going to say potentially reorganizing the law enforcement response on mental health and other crisis issues.
- Maybe that answer is going to come in the month of June as the Council and public receive the audit report?
- Hopefully, that timing works with the budget.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- It does relate to our law enforcement.
- Unfortunately here, the facts are the thigh bone is connected to the hip bone and all of these things are interrelated.
- I think we should get that law enforcement report.
- Maybe agenda setting can ask staff to go forward with finding out a little bit more about some CAHOOTs consulting if that is the outcome of our process regarding law enforcement.
- With that, I think we need to move forward to the next agenda item, which is item number three, which is discussion of funding for contract for community vitality consultant.
- That is related to our contract with CoMission.
- Perhaps City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin might say something about how much is proposed for this year and something about the proposed deliverables and work plan.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- We have worked with CoMission to develop a potential work plan for next year.
- The budget committee asked that that item come before the full Council.
- For various reasons, it has not been presented to the full Council.
- There exists out there right now a fully worked through potential work plan.

*City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities*

- The work plan is in several levels.
- There's a figure for continuing the current work that CoMission has been doing.
- There is additional figures in the work plan to do other items.
- It's in various developments.
- You could pick and choose.
- The Council has not seen that.
- Right now, we do have a fully developed work plan.
- Council has not seen it.
- The budget committee has not reviewed it.
- I see that Mr. Litwin from CoMission is part of the meeting today.
- He might want to say more about it.
- I could obviously go through the work plan right this minute because I have it in front of me.
- Like I said, it was intended to come before the Council as a full agenda item.

Mayor Glass asked what is the current amount requested. She questioned if it was \$140,000.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- Information presented to the Council.
- The amount of money that was proposed in the work plan for next year to continue the current programming was \$8,000 a month.
- That is \$96,000 for the year.
- As I said, there were two other additional elements that the Council could have considered for additional budgeting for additional services.
- That was for the base programming.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Councilmember Hinton and I are asking for any feedback regarding how much you think we could afford for that program and continuing the existing program we have and any additional services.
- It may be that we just need to hear, wait to nail that number until we have an actual presentation.
- Meanwhile, I will ask for any feedback regarding that amount.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- The figure as presented just now is honestly a little alarming.
- It's significantly greater than what we were talking about pre-pandemic.
- That's said in full acknowledgement of the difference between then and now.
- The need for the community vitality work.
- The Council struggled for years to come up with even a third of that amount for community vitality.
- It was always deferred.
- I think absent any concrete work plan that we have been able to look at and study ahead of a conversation, it feels premature to include such a significant amount.
- I also think the community vitality position is one that, the evolution of the work, I think, is telling that we continue, sort of like the previous item where we continue to put more things in the law enforcement bucket.
- I think we are putting more things in the community vitality bucket.

City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities

- The actual work that we as a Council want to see happen, it seems as though we need to have a refocusing conversation about that.
- I'm not sure, I know for sure that this isn't the time to do that.
- None of us are prepared to do that.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- We also don't have time this morning to have that long conversation.
- What I know is this community vitality position, concept of the position has taken a long time to generate.
- It went somewhere else because of the pandemic.
- I think we really need to redefine what the work is.
- One of the important points for me that we talked about earlier in issue number one was marketing our community.
- Our whole community, not just the downtown part.
- I think we also need to look at marketing our community to upgrade our image from being the discontent, arguing, anti-development community, and look to creating the appropriate issue, which is that we are receptive to what we want.
- We need to define what that is.
- We need to market the opportunities here proactively in town.
- For instance, our opportunity sites in the General Plan.
- We need to get out of pandemic mentality and look beyond it and start thinking, how do we get what our community knows we want?
- More affordable housing.
- Higher density.
- A more mixed community.
- That's where we need to focus in this vitality position.
- That's another conversation, like Councilmember Slayter said.
- We don't have time today.
- I have no idea what the placeholder would be.
- I think we need to focus on the task at hand.
- That might be redirecting the efforts.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I think that's a really good idea about marketing the opportunity sites.
- I think maybe when we get to talking about that community vitality agenda item, we do need to talk about how do we define that?
- How do we define the community vitality?
- What are the deliverables?
- You brought up a couple of deliverables there.
- I think that's what we are missing is nailing down specific deliverables that we need to market our community.
- I think we can have that discussion when we move forward without a specific agenda item that's about community vitality that we will be having soon.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities

- A question for me is not quite to the end of our year and I think we had approved budget for CoMission through the fiscal year, through the end of June.
- I have been following the invoicing.
- What I'm interested in, as Councilmember Slayter brought it up at the beginning when we retained CoMission, is I'm interested in the results.
- Councilmember Slayter used other words.
- For \$160,000, what I would like to see is a breakdown on what each initiative cost us.
- Then we can decide which ones of those delivered for us so that when we look at a work plan next year for CoMission, if that's what we're going to do, if that's the direction we are going in, we would have a clearer understanding and could make choices on the work plan.
- What initiatives did we think were successful and we want to continue?
- Which are we just like some of the surveys were related to COVID and they are not needed moving forward?
- We have seen some recaps on CoMission's projects but they never had dollar amounts next to them.
- What has it cost for us for the summit we just had?
- What did it cost for the microloan program that we put out last summer?
- I got a recap on that and which merchants were served.
- That's never come back to the full Council.
- I'm curious, by project.
- When I have been a consultant in the past, I generally have bid a project and I deliver the project.
- Sometimes there's overages.
- Those are discussed in the process.
- I really think we need a recap so I can feel comfortable considering a new work plan moving forward.
- I would really like that recap.
- This is going to be something that I'm going to stick on when we discuss this full item.
- I think that all the difference surveys, all the different things should take the money we have allocated and what did each of those things cost us and what were the results of those?
- Some I know are just, we got the results of the survey, I guess.
- That's fine.
- It would help me organize developing if part of what we want CoMission to do next year, we are retaining their services is another summer, what does that summit cost and what did it get us?
- It was all great last week.
- I loved the directory that I'm hoping we can post on our City website if we haven't already.
- Those would be some of the things.
- I do think that we have to consider, since this was work product that was developed for us, which we own, we heard from, I think last night, two really great committees, Zero Waste and the Climate Action Committee.
- They are self-managing.
- They don't have their own facilitator.
- They are facilitating their committees.
- I'm a little unclear about if we're still facilitating the committees that we have created through CoMission or if they have moved into the self-facilitator phase.
- I definitely need to have the report.
- I have a lot of questions.

*City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities*

- I need to have those questions answered to consider this item for next year's funding.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- My perspective is it seems like we need a placeholder for community vitality services of some kind.
- I don't know what that amount would be.
- Those of you who are on the budget subcommittee probably have a sense of what was allocated before the pandemic.
- Maybe that's closer to the number that we need?
- I agree that we do need a report out that's fairly detailed from CoMission.
- A lot of foundational work was done.
- A lot of information was collected.
- I think we need to know, what are the lessons learned and what does this tell us about what we need in the next stage, which is likely to be quite different from what we needed and which cost us a lot of money in this last year.
- I will say that in terms of my experience with CoMission, there was a lot of expertise and a lot of value added.
- That was one unique experience.
- Whether we go with CoMission or another solution for our community vitality needs knowing what those lessons learned were for the past year is really essential for us to figure out what to do next year.
- Then, in terms of the work product, absolutely, we need to not just have a contractual ownership of those documents and lists and everything else, we need to actually have them in our databases, access to them through Assistant City Manager Gourley or City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin, through someone within our staff have direct access to all of that work product.

Mayor Glass opened for public comment.

Kyle Falbo commented as follows:

- First, I want to address maybe some of the comments that I made at a previous meeting from January 19th in which CoMission presented a report on the residential survey.
- In particular, with that residential survey, much of the data mentioned was non-representative of our cities.
- Notable biases including age, ethnicity, identified gender, and owner occupancy.
- Council discussed this.
- This is the consideration that's likely the impact of the financials are more dire than what was reported in the survey as a result of the bias.
- What this is speaking to is that I expect the Council to scrutinize the cost of these expenditures.
- Case in point is this contract.
- I would like to see Council detail not only the producible but the cost with CoMission.
- What guidelines were in place by the City to measure the goals of the CoMission contract over the last seven months in which the outside consultant was under contract?
- What was the upper limit on the billing act?
- How often did the Council check on the cost of this contract over the months of the specialized expertise did it provide that was outside of the current staff?
- What were we doing before CoMission?

City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities

- How did anything get done?
- If this continued reliance on outsourcing labor is going to continue, at what point does the City investigate actually increasing staffing to accommodate the workload that continues to be outsourced through consulting fees?

Danielle Danforth commented as follows:

- Obviously, I would like to comment on the street outreach position.
- I understand it would be easy to think that what we do at Park Village as having a title case manager would be comparable.
- I would like to point out that it's actually very different at Park Village.
- You have a community that's set in one place.
- We don't have a lot of mileage in the outreach position.
- We expect this person to go all over the greater Sebastopol area.
- We have another budget there that is in addition to the case manager.
- That's the property itself, through the property manager.
- A lot of the expenses come from that area.
- For instance, supplies, garbage, waste, stuff like that comes out of another budget that's related to Park Village as well, the management portion.
- We have more resources at Park Village to pull from.
- Of course, over the years, we have been very blessed to be able to get additional funding from United Way and stuff like that.
- One of the other things I don't know if we're all aware of is that Catholic charities has been helping out with the overnight parking through the coordinated entry that they run.
- They are pulling out of that.
- We don't know who is going to run that part of the fees that went into this is overnight parking want criminal background to continue that.
- I have talked to our provider that does that for us at Park Village.
- They are willing to do that.
- We have to pay for the running.
- It's a very different concept between homeless outreach and services and intervention and being a case manager on a site.
- I wanted to put that out there.

Fire Committee

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- What I do really think we need some direction on is the item number five which is related to the fire and emergency services, including funding that may be requesting from the fire and emergency subcommittee.
- Your subcommittee reported out last night.
- You indicated that you feel we need to get a consultant in to get some objective information about what we need to do with our Fire Department and our fire expenses, et cetera.
- I heard last night what seemed like unanimous support for that.
- I'm just bringing this item up to make sure that that is everybody's feeling and to also ask if you have any particular number assigned to that.

*City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities*

- My other question that I thought might take just a little feedback is that Councilmember Hinton and I are dealing with a request for some additional equipment.
- That's why I brought that up last night.
- Wanting to hear especially from you on the fire subcommittee.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- We are getting asked about an extra personnel position.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- What I wanted to address briefly was funding request submitted to the budget subcommittee.
- I'm not sure if now is the time to address it.
- I will put it out there.
- That was a request for between then \$8,800 and \$10,000 to support our volunteer emergency services efforts communication unit.
- That had to do with paying for equipment, hard assets that would need to be purchased in order to set up a multi-hub neighborhood communication process that would feed into the official emergency services system.
- If there's any need for additional information on that, let me know.
- I wanted to make sure that was in consideration.

Councilmember Slayer commented as follows:

- On the consultant figure, that's something that I think somewhere I have seen.
- I think Councilmember Rich put the figure out there of \$30,000 as a set-aside for that consulting.
- I have no frame of reference to know if that's a good number or not.
- It seems reasonable.
- Given our recent history with some of the other investigations, the Police Department work and some of the other things that are sort of parallel, I think that is probably a reasonable number.
- The other thing regarding the Fire Department specifically is not having seen the departmental budget breakdown as it was presented by the Fire Chief.
- I know there are vital equipment that are aging out.
- I'm not sure if the annual budget as presented by the Chief includes and quite specifically the scuba equipment, self-contained breathing apparatus, and there's an age out.
- We're in a situation where, as I understand it, every single piece of that equipment for every single firefighter is exactly the same age.
- We end up with a big hit all at once.
- I think it's 15 years in this case is the equipment life span that's allowed by the National Fire Protection Association.
- The need for that equipment replacement is profound.
- I want to make sure that that is addressed in some way in the budget.
- I know the vehicle replacement schedule has a couple of pieces of apparatus that are at or past their life span again per national standards.
- Those are tremendously expensive pieces of equipment.
- We need to make sure those are budgeted for appropriately.
- There's some communication equipment.
- I think some of that may be what Councilmember Rich was speaking about.

City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities

- I know that there's need for commonality as fires and crews from all over the country even or the world come together to fight fires, that they need to communicate with each other.
- I know there's a need for some upgrades in those areas as well.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I just wanted to kind of weigh in on this one.
- Councilmember Rich, yes, we know about it, recommended.
- Councilmember Slayter, pretty much anything that's recommended on maintenance by the Chief has generally gone in the budget the last three years I have been there.
- We follow the Chief's recommendation on that breathing apparatus.
- I am in favor of the consultant, as I stated last night.
- I know we have a lot of experience within our Fire Department.
- I think that all the volunteers have financial compensation, is my understanding.
- I do believe it's good to have someone review, like the Police Department, with cooperation from the Chief and the people that work with so that we can get a full review.
- In the meantime, I don't want to stop everything in the Fire Department.
- I mentioned before that they are asking for an additional personnel person.
- I guess I will just say, I feel like we just invested in an extra person just a few years ago.
- Most importantly, we have one fire truck that we talked about last fall that does not have air conditioning, that needs replacement.
- I personally am really interested at the same time as having somebody come in that's an expert to tell us what our long-range goals should be, safety of our firemen in that one specific fire truck that's the oldest one of our fleet and we will likely have it out again.
- We know it needs to be replaced.
- Doing some kind of RFP or placement, maybe we just don't spend cash for everything.
- Who buys fire trucks for cash?
- Maybe we have some sort of system where we can pay that over time?
- This discussion today, I would like to see a placeholder for the wildfire truck and then RFP process go out.
- I understand or I have heard from someone that Cal Fire has discounts with preferred vendors.
- I'm interested in pursuing that.
- Then hiring the consultant to advise us about a long-range and long-term plan for our Fire Department.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- We have two issues to put a number on.
- One is the consultant to help with assessing our future with our fire delivery services.
- I don't know what that number is.
- The other is equipment.
- Councilmember Slayter mentioned the scuba replacement.
- There's also the air conditioning in the truck.
- Shall we get numbers on that and roll on?
- I really want us to get to item number six.
- This is funding for the Climate Action Committee.
- We have the Civic Spark program and a second program I would like to mention.
- Who has numbers for five?

*City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities*

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I think we had the number that's been thrown out there is \$30,000 for the potential number for the consultant.
- I am with Councilmember Hinton, I think we need to have a long-term plan with our Fire Department.
- From what we have gotten in the budget subcommittee, the Fire Department actually requested two new vehicles this year.
- One of them being the wildfire one.
- The wildfire one is the one that I along with Councilmember Hinton are concerned about.
- The chances of our staff, our volunteer firefighters being out there in the wetlands in a truck with no air conditioning is high this year.
- It seems to me the sooner the better.
- We need to finance it.
- We need a competitive situation to find the best value for the money and probably finance it so we retain our cash.
- Everything else, we were online to get that other equipment.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- On the wildfire rig, I have a little difficulty with asking the residents of Sebastopol to finance a piece of equipment that we don't necessarily, in the city of Sebastopol, need.
- It's a weird position.
- I understand mutual aid and all those other things.
- I'm also wondering if an adjacent fire district is busy purchasing a ladder truck that only can get used in the city of Sebastopol?
- I don't have enough information about that.
- On that point, that's all I'm going to say about that.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- Mutual aid is a very important thing.
- We need to do mutual aid.
- I understand about the wildfire truck.
- However, that wildfire truck also is a good investment for us because it earns us the money that is basically being used to replace it.
- I think at a total of \$180,000, or \$185,000 last year.
- I hear you.
- I just wanted to point that out.
- Mutual aid is what we have to do.
- Just want to throw that out for the group.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I have to mention that we have been getting reimbursement from Cal Fire.
- We are actually getting money every year when we use that.
- It is being subsidized by Cal Fire.

Item Number 6

*City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities*

Climate Action Subcommittee

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- We heard last night about the Civic Spark program.
- I thought the number was more like \$29,000.
- The idea there is that we could support, I think, a youth person in an internship capacity to do work that our Climate Action Committee cannot do.
- There are citizen volunteers with their own lives and jobs.
- We have a short deadline on that.
- I think the deadline is June 30th to make an application.
- It would be co-signed by the City of Sebastopol and the RCPA.
- They offered to host this intern in their building.
- Provide some guidance.
- The important thing is, I think I'm going to choose you, Director Svanstrom, to be our actual official supervisor staff, because it's our work that's being done.
- I think that's really viable as long as Director Svanstrom agrees with me.
- Kenna Lee and the Climate Action Committee can prioritize this work and see what it can offload to this intern person.
- That work might satisfy the City.
- I'm also interested in the second opportunity that we were provided.
- You got the e-mail from Tonya.
- This is the California Climate Action Corps.
- They have similar funding, similar programs.
- We missed their deadline, which was the end of March.
- As I informed everybody, they are still taking applications late.
- They are processing them.
- This would provide us the opportunity to support the Zero Waste Subcommittee, whom we heard from last night through Sunny Galbraith.
- It's doing the 1383 work.
- I think that committee feels within our community we can very successfully increase our composting numbers to decrease our mixed landfill.
- There's a second element, which is the edible food recovery program.
- I'm thinking, that might be a great application for this California Climate Action Corps opportunity.
- It would provide us that chance that we have never yet taken as far as I know to support a learning opportunity, this internship opportunity.
- I know staff has much to do and doesn't necessarily have the opportunity to provide that supervision.
- I think now is the historic moment.
- You have to go into this extra responsibility, because I believe our community would want us to.
- The State of California wants us to work on edible food recovery.
- Two components here.
- I don't know, I have no idea what the second might cost us or your available to supervise it.
- It came together overnight from listening to Ms. Galbraith and exchanging quick e-mails tonight.
- I think we should pursue both these opportunities and see what comes to us.
- I checked with Tonya.

City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities

- Who can apply for both and get both?
- She said she didn't really know.
- The RCPA can only handle one.
- I think they are more inclined to support the Climate Action Work as our committee of volunteers prioritizes where they need help, and the Council reviews their priorities and agrees.
- We have, I don't know, maybe five weeks to get this done.
- I think it's doable.
- We need to jump in and make this happen.
- All of this work falls into our climate action goals.
- I think of who we want to be as a community.
- I really support dedicating staff time and our citizen committee time to exploring this opportunity with Council's support.
- It may play out.
- Maybe our committees won't be able to apply without our approval?
- How do we know if we don't try?
- We should just try.
- I think we should try.
- That's my ask of us.
- A little bit of money we know of, \$29,000, if we make that application and some time with staff if we can make a second application.
- I'm not sure of that funding yet, that funding number.
- There's a third thing that Sunali mentioned.
- That is for the upcycled art project.
- That's a great winner.
- We were talking last night.
- What does this idea of calendar mean?
- We were hoping to calendar the awareness events and fun events.
- Upcycled art is one of those.
- I think it's under \$3,500.
- I recommend that to the Council to put in the budget as well.
- Maybe in some way that moves into the Public Arts Committee?
- I don't know.
- We haven't had time to explore that opportunity or that funding source.
- I think it's a very worthy activity because the project is all a part of what we're coming out of the pandemic with, which is this really collaborative interest.
- Zero Waste, Climate Action, Center for the Arts, those are all of the components that Sunali was mentioning.
- Three issues.
- Two applications potentially and then the art thing.
- I'm talking fast because we don't have much time.

Planning Director Svanstrom commented as follows:

- In terms of staffing, the Planning Department staffing is in flux.
- We have a vacancy, a third of our department.
- I have interviews scheduled next Tuesday for that position.
- Hopefully, we get that filled soon.

*City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities*

- I have discussion with the City Manager next week about how to handle some of the additional work requests and items that the Planning Department has taken on.
- The Climate Action Committee is a new committee.
- They are very active, which is wonderful.
- We want to support that appropriately.
- I do think certainly one application with the current staffing is possible.
- I have talked to Tonya, I would certainly need either of the positions, even if one is housed physically at RCPA given their expertise on climate issues.
- It may be possible to do a second one.
- I don't know what the Associate Planner pool is exactly yet and what expertise or how we will be able to staff that up.
- It's certainly something I'm open to.
- They are an amazing opportunity in the fact that they are focused on climate in particular at this point in time is potentially a good opportunity.
- I think between the CAC, Councilmember Rich, and myself, we can get the application in for it, if that's the direction from Council.
- I believe the fiscal contribution is \$29,000 for each fellowship position, whether it's climate, I want to confirm with Tonya.
- Looking on the website for Civic Spark, it's \$29,000 for one fellow, which provides you with 11 months' time frame and 1,300 project hours.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I'm in support of one fellow.
- I'm thinking about all the other dollar items that we have been discussing.
- To the extent for instance that we are looking at either a consultant for the Fire Department or another fellow for the Climate Action Committee work, I would go with the Fire Department first.
- My vote is definitely one.
- If there is enough money, given other priorities, two.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- I think I am in favor of one.
- If there was money for two, I would suggest we put that amount in our future retirement obligations fund instead.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- Talking to Ms. Galbraith, from the Zero Waste Subcommittee, she sees a great potential applicant with help from a committee member named Michael.
- I think we can do an application.
- If we prevail, we can deal with the funding then.
- Why turn down a potential opportunity just to ask?
- That doesn't make sense to me.
- This is the edible food recovery that I'm seeing as the potential help.
- Zero Waste people can do with the street with tent cards about accessories and that work.
- Talking to restaurants.
- This is about creating a stream in our community from our restaurants, our events, and our non-profits, all that food that's edible but potentially lost.

*City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities*

- This is actually a State mandate.
- I think it's important to address.
- At least in an application.
- If we prevail, maybe there's funding, maybe not.
- I don't want you to say one and turn down the possibility.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- We will put it as a question mark in the budget as we move forward.
- It's either 30 or 60 is that number, is the placeholder there.
- Discussion of funding for consultants to advise regarding management, including revenue enhancement and capital assets and debt.
- We have a mosquito district which had a consultant that did an extremely good job of advising us on how to rearrange assets and debt in order to save money and bring more money in.
- I spent time looking at their website.
- I went, they do a range of consulting.
- We all know that we need enhanced revenue.
- We know we need to save money.
- What we don't understand are what are all the options open to us.
- That issue of a business improvement district just came out.
- Our utility tax is coming up soon.
- Are there ways that we could maximize revenue there?
- Are there other alternatives open to us for enhancing our revenue?
- How can we restructure it?
- What I'm proposing in this item is should we hire a consultant and put out an RFP specifically for this kind of consulting regarding municipal finance and revenue enhancement and how to structure or finances to maximize the amount of money we have?

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- Just to bottom line it, we have a really hard time figuring out our replacement policy for our vehicles.
- When we started talking about that, it's not all about mileage.
- We are a small city.
- We want to look at that long-term.
- We heard from Director Kwong that she did refinancing of some of our debt service.
- This is what this kind of company does.
- It could save us a lot of money and put us on the path for the next five years.
- That's why I'm in favor of it.
- I feel like we don't have this expertise within our own staff.
- We need to be set on the right direction.
- It would save us money.
- I'm going to throw that out there, bottom line.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- I'm wondering if the work that the fire committee is recommending with a consultant for some of the municipal finance components of that analysis, if there is perhaps a way to, I think honestly what I'm hearing is you are asking if there is support to issue an RFP for this?

*City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities*

- You are not asking for a funding but one follows the other.
- That's sort of where I'm going with this.
- The potential to have one consultant help us with two things, I think, is realistic.
- If one is connected to the other, then there's some economy of scale there.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- Completely in support of this.
- I would like to know what amount of money we are talking about here.
- That hasn't been mentioned as a set-aside.
- In terms of the topic Councilmember Slayter just raised, I think these are likely two different roles.
- The Fire Department consultant will be looking at larger issues that won't just include financing.
- Don't have to belabor that.
- There might be overlap.
- A line item estimate on how much we might be looking at for this particular item would be helpful.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- The number I was ballparking was \$30,000.
- That may be low.
- We just need to know about putting a placeholder in and giving direction to staff to do a little research on it.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I feel a need to express my appreciation for the excellent advice and support and service that we get from our incredible City Manager.
- I just want to put it out there that my experience with him as a citizen of Sebastopol and a member of the City Council has been excellent.
- I appreciate his expertise and balanced approach to giving us the advice he gives us to move forward in the city.

Mayor Glass opened for public comment. There was none.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I think Councilmember Hinton and I have enough feedback where we can put placeholders into here.
- The budget will be further revised by a couple of other upcoming meetings that we have regarding law enforcement and regarding community vitality.
- When those two come up, that will also give Councilmember Hinton and I some clues.
- As we know, what comes out of the budget committee is an advisory document.
- Everybody can then weigh in on what we got right and what we got wrong.
- At least we are trying to make it so it's a little more relevant and a little more accurate as everybody takes a look at it.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

*City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities*

- I just wanted to make sure, so I can communicate directly with those who have been in touch with me about the safe overnight parking issue, the issues that were summarized in the memo, the report out that was shared with the City Council, my plan at the moment, I want approval for the plan from the City Council to reach out to those individuals and let them know that further discussions to the extent that they are appropriate will be pursued by Mayor Glass and Councilmember Slayter.
- Is that the appropriate message?

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- To my mind, I think that's a really good message.
- I think the City Council wants to collaborate with all of these people and volunteers that are doing this really very valuable work.
- We need to figure out our process.
- That's a really good message for now.
- We need to maybe think a little bit about our process and what I thought our housing subcommittee's role is.
- We just need to not deal with that right now.
- For right now, I think that's great.
- Yes, please make those relationships thrive and last, go team.
- Let's figure out what we are defining our committees as doing.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I just want to say I think the message is we have a lot of work to do in June.
- It's all about the budget.
- There are so many fronts.
- Good luck to our budget subcommittee.
- We appreciate you for doing this extra work, and that you like spreadsheets, and numbers.
- Looking at everything with such a close eye.
- Councilmembers, we need to put in the time to review our subcommittee's work and support them and support all the ideas that we have talked about in this meeting and make sure they come through and are asserted in the budget.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- What I thought was the most critical thing that we get going with making this whole thing work is getting WCCS in the mix so that they are the primary point of contact as we move forward and do these homeless services.
- That's what's most important to me is making sure that they get in the mix and that they are the people that are managing that relationship.
- We really need some professionals in there that are managing the relationship and coordinating the activities.
- It's great to talk about this with our community.
- That's great.
- We need to get WCCS in there as soon as possible.
- Now the check is no longer in the mail, it's in our bank account, so we can make it happen.

ADJOURNMENT OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

*City Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021
Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Goals and Priorities*

Meeting will be adjourned to the City Council Special Meeting City Council Closed Session Scheduled for Thursday May 20, 2021 at 6:00 pm - (VIRTUAL ZOOM PLATFORM)
Next Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting will be held June 1, 2021 at 6:00 pm - (VIRTUAL ZOOM PLATFORM)

ADJOURNMENT OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Glass adjourned the meeting at 12:30 pm. Meeting was adjourned to the City Council Special Meeting Closed Session Scheduled for Thursday May 20, 2021 at 6:00 pm - (VIRTUAL ZOOM PLATFORM)

Respectfully Submitted:

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

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