

**City Council**

Mayor Patrick Slayter  
Vice Mayor Neysa Hinton  
Una Glass  
Sarah Gurney  
Diana Rich



**City Manager**

Larry McLaughlin  
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**City of Sebastopol**

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
`MINUTES FOR Meeting of December 7, 2021

As Approved by the City Council at their regular meeting of December 21, 2021.

The City Council Regular meeting was held via teleconference pursuant to AB 361.

Please note that minutes are not meant to be verbatim minutes and are meant to be the City's record of a summary of actions that took place at the meeting.

**ZOOM LOG ON INFORMATION:**

Topic: City Council Meeting - December 7, 2021  
Time: Dec 7, 2021 06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

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Passcode: 668129  
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Dial by your location

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**6:00 pm Convene City Council Meeting - Meeting Start Time (ZOOM VIRTUAL FORMAT)**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Glass called the regular meeting to order at 6:11 pm.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**Absent:** Councilmember Patrick 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  
Engineering Consultant GHD Toni Bertolero  
Planning Director Kari Svanstrom  
Police Chief Kevin Kilgore  
Public Works Superintendent Dante Del Prete

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

**COUNCIL PROTOCOLS FOR MEETING:**

City staff read the protocols for the meeting.

- This meeting is being conducted utilizing virtual settings for teleconferencing and electronic means consistent with State of California Executive Orders regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and AB 361.
- Live stream and zoom is being utilized for this meeting. In case of technical issues, meetings will be uploaded to the City web site as soon as possible after this meeting.
- Members of the public may view and listen to the meeting by use of Zoom as noted on the City’s website and as noted on the agenda.
- Members of the public wishing to speak to the City Council may do so during public comment or may comment on agenda items during the discussion of each item and must be logged into Zoom. Live Stream is a viewing only format.
- 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.

**ELECTION OF MAYOR AND VICE MAYOR/MAYOR PRO TEMPORE**

Each year the City Council conducts a reorganization by selecting from among its members a Mayor and Mayor Pro Tempore (Vice Mayor) to serve for the upcoming year. The Mayor presides at City Council meetings and serves as the official head of the City for ceremonial purposes. The Mayor Pro Tempore (Vice Mayor) performs the duties of the Mayor during the Mayor’s absence or disability. This reorganization usually takes place at the first regular meeting in December.

The selection process proceeds as follows:

Current Mayor will ask for nominations for the position of Mayor. To make a nomination, Council members need only state “I nominate \_\_\_\_\_”. Nominations do not require seconds; however, other members may express support of a nomination by making a seconding speech. When there are no more nominations, current Mayor will declare nominations for the position of Mayor closed and will allow public comments, if any. A roll call vote will then be taken beginning with the first nominee. If that nominee receives a majority vote, they are declared the winner and no additional votes are taken on the remaining nominees. If a majority vote is not achieved for any of the nominees, the nomination and voting process will be repeated, voting on the nominees in the order of their nomination, until a candidate has received a majority vote.

1. Message from Outgoing Mayor

**Reference Order Number: 2021-302**

Mayor Glass read an outgoing message as follows:

- I am going to give a little talk about my year as Mayor before we move to electing our new Mayor.
- As many of you in the public know, we rotate the Mayor every year. This past year has been my turn. It is the second time I have been Mayor.
- I want to thank my colleagues and the public for allowing me the honor to serve as Mayor.
- We are really an exceptional community.
- People in our community really care and that they do not always agree
- One thing we know is that the people in our community really care about our community and that is a great thing that we can say about our community
- This was a difficult year but thanks to the support of so many, I got through it and we got through it together
- I really want to thank our City Staff, Larry McLaughlin and Mary Gourley who are the glue that really hold the City together. I want to thank them for their hard work. They are truly public servants. I do not think anyone can begin to know how hard they work.
- I also want to thank my City Council colleagues and the Vice Mayor who have been really there and just working so hard with all of us to make sure that our City is the best it can be.
- I also want to thank the support I get not sitting up here from my daughter and my extended family and from my housemates. My housemates put up with me telling everybody to be quiet because I am sitting on a City Council meeting, They are very tolerant.
- This was another year of COVID restrictions.
- We started this year in lockdown and we have been gradually opening up, but we are still not really completely out of the woods.
- This has been incredibly stressful. I know for me and I am sure for all of you
- Everybody out there has had to deal with the isolation, the fear, the cranky people because we are all tired of not being able to do what we used to do.
- We all just need to come together and listen to each other and work on supporting each other.
- I feel that we accomplished a lot together this year.
- When I started this year, I had a list of things that I wanted to get done this year and I think we got through most of them.
- The first item that I really wanted to move forward with and that started actually during my term as Vice Mayor was reforming and reinvigorating our Police Department.
- There was, as we all know, the incident with George Floyd and the very serious problems that have been coming out more and more about racial injustice and problems in policing.
- I worked to have Jerry Threet come to our City to do a review of our Police Department and our practices. He provided us in the year before I became Mayor a report that was an examination of our City policies and practices and gave us a blue print to move forward. Using that we worked to find the kind of new Police Chief that we felt would really fit in with our City's values and that could bring our Police Department together to do the best job possible.
- I know our Police Department, all our officers, want to be exemplary. They want to do a great job and what our new Police Chief has done is work with that staff to bring everybody together so everybody is working well together in unison.
- I am very proud of what we did there. We moved with being very careful about our policies.
- I think that our job as managers of our Police Department is probably the most important thing that we do as City Council members because in addition to our public safety such as Fire, those are life or death issues, we must do an excellent job at monitoring and setting a good policy and supporting those departments because it is critical to the safety and health of all of our public.
- Not only did we get a new Chief, but our Chief has been moving forward in ensuring that we are adhering to and responding to all of the things put into Jerry Threet's report.

- I am also really proud of our Police Chief working with OpenPolicing.Gov
- We have not yet implemented this but it is a platform that would allow our citizens and Police Department to interface with each other and to get feedback on how we are doing.
- I am very proud of that and that the Police Department took the initiative to put forward the idea that we use the platform and provide our public with the maximum amount of information possible.
- The second thing that was on my list at the beginning of the year was addressing unhoused and homeless issues which had been something that I had been working on for five or six years since I got on the Council
- It is ironic because if you knew me before I was elected, you would know that most of my political work and activist work in the past was about the environment.
- Once I got on the Council there seemed to be such a growing need for the results of what has really been 50 years of bad public policy
- So we have a severe lack of housing in the State of California and because of that and other reasons we no longer have a mental health system. Our health system is just not working well so we have a lot of mental health issues
- As a result we have a big problem with homelessness not only in our community but really throughout the State
- In fact it is not nearly as bad here as it is in some other places
- In response to that, our City, several years ago, initiated something called Park Village which is a village that is for people who are very low income and we added onto that a social worker and a manager to bring in people primarily families who have been unhoused and help them get back on their feet
- We did that in partnership with West County Community Services
- That project has been very successful and it continues to this day
- We also worked with the County a year ago to convert the Sebastopol In into Elderberry Commons which provided rooms and basically apartments for 31 people.
- It is providing housing for people that are COVID vulnerable
- Most of the people there are older and have some kind of medical condition
- This was literally a life or death situation when we managed to get those people somewhere to be
- My goal for this year was to really take the success that West County Community Services had with Park Village and work on taking that out to the streets
- The City Council did fund a social worker outreach position to work with the unhoused
- Because we cannot just respond to the unhoused situation by moving people out, constantly moving them from City to City, which has been a problem in our County, we had to take proactive action
- We funded a social worker to do outreach, to get in touch with people who need services, hopefully find them housing and get them on their way to a more satisfying life
- I am very pleased we got that done this year
- Tonight the last goal I had for the year was to find a safe place for people living in their RVs to park
- We are working on that and that is an agenda item later this evening and we are doing that in partnership with SAVS, an organization that has been at the forefront of working with unhoused people throughout the County
- The next item I had was to make safety a priority
- We really needed to keep our COVID vulnerable people safe
- I am very proud to say that our community, our businesses, have been very proactive in ensuring that people wear masks, ensuring that we support each other in vaccination information and other health information to keep our community safe
- Our City has provided COVID safety information on its website and through other mechanisms for the past two years

- I am very proud of our track record
- We also have funded this past year an emergency operations manual update
- We have just completed the update of the plan which had not been updated in many years
- It was very important to get that accomplished especially given the crazy stuff that has happened in our community over the past several years such as fires, floods, pandemics
- Having a current emergency plan is absolutely essential
- The other thing that we funded and which I am very pleased to say that I advocated for this program being funded several years ago is our Map Your Neighborhood program
- That is getting everybody in the neighborhoods to know their neighbors and know about what to do in an emergency and have everybody ready to support each other when these kinds of emergencies arise
- The City is funding that program
- Skip is the person that we have been funding to work with our Fire Department to train everybody in the Map Your Neighborhood program and train them in how to respond to emergencies
- I am very pleased that we continue to fund that and really got that up to a new level this year with half of these people in town are now ham radio operators
- We are ready for an emergency
- Another item I worked on in 2020 and continued to work on in 2021 is our Gravenstein Health Action Committee
- I have worked to have that organization become a 501 3 (c ) and was on the Board,
- Now we have an organization that is networking together - our public health institutions, our medical institutions, our mental health institutions and various aspects of our community that need activities
- Another thing that we did in the safety area is we stopped selling fireworks in the middle of a drought
- year. That's a really big safety issue.
- We cannot be having fireworks when we're in the middle of a drought. That is an extremely dangerous thing to engage in. Our City Council took the bold move of saying we are just not going to do fireworks anymore because it is too dangerous right now
- We put safety first there
- Another big area that I talked about when I became Mayor was my concern about how to boost our economy and fund our future and make sure our City is on the right track
- I am pleased that our Council budgeted for an initiative called Relaunch Sebastopol which is to help our local economy get relaunched after the COVID situation and also to promote our City so that not only are we becoming a prosperous City, but we have the kind of funding from tax dollars that we need in order to properly support the City
- Another thing that we did was we prioritized funding a financial consultant for the City to help the COVID situation and also to promote our City so that we are not only becoming a prosperous City, but we have the kind of funding from tax dollars that we need in order to properly support our City.
- Another thing that we did was prioritize funding a financial consultant for the City to help us with projecting future revenues and help us figure out how to increase our future revenues
- We also agreed to fund a consultant to help us determine how to best and most economically deal with our Fire services
- We did the first performance review of our City Management in years
- We also got a Civic Sparks person who is a great intern for us for very little money
- We moved forward on funding initiatives to get our City on firm financial footing to find the information we need to properly govern our City finances and our City economy
- The other thing is that our budget process was not working well. It seemed endless last year
- We are moving in the direction now of having a better process

- The first few months of the year we will be making sure the Council is thinking about what new initiatives we are going to do for the year and then figure out what those are going to cost us before we start working on the budget
- Because we have repeated things that happen every year that we need to look at with the budget; however, a lot of time we have new projects we need to do and we need to figure out what they are before we actually agree on what the budget number is for the year
- We have to continue to be the climate action and environmental leaders in the County. We have done that, held that leadership role for years with very proactive actions. We have our Climate Action Committee and Zero Waste Committee
- Back in the old days we were the first to mandate solar in our town. We had Solar Sebastopol
- We have had very proactive energy sensitive and environmentally sensitive zoning rules
- We've always taken on that leadership rule and I'm very pleased we are getting a report from our climate action committee tonight, because I know they are doing great work and that's very important to our City.
- The other important thing we did was we declared a stage two water emergency right on time so that we are conserving our water in the midst of the drought even though it doesn't look very droughty right now.
- We still are in a drought and our water levels county wide are problematic.
- I thank everybody for all of their support and help.
- I thank our public that comes to our meetings and provides us with input and their opinions and their ideas.
- I thank all of the people on our board and how they take times out of their personal lives to contribute to our community.
- These are very important things.
- I just have to emphasize that a lot of the time there aren't perfect solutions.
- As elected people, we know we want to think of a, quote, solution to some problems, and a lot of the time there isn't a perfect solution.
- What we can do is find interim solutions or find the best solutions we can make the best choice of what's
- available.
- That's what we're elected to do.
- So I know people get frustrated with us sometimes and think we don't move fast enough. That's part of the process and sometimes they think we move too fast.
- We do the best we can, and I believe we have a great team here that is working to make our City the green, progressive leader that it is.
- With that, thank you all and thank you to my colleagues.

2. Election of Mayor (Mayor will call for nominations for the Office of Mayor)

a) Nominations Received

Mayor Glass nominated Vice Mayor Sarah Gurney.  
There were no further nominations.

b) Public Comment

Mayor Glass opened for public comment.

Linda Berg commented as follows:

- I'd just like to say that is an excellent choice.
- I think Sarah Gurney will do a fine, fine job as always.
- More than that right now, this City Council needs to have somebody who has experience and the institutional memory of what has gone on with this fine City and the other Councils and Councilmembers before that, especially in the issues of electromagnetic fields and our cancer cluster, which has only gotten worse. There is a Palm Avenue housing due to lack of attention to it
- We need to have more attention paid to the epidemic of Lyme disease and tick borne diseases.
- The point is I think also it appears you've done a fine job.
- That was a very good statement, speech you just made. Thank you for your service.

Gregory Fearon commented as follows:

- Sarah and I served on a couple of other boards.
- I've always been impressed by her ability to cross governmental boundaries to bring collaboration.
- I think that's one of the roles of the Mayor, is you need someone who, first of all, is interested in going to other jurisdictions or at least getting to know people in other jurisdictions where there is shared responsibilities to learn what other people are doing in other places.
- Sarah did an awful lot of that around the coastal protection area.
- I've always been impressed with her.
- So that's what I'm saying, is if you're going to choose a Mayor and those of you who want to be Mayor, learn how to bridge governmental areas.
- We're far away from the time when little cities could do their own thing and never have to collaborate with anybody else and never have to work with the State and the County and the Federal government.
- It's all going to be a collaboration game, more so than it's ever been.
- We need people who are willing and able to do that.

Laura Goldman commented as follows:

- I just want to thank all of you for being great leaders.
- Una, thank you so much for serving.
- Sarah is a great replacement Mayor.
- One of the reasons is both of you come from radio backgrounds.
- We give you a moving divine bovine applause.
- So Sarah you go, we love it.

c) Council Comments (if any). There were no comments.

d) Vote

**MOTION:**

Mayor Glass moved and Councilmember Rich seconded the motion to approve selection of Vice Mayor Sarah Gurney as Mayor.

City staff conducted a roll call vote.

**VOTE:**

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

**City Council Action: Approved selection of Vice Mayor Gurney as Mayor.**

**Minute Order Number: 2021-303**

e) Gavel is transferred to Mayor

3. Election of Mayor Pro Tempore (Vice Mayor) (Newly Elected Mayor will call for nominations for Office of Vice Mayor)

a) Nominations Received

Mayor Gurney nominated Councilmember Rich as Vice Mayor.

Mayor Gurney called for further nominations. There were none.

Mayor Gurney opened for public comment.

b) Public Comment

Shannon commented as follows:

- I would like to make a comment on this.
- It's my first meeting ever on this board of loveliness.
- So my curiosity is that I've been a business owner here for 21 years.
- Someone texted me this is about Morris Street homelessness.
- I didn't know that it was Mayor voting in, Vice Mayor voting.
- So my shock and awe is that, like, there's 73 people on this call.

Mayor Gurney explained the process and that an agenda item on that issue was coming up later in the agenda.

Gregory Fearon commented as follows:

- I'm honored to be able to offer an opinion on Diana
- There's certainly an awful lot of people who I'm sure if they were here would be saying she would be a great Vice Mayor
- As someone who's recently worked with her on a project in your City, even though I don't live in the City, she represented the City really well and she spoke up for all the interests of the City.
- Obviously we as a provider of service, we're trying to put in our interests. They sometimes clashed, but mostly didn't.
- She also spent an inordinate amount of time -- and I thank her for it -- writing half the documentation that normally if you had more staff, staff would have been doing. Actually heard Mary at one point saying if she could she'd hire.
- You've got a really good working Vice Mayor possibility. You ought to take it.

Linda Berg commented as follows:

- I got the land line phone on the floor shielded.
- So I missed who the nomination was. Can you tell me?

Mayor Gurney replied the nomination for Vice Mayor is Diana Rich

Linda Berg continued comment as follows:

- Well, I think that should work out all right.



- Two lawyers. I think that should be very fine.
- As long as I'm here and you've got two lawyers, I'd like to mention the current issue of our PG&E bill has an insert about EMF mitigation.
- It's a must read, especially by lawyers.
- I'd just like to mention my approval.

Laura commented as follows:

- I love your e-mails. I love your community outreach.
- I think you give a sparkle and a get it done kind of vibe.
- I really look forward to you being Vice Mayor and just keep on doing the great work that you do.

c) Council Comments (if any)

Mayor Gurney moved to appoint Councilmember Rich as Vice Mayor.  
There was no second; therefore the motion fails.

Mayor Gurney re-opened for nominations for Vice Mayor.

Councilmember Slayter nominated Councilmember Hinton as Vice Mayor.

Mayor Gurney opened for public comment.

Linda Berg commented as follows

- Now in the case of this, I would object to that position for Neysa Hinton, because she and Patrick Slayter both on the issue of EMF told me years ago separately that it was a matter of my belief system.
- My belief system is now in the U.S. Supreme Court being on the doorstep of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Kyle Falbo commented as follows:

- My question really is more a matter of the theatrics of what we saw take place.
- There was an opportunity for anybody to produce a nomination and at that time there was only one nomination.
- I'm curious why there wasn't another nomination at that time, why we went through a process of public comment as well as a failed vote when there could have been a nomination that happened at the beginning.
- So let's get done with theatrics and move on and get ourselves a Vice Mayor and get to the reason why 75 people are here tonight.

AJ commented she would like to ask if Neysa Hinton is willing to be Vice Mayor.

Mayor Gurney commented the City will answer questions at the end of the public comment period.

Shannon commented as follows:

- Apparently I don't know the rules of engagement so I will hold onto public comment.
- What I think would be more inviting for all of us that are new to the generation of this is like having an invitation instead of a shutdown, like being inquiring and kind instead to have it's not your turn.
- I get it. I unmute myself and when it comes to public comment, I will come back to that.

- The reason why I'm actually understanding that a younger generation isn't here is because like the old school gets to rule the new school.
- It would be much more interesting for all of us if you engage with people who actually live in this town that aren't the people who have been here forever because there's a lot of us.
- I've been here 21 years with a downtown mention. No one mentions that.
- I get it and I know the previous Mayor and I know but it just kills me that the invitation isn't to invite people. It's so stogy and unfriendly.
- Why can't we have generous hearts and be like, oh my God, what's best for the town?
- I don't like what's going on. I've been here 21 years.
- Let's invite conversation instead of being unfriendly. What happened to West County Sebastopol?
- My mom grew up here and she'd always say you can't hang out because she didn't like it.
- Bring generosity of spirit and kindness. This meeting is not inviting generosity.
- I'm 55, but I owned a business here forever that brought a younger generation. Invite kindness.
- Come back to mutuality of what's the lightest place in your heart.

Courtney commented as follows:

- I didn't get to listen to the nomination process or the transfer of Mayor so I didn't speak on that one, so my apologies for coming late.
- In terms of the Vice Mayor nomination, I've had the pleasure of collaborating with Diana Rich and I like what I've seen so far and I would advocate for her position being Vice Mayor.

Martha commented as follows:

- Just quickly really echo what Courtney just said.
- I've been very pleased to be on a Sebastopol neighborhood communications unit, disaster preparedness group at times with Diana.
- I think she'd be fantastic in this role.

Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- As I mentioned immediately and Kyle also mentioned in his public remarks, wouldn't it have been wiser to have all nominations forwarded at the time, as is written in the instructions in our publicly noticed agenda?
- I'm wondering if now we might go to receive all nominations at once.
- Although the earlier motion failed, we have some information about a second nomination.
- I'm wondering if it's possible to call for all nominations again.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- I actually believe that the Mayor sets the process, because the Council doesn't always follow the exact same process.
- I have assumed when there was a call for nominations, that that was a call for all nominations at that time, because you normally follow that with a motion and a second and so forth.
- If you get a second, then the vote.
- To follow that process, I would assume that all nominations would have been made at one time.
- I don't know if that was made crystal clear at the time, but that would have been my assumption.
- Perhaps the best thing to do at this point, Mayor, would be to go back to subsection a and ask for every nomination for this position of Vice Mayor.

Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- That's what our noticed agenda says as well that all nominations are taken at once.
- I did very clearly call for all nominations after I made the first nomination for Diana Rich.
- So as our City Attorney has indicated, we may go back to considering all nominations at one time.
- So I would like to repeat my nomination for Councilmember Diana Rich and go forward to any Council comments on the two nominations that are before us.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I think it would be fabulous to be Vice Mayor.
- I have great respect for Councilmember Hinton.
- She has a fabulous background and has brought historically many, many wonderful skills and value added to the City Council.
- I would really appreciate the opportunity to be Vice Mayor and I think that I could serve in that capacity, especially in combination with Sarah Gurney as the Mayor very effectively to benefit this wonderful little town that we live in.
- But I will, of course, bow to the majority decision here, because I have great respect for all of my wonderful City Councilmembers, including the incredible Councilmember Hinton.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- Just to make some comments as well, I feel the exact same way.
- I think that it's the will of the Council.
- This would be my normal rotation, but of course Councilmember Diana Rich joined us at the same time I was reelected.
- I think there's a lot of really difficult upcoming things we're facing this year.
- I feel like as I've completed my fifth year on the Council that that could be helpful, but I yield to the colleagues.
- I think that leadership within an organization need to be decided on by both our public and our group.
- I will let this process play out and will support whoever fills the role.

Councilmember Glass commented as follows:

- I've really wrung my hands over this situation, and I do feel that it is Councilmember Hinton's rotation
- The other thing is I have been working incredibly hard and Councilmember Rich has really been working incredibly hard.
- I don't know how she could also do the Vice Mayor thing plus all the work that she's doing also.
- I feel like I'm really torn about this, but I felt like it is Councilmember Hinton's turn.
- She's been here for already five years. I feel like it's her turn.
- I feel like Councilmember Rich will get her turn in the near future.
- I don't know how she can slice and dice herself any thinner.
- I'm supporting Councilmember Hinton out of the notion that we kind of rotate this and that it would be her turn.
- I don't want it to seem like a slight to anybody else so I've been wringing my hands over it.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- The City clerk has pointed out that in the paragraph on the agenda that sets the procedure for this evening, this may not have been exactly what I would have suggested following.
- However, in the agenda it sets a procedure for the proceeding this evening.
- It treats the first nomination as a motion and stipulates if there's more than one nomination, you take the vote on the first nomination first.

City Clerk Gourley commented as follows:

- That is how I was reading it, that you take all the nominations and then you vote on the nominations in order.
- If one fails, it goes to the next nomination.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- Since that's written in the agenda, I think you should follow that procedure.
- So as I'm reading it presently, there was a nomination of Councilmember Rich for Vice Mayor.
- There was a motion for Diana Rich. There was no second.
- Following which there was a nomination with Councilmember Hinton.
- I think if you follow the procedure set forth in the agenda, you will first have to see if there is a second for the nomination of Neysa Hinton.
- If there is not a second, then you would take further nominations.

Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- Our challenge was that all nominations were not submitted at the same time prior to asking for a second.
- I would like to disabuse the Council of this notion of rotation.
- There is no such thing as rotation as the last five years of history would demonstrate when Councilmember Slayter and Councilmember Glass and Councilmember Hinton assumed both of those roles.
- So there's kind of a perception that the Vice Mayor does become the Mayor and that things happen in order but it's just not mathematically possible when we elect two people and then two months later elect three people.
- It's not possible to be rotate into a turn given the vagaries of election results.
- So wanting us to follow the City Attorney's advice, I'll take a comment from Councilmember Rich.
- If there are no comments we'll look for a motion in a second.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I just wanted to respond to Councilmember Glass's comment about my available time.
- I am retired. I've demonstrated that I commit absolutely my full time to my Councilmember activities.
- I'm absolutely certain that I can take on the Vice Mayor obligations and continue to do my additional work on this Council.
- So there should be no concern about my ability to take on these duties.
- I would not take them on, as anyone who knows me will confirm, without complete confidence in my ability to do 100% the best job able and commit the time that's needed to do that job.

Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I'm not seeing any further comments.
- I am going to check back directly to the City Attorney as to our next step.
- The first motion for Councilmember Rich failed for a lack of a second.
- We went onto a second nomination of Neysa Hinton.
- We are I believe now looking for a second on that so that we may take the vote. Is that correct?

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented that would be my advice.

d) Vote

**MOTION:**

Councilmember Slayter moved and Councilmember Glass seconded the motion to approve selection of Councilmember Hinton as Vice Mayor/Mayor Pro Tem.  
City staff conducted a roll call vote.

**VOTE:**

Ayes: Councilmembers Glass, Hinton, and Slayter  
Noes: Councilmember Rich and Mayor Gurney  
Absent: None  
Abstain: None

**City Council Action: Approved selection of Councilmember Hinton as Vice Mayor.**

**Minute Order Number: 2021-304**

The motion passes 3-2 with Councilmembers Glass, Hinton and Slayter voting in the affirmative and Councilmember Rich and Mayor Gurney voting opposed.

**Motion for Reconsideration of Item:**

Mayor Gurney congratulated the Vice Mayor and questioned the City Attorney as a point of information, the process for a motion for reconsideration.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- There are rules the motion for consideration can be made by anyone who is voting with the majority on the item that you wish to move to reconsider.
- So anyone voting with the majority on that item can move to reconsider it.
- It must be done at the same meeting.

Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I voted in the majority on the position of Mayor and I would like to reconsider that item and vote on that again.
- Asked the City Attorney what is the next step

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented a second is required for reconsideration.

Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I have been selected as the Mayor and Neysa Hinton as the Vice Mayor and I would like to return the position of Mayor to the will of the Council rather than it be me.
- So who is in charge of this meeting now

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented Mayor Gurney is still currently the Mayor.

Mayor Gurney called for nominations for the position of Mayor rather than herself.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented there would need to be a second to the motion and a successful vote to reconsider the item.

Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I will indicate to this Council in discussion of my motion for reconsideration that I do not intend to be the Mayor this next year in this circumstance and someone else needs to assume that responsibility.
- I have a motion and a second and I understand per the City Attorney I could resign immediately as the Mayor if I wanted to.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented that is correct.

Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- That's how serious this is to me.
- I would like this item to be reconsidered, so one of the other else of you could be the Mayor next year.
- We will have a roll call vote on this.
- If I do not succeed, I will resign.

**MOTION:**

Mayor Gurney moved and Councilmember Rich seconded the motion for reconsideration of the Vote for Mayor.

**Discussion:**

Councilmember Glass requested clarification of the motion.

Mayor Gurney clarified the motion.

- Council is voting on my motion to reconsider.
- I would like the Council to have the opportunity to vote again on the Mayorship, because I want that done tonight to select a different Mayor and in the event this motion does not pass I will resign and you'll be doing it otherwise.
- So please pass my motion and reconsider who's Mayor.

City staff conducted a roll call vote.

**VOTE:**

Ayes: Councilmembers Glass, Rich, Slayter and Mayor Gurney

Noes: Councilmember Hinton

Absent: None

Abstain: None

**City Council Action: Approved consideration of the Vote for Mayor.**

**Minute Order Number: 2021-305**

The motion passes 4-1 for reconsideration. The ayes were Glass, Rich, Slayter, Mayor Gurney and the noes was Councilmember Hinton.

Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I believe we successfully have elected a Vice Mayor and have not selected a Mayor.
- We are back to nominations for Mayor,
- Please do not re-nominate me.
- I need another volunteer to spend the next year as Mayor.
- I'll nominate Patrick Slayter.

Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- Called for other nominations.
- Stated I'm not seeing anyone nominate anyone else for Mayor.

- I want everyone to be careful here and make sure you're doing what you want to do and what needs to be done.
- This is what I want to do and I'm doing the necessary business.
- Is there any other nomination for Mayor?
- Seeing none, then I believe I need a second for the nomination of Patrick Slayter as Mayor.
- Please second my nomination.

**MOTION:**

Mayor Gurney moved and Councilmember Hinton seconded the motion to appoint Patrick Slayter as Mayor.

**Discussion:**

Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- This is theatrics beyond which I've never experienced in all the years I've been Mayor.
- I have to do what I'm doing for my own success next year and this City's success next year.
- I wish my successor good luck.
- I don't want to be the leader when I don't have the confidence of this group to select a Vice Mayor.
- Otherwise, I think it would have been a fine year.

City staff conducted a roll call vote.

**VOTE:**

Ayes: Councilmembers Glass, Hinton, Rich and Mayor Gurney

Noes: Councilmember Slayter

Absent: None

Abstain: None

**City Council Action: Approved Patrick Slayter as Mayor.**

**Minute Order Number: 2021-306**

The motion passes 4-1 for Patrick Slayter as Mayor. The ayes were Glass, Hinton, Rich, and Mayor Gurney and the noes was Councilmember Slayter.

4. Presentation to Outgoing Mayor (Newly Elected Mayor)

The Mayor was presented with an outgoing Mayoral Plaque.

**Reference Order Number: 2021-307**

5. Message from Incoming Mayor

**Reference Order Number: 2021-308**

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- I've had the honor of serving with Councilmember Glass for however many years it is now.
- The work she's done as Mayor is outstanding.
- The work she does for this community is outstanding.
- The work that all of my colleagues do for this community is outstanding.
- This is not our finest hour. In any way.
- It leaves me feeling pretty sour.
- We have a lot of work ahead of us.
- This is going to be quite a year.
- The position of Mayor is someone who runs the meetings, who signs the letters, who sets the tone.

- I'd like to set a tone of professionalism, of collaboration and honestly we're Looking to set a Council retreat and given the occurrences of the last half hour, I think we have some things to talk about.
- We will now move to a quick recess where if we were in person at the community center, we would socialize, congratulate people on jobs well done.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I wanted to take a minute just to recognize our just ended term of Mayor Glass.
- I had the real great opportunity to work with her on the ad hoc committee for the unhoused, and I learned to really appreciate the depth of her commitment and her depth of skill and her incredible compassion for this community, everyone in this community.
- She has a knowledge that will benefit us going into the next year and beyond, hopefully.
- I think we all in this community have experienced the increased quality of life that her leadership has offered us.
- Thank you, Mayor Glass, for all of your leadership.
- I'm really impressed by what you've been able to do over this past year.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- I wanted to make some remarks in appreciation for Una as well.
- We've worked together probably for over 20 years on community issues and City Council issues.
- Being alongside you, I've experienced and benefited from these distinguishing attributes that you have.
- First, when you commit yourself, you really mean it. You work toward your goal even through great fatigue.
- Secondly, as you look out at our community, you see the political landscape very clearly and you're able to figure out the step by step, like what to do next. That's led to a lot of success.
- Third, you treasure your relationship with Sebastopol and with Sonoma County, and that relationship has made your priority and network very for our smaller City regionally.
- Your networking has been a great asset for this community.
- As a Councilmember, Vice Mayor and Mayor, you've offered your own thorough approach and good will.
- I just wanted to thank you for your very generous public service.

Vice Mayor Hinton commented as follows:

- We may not always agree, but we agree on more things than we disagree on.
- You're my neighbor, you're my friend and we've worked together on many committees.
- I really appreciated everything you did this year.
- I know that at times it was a big stretch because there's been a lot to do. But you just were whatever it took. I know that that's always difficult.
- So I appreciate your leadership. I appreciate your advice, especially on things political.
- I go back to the first time we met when I was running for reelection.
- I think you said you'd give me 15 minutes and we were still there an hour and a half.
- So you share your knowledge. For that, I'm grateful.
- So thank you very much.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I'd like to just make one comment.
- I know there have been times when I've gotten upset with people and we have had our disagreements and tensions, but I really hope in light of this evening we can have a retreat and figure out how we can work together, because I'm actually just upset that we're not all working together.



- So I actually even when I really, really, really disagree with people, I always find something or almost always find something that I like about people.
- I just want to express that I do really appreciate every single one of my colleagues and I appreciate all of our staff and I appreciate our community.
- I just hope that we can figure out how to be colleagues and work together.
- Thank you for the kind words.

#### **Recess/Break**

#### **Reconvene Regular Meeting**

Mayor Slayter called for a break at 7:30 pm and reconvened the meeting at 7:40 pm.

**PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS: None**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

The City has received written public comments which have distributed to City Council, appropriate City Staff and posted to the City web site.

Shannan Donovan commented as follows:

- People are still mad about this.
- My question to the panel, I've lived here 21 years, a very successful yoga business that's right next to Screaming Mimi's, what my tick in my brain is like now that my business is shut down via COVID, how do we engage people?
- I'm surprised that there's only 78 people on this call, I'm like what?
- That is mind blowing to me.
- I was busy working before and I'm just like a retired 55-year-Old
- My point is the only reason I logged onto this was about the Morris Street issue and that bull moving up next to where I live.
- Not so privileged I grew up in San Bruno.
- When we pay taxes and when we live here, what I don't want to look at is those trailers that are all men.
- Give some services to women.
- I work at all the churches for donation.
- Women need housing. The men are in the trailers. There's no women up on Morris Street, it's men, men, men, with drug addicts and mental illness.
- Give some women some housing with people at the church that women are in these little ticket shelters.
- You get a tab, you get to stay in the church and you have a kid.
- That's the only reason I'm on this call.
- I didn't even know about the voting for Mayor.
- I don't know anything about that because like I was just in the drudgery of Lyme disease and illness of all kinds of 55-year-Old sorts.
- Thank you for seeing me and hearing me.
- I didn't know about the Mayor vote. I would have known more, but I didn't.
- Like a lot of people in this town, I want to gather the people and understand.
- A panel of 70 whatever, that is not appropriate for this town at all. That is not okay.

Richard Marks commented as follows:

- I live in Samoa, California.

- I'm a regional compliance manager for the construction industry force, and I'm here to observe your meeting.
- It has been very interesting so far.
- CFAC is a nonprofit organization that monitors public works projects.
- I am here to respectfully request that somebody from the Council pull consent calendar item 9 for further discussion later on when the consent calendar comes up, and I will give the floor back to you.

Ben Turner commented as follows:

- I understood there's a question about housing right now and people asking for housing?
- Well, so the homeless, I don't know if we should build housing for them, but definitely I think this town needs more gyms, especially one where people can like I know that when I go to the gym, I like to scream.
- It helps me get my pump on. I think a gym where people are allowed to scream would be a good idea, and the homeless should be like free to go in for free.
- That might motivate them, and we can have bunk beds or something in there to allow them to have a place to sleep at night.
- I think that might be a good idea.
- And I stand by it.

Suzanne Lande commented as follows:

- I started writing an e-mail during the break, but since we're back to comments I'm going to just read it.
- I think very highly of the entire Sebastopol City Council and City staff.
- I've lived here a long time. I really appreciate our town.
- But however, if it can be done without incurring unreasonable expense, please consider future Sebastopol Mayor and Vice Mayor positions to be determined by public vote.
- TI wish I would have thought to say this before there was all the what happened with the people running.
- I didn't think of it at that time, but I just want it on the record that I would like to see public vote.

Kyle Falbo commented as follows:

- Just to speak on what Suzanne's suggesting.
- It has been recommended multiple times to this body of changing our City status to one in which we can have rank choice voting, which would also allow us the ability to do things such as change the voting structure to be voting for Mayor or Vice Mayor.
- It's been recommended multiple times.
- I would highly recommend that as we mauve into a new administration that that administration highly consider the opportunity to change the structure of our City so that we could have rank choice voting moving forward.

Lindsey Kwam commented as follows:

- I was a night nurse. My husband and I are out at night walking our dog.
- We have a good feeling about what's going on around the City. We see what's going on.
- We have a lot of concerns about people living in RVs.
- We had noticed for three years we had a person, Cynthia, who's lived in an RV one block away from us, and we've both seen her do drugs and have all kinds of cars in and out, looked like prostitution was going on and talked to the cops, and they said, well, we can't arrest her. We've checked her out. There was no monitoring. She would move her RV.
- But finally she irritated a neighbor who literally killed her.

- My husband and I were driving by, and we saw her on the ground underneath still alive with her long black hair facing a cop with her arms up, and that was probably her dying, be the shot in the face by an enraged obviously mentally unstable neighbor.
- This was one block away from us at Brookhaven Park with the drug dealing and everything.
- I'm a nurse, and I've taken care of a lot of people with drug problems, and it's a very alarming people would just to shoot up and then they would come into the hospital.
- What was missing in the hospital is there's no medically assisted treatment for people, especially with opioid addiction. Can't really address the meth, that's another problem.
- I'm concerned about when my husband and I drove by and checked the property less than an acre, there just aren't any amenities around it.
- There's a lot of improvement.
- We're just going to park RVs on there, it's going to be a sanitation problem.
- There's a proximity to schools and churches, and last night when we were at Lucky's, we were accosted by a tweaker, if you want to call it that. When I'm a nurse, I can see somebody who's on drugs and asking panhandling. We went down Safeway and he was there too because we were looking for something.
- We are both concerned about how this is going to be monitored
- Everybody knows about Cynthia, but she ended up being murdered. It was a mess. There was prostitution going on and drug dealing. Saw it with my own eyes.
- When you see it with your own eyes and you're a nurse, it's very real, and it is what it is.
- We really don't want a bunch of RVs parking on less than an acre without -- that's not going to help the drug use.
- It's going to create more problems, and it's very dangerous. There's a lot of assaults from people on meth.
- Talked to a City employee who will remain nameless. He said there's a lot of sex offenders there

Mary Ricketts commented as follows:

- We are new to Sebastopol, and I too have been following closely the situation with the houseless people and the Morris Street issue, and I have a question
- As somebody that's new coming into Sebastopol, I wondered what would be some suggestions from the City Council as to though we are new, we are very interested in this City.
- It's a City that I've wanted to live in personally for the last 20 years, and we seem to be branded not true Sebastopolians.
- I've had this remark to my face.
- When I've tried to access information from the police department and from the sheriff's department for Sonoma County, we just seem to be getting like in this loop of being outsiders.
- And most importantly, it's hard to know where to jump in.
- Today I received a fund-raising envelope from West County community services in a newsletter, and I was very pleased to get this newsletter and this information and just would like to be able to get in somehow, even though I'm not a true Sebastopolian.

Mayor Slayter responded to public comments as follows:

- So a few questions came up during public comment, and I'll go in reverse order, suggestions for newcomers and specifically requests for information from the Sebastopol police department was noted, I don't understand what type of information was needed there, but I would say ask again. Our police department is always willing to answer questions of residents. I can't speak for the sheriff's department.
- Other suggestions for newcomers, how they get plugged into the community.

- This is a great place to start. City Council meetings an awful lot of information and what's going on around town is noted here.
- You can contact our City Clerk Mary Gourley and she will put you on an e-mail list and you will get the agenda sent to you and the City of Sebastopol City newsletter.
- It has increased in its frequency during COVID, and I've heard from residents all the time how great that increase in information that's coming from the City.
- There are more really great nonprofits doing wonderful work in this community probably per capita than just about anywhere.
- So it's not difficult to find an organization where you feel like you would be able to fit and take part in the community.
- The comment about homeless services for women and there are zero restrictions on gender.
- You can be of any gender, self-identified or otherwise, and you will receive the same services as anybody else.
- That is actually not legal to discriminate in any way, shape, or form for any of those services.
- The fact that maybe there are more men in the homeless community, I don't have any statistics on that.
- If the advocates want to answer that once we get into some of the demographics when we're talking about the agenda item number 11, that might be good information to share with the community.

#### **STATEMENTS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Conflicts of interest may arise in situations where a public official deliberating towards a decision, has an actual or potential financial interest in the matter before the Council. In accordance with state law, an actual conflict of interest is one that would be to the private financial benefit of a public official, a relative or a business with which the Councilmember is associated. A potential conflict of interest is one that could be to the private financial benefit of a Councilmember, a relative or a business with which the Councilmember is associated. A Councilmember must publicly announce potential and actual conflicts of interest, and, in the case of actual conflict of interest, must refrain from participating in debate on the issue or from voting on the issue and must remove themselves from the dais. **There was no Statements of Conflict of Interest stated.**

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM(S):**

The consent agenda consists of items that are routine in nature and do not require additional discussion by the City Council or have been reviewed by the City Council previously. These items may be approved by one motion without discussion unless a member of the City Council requests that the item be taken off the consent calendar. The Mayor will read the consent calendar items; ask if a Councilmember wishes to remove one or more items from the consent calendar; and then open public comment to the members of the public in attendance. At this time, a member of the public may speak for up to three minutes on the entire consent calendar and request at that time that an agenda item or items be removed for discussion.

If an item or items are removed from the consent calendar, the item shall be placed at the end of the regular agenda items unless otherwise determined by the Mayor or Mayor Pro Tern.

Councilmembers may comment on Consent Calendar items or ask for minor clarifications without the need for pulling the item for separate consideration. Items requiring deliberation should be pulled for separate consideration and shall be placed at the end of the regular agenda items unless otherwise determined by the Mayor or Mayor Pro Tern.

Mayor Slayter read the consent calendar.

Mayor Slayter opened for public comment on the consent calendar.

Mr. Marks commented as follows:

- I noticed that the City of Sebastopol was going to look into amending their City purchasing policies and when I was looking at the policies, I noticed some public contract code that was outdated that was added to this
- Specifically it was item G, you'll see that projects valued at less than \$100,000, that should actually be 200,000.
- Since the City of Sebastopol is part of the California uniform public construction cost accounting act, in your packet it will say that you're a part of the uniform construction Cost accounting act procedures, which is the same thing.
- It's just the updated acronym for that is CUPCA, so am suggesting an amendment to this proposal that has been brought up to take item G and replace it with public contract code 22032, which would go ahead and it would have your public projects that are \$60,000 and lest you'll see that you have on this bid list no bids at \$30,000.
- Actually, belonging to CUPCA and putting this public contract you have up to \$60,000 you can do by purchase order or negotiation, and then you could have an informal bid.
- You have informal bids step from \$30,000 to \$100,000.
- Actually, by adding that code you have up to \$200,000 for an informal bid, and then of course the formal bid wouldn't start until \$200,000.
- This would be in the best interests of the City of Sebastopol by raising the current threshold amounts for these projects, and so I am making a recommendation to the City of Sebastopol replace item X, public projects, paragraph G with the above language of public contract code 22032 to revise and make the City current.
- This is in the best interests of the City. There's nothing but good. It doesn't cost you anything.
- You already belong to it, and so this will help save time, money, and effort by the City, and I did send your Council this suggestion and also to City staff
- So hopefully you'll consider that and maybe bring it back. Label this and bring it back or make that amendment now.

Shannon commented as follows:

- I was just wondering what Patrick Slayter thought about the previous comment.
- That would be something that's pretty important as Mayor.

AJ commented I'm looking at the agenda on the Sebastopol page, and I don't see a consent calendar with a number attached, agenda item number attached.

City staff explained the consent calendar.

Janet commented I'm wondering if the issue of the million plus dollars that was pilfered from the coffer of our taxes from a wire transfer was ever resolved.

City staff commented that is going to be part of the City Manager report later in the evening.

Janet continued with public comment as follows:

- Our taxes are coming up here, and I'm getting a feeling that we don't have any power that you're saying, oh, these things are just going to be done. They're being shoved through.
- I'm wondering maybe all of you out there, what would happen if we didn't pay our taxes.
- Don't seem to be very careful with them, and it's a lot of money

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

City staff commented as follows:

- Staff recommendation would be if we are going to pull the item to do what Council protocols are which would be to put it at the end of the agenda.
- We do have a policy in place that when a consent calendar item is pulled, it would be placed at the end of the agenda, unless it is a very short real fast item.
- I might make a recommendation, Mayor, that we can go ahead and vote on the agenda items.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- I will go ahead and take item number nine off the consent calendar.
- It will move to the end of the agenda.

Mayor Slayter called for a motion.

**MOTION:**

Councilmember Gurney moved and Councilmember Rich seconded the motion to approve Consent Calendar Item(s) Number(s) 6, 7, 8 with Item number 9 pulled from the consent calendar and placed at the end of the agenda.

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

**VOTE:**

Ayes: Councilmembers Glass, Gurney, Rich, Vice Mayor Hinton and Mayor Slayter  
Noes: None  
Absent: None  
Abstain: None

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

6. Approval of Minutes of the City Council Regular Meeting of November 16, 2021 (Responsible Department: City Administration)

**City Council Action: Approved Minutes of the City Council Regular Meeting of November 16, 2021**  
**Minute Order Number: 2021-309**

7. Approval and Receipt of Annual AB 1600 Report. (This report is related to legal requirements for enactment of a development impact fee program are set forth in Government Code §66000- 66025 (the "Mitigation Fee Act") (Engineering: GHD)

**City Council Action: Approved and Received the Annual AB 1600 Report**  
**Minute Order Number: 2021-310**

8. Resolution Authorizing Continued Use of Teleconference Meetings Based on Circumstances of the COVID-19 state of emergency and that the following circumstances exist:
  - a. The state of emergency as a result of COVID-19 continues to directly impact the ability of the members of City Council and the members of the City's subordinate Committee's, Commission's, and Boards to meet safely in person; and
  - b. The State of California and the City of Sebastopol continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing

**City Council Action: Approved Resolution Authorizing Continued Use of Teleconference Meetings Based on Circumstances of the COVID-19 state of emergency and that the following circumstances exist:**

a. The state of emergency as a result of COVID-19 continues to directly impact the ability of the members of City Council and the members of the City's subordinate Committee's, Commission's, and Boards to meet safely in person; and

b. The State of California and the City of Sebastopol continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing

Minute Order Number: 2021-311

Resolution Number: 6387-2021

~~9. Approval of Amended City Purchasing Policy (Requestor: Councilmember Hinton)~~

#### INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS:

10. Informational Presentation – Climate Action Committee (Requestor: Vice Mayor Gurney/Councilmember Rich: Responsible Department: Planning)

Councilmember Gurney presented the agenda item recommending the City Council receive the informational presentation from the Climate Action Committee.

Kenna Lee, Climate Action Committee, made an informational presentation.

Phoebe Golden, Civic Sparks, continued the presentation.

Sunali continued the presentation.

Mayor Slayter asked for questions of staff/presenter.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- This is not a question for the committee but just as a member of the committee I'd like to follow up and thank them for their work, and also say how grateful I am that we have Phoebe on line doing her work.
- I hope you understand that's a very significant development for a City to coordinate with the RCPA in this way of sharing the responsibilities the RCPA is offering office space to Phoebe and the planning director is helping supervise her, and you can see she's working closely with our committee.
- That is quite a collaboration, I'm very pleased to have had a part of it.
- I also want to say the compost giveaway was a huge success.
- Did you see that was in part of the DCW's Corp yard in the Laguna, which otherwise would have been a park.
- I got my compost in a wheel bar row in my teeny tiny electric car.
- I'm looking forward to the future of this committee. They really are dedicated and inspiring to be with.

Councilmember Rich commented I just want to say ditto, great organization, great group of volunteers the climate action committee, thank you for the presentation.

Mayor Slayter opened for public comment.

Linda Berg commented as follows:

- My comment on the climate thing is you all need to look up, you need to look up in the sky
- You need to consider those things that are clearly not clouds that are coming out of the jets that are having a big effect on our climate and also the Earth and so on and so forth.
- As I mentioned before Russia and China openly acknowledge weather modification through better living through modern chemistry and all this stuff that comes out of the jets so but you all probably remember

when China with the Olympics, they said openly, we're going to make it so that we have good weather, and they did for their Olympics.

- So you need to stop looking at the stuff you've been told and start looking up in the sky and doing a little bit of research to consider what is driving this extreme weather, what else is driving it, and so you'll have a better, bigger picture.

Lindsey Kwam commented as follows:

- Been part of another City where they had ongoing compost pile but they had a City wide City owned utilities, and it's a little different here with commercial composting and commercial garbage, and commercial pickup of garbage here
- It's not related to anything that's directly tied into the City, but I like the idea of being able to compost immediately and have it go to a City facility and being able to pick up compost.
- We were able to pick up compost, our own compost, there was a compost facility.
- At the very least I'm really encouraged that I didn't even know about this composting.
- I'm a big composter here. Like once a month we need a big pile of compost or much more frequently because I think a lot of people need this to conserve water, to cover the ground and zero scaping and I think composting we're on to something. I'm really interested with this.
- I'm also very alarmed with the amount of dumping there is of garbage in the area in Sonoma County and I think there's a problem because I find the garbage pickup is very particular about everything, and it just is not easy to unload things like refrigerators or items that nobody wants.
- I felt like this other City that I'm thinking of has certain days, if you wanted to get rid of hazardous materials, if you wanted to get rid of big appliances or big items, just having more days available.
- I don't know what's available. Do they have that here?
- Those are concerns and I'm very interested in following up with this environmental, participating in volunteering, I'd like to see more done. I don't think there's enough done.
- Here in Sebastopol supposedly so enlightened we need more.

Gregory Fearon commented as follows:

- Your committee talked about trying to get money, and I want to point to two sources of money that's coming into Sonoma County.
- One is probably a little too quick for what they're planning is scheduled for, but it's next January and February and March when ARPA funding in about \$52 million for a lot of projects that are related to climate, equity, conservation.
- There's really no rules on what we can spend the money for, and I really want to encourage them if they can and if they can partner with local communities-based nonprofits especially to put together projects that Sebastopol wants.
- Second is build back better. The bill that's being debated in the Senate right now has \$2.25 billion for what they call civilian climate Corp, kind of like the old peace corps wherein they're going to be paying young people \$200,000 a year to spend on being that civilian climate corps.
- It's not going to be coming down the pipe for another year or two, but the committee says they're going to be planning for a year or two at least.
- Let's try to make it so when they get some real projects, they get some real ideas, and they get some real people who want to do stuff, that they'll marry up with the money.

Arthur George commented as follows:

- I just want to thank the committee and the people who have put this report together this evening.
- It appears to be a very comprehensive report.



- It again, positions Sebastopol at the cutting edge of being responsive to the various problems that are confronting the world, the society, and this town, and I wish to note that the sweep of the people who were camping in the Laguna that occurred this summer and an earlier sweep by public works of various toxins that were in the Laguna area were related to climate action and zero waste.
- Seeing both of those linked together in terms of carbon footprint, toxicity, and related emissions, and again, I think it's a comprehensive approach that Sebastopol is taking as to these issues.
- We'll be discussing homelessness later this evening, but I think we need to see that this is a way in which Sebastopol is taking really a global response on a local problem.

City Council Discussion and/or Deliberations:

Mayor Slayter responded to public comments:

- A couple of questions that came up, large item pickup for large items.
- That would be if you need a large item picked up, Recology who is our waste hauler they have a special program with a range of items that they can pick up for a fee, and help dispose of them in an environmentally sensitive way.
- The other thing is about compost availability.
- Discussed SB 1383 and stated the City will be in compliance with that law once it takes effect, and I know that Councilmember Rich knows probably significantly more than I do at this point, probably more than a lot of people at this point about that.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I will add that the City is fully prepared to step up about that.
- It's effective January 1 of 2022, and it does require that compost be removed from landfill and instead be placed into compost.
- So we're trying to reduce those products that are in landfill, increase the percentage that we get into compost.
- So the activity like the compost giveaway is very helpful in that way.
- And there are also some other provisions, but we're good to go, everyone, but if you're really interested, participate in the climate action committee. They're amazing.

Mayor Slayter thanked the committee for the presentation.

Councilmember Glass commented as follows:

- I just wanted to thank the committee for their work and that list of things that they're working on that are basically are task list for the next year or two of what we need to get done to be climate action proactive in our town
- Thank you for developing that list and I hope that moves forward and that as a Council we're going to be able to take action on the work of that committee and the items that they have given or put a list together for us about. We need to act on it.

**City Council Action: No Action Required.**

**Minute Order Number: 2021-313**

**PUBLIC HEARING(s): NONE**

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

11. Discussion and Consideration of Recommendations from the Committee for Unhoused; Approval of Actions Related to SAVS RV Village Pilot Program (Requestor: Committee for the Unhoused)

The Committee for the Unhoused (Councilmember Rich and Councilmember Glass) presented the agenda item recommending the City Council Approve Resolution and Approve Agreement with Sonoma Applied Village Services (SAVS) for RV Village Pilot Program to be located at 845 Gravenstein Highway North.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- I will acknowledge the significant interest on the part of our community about this item, and as few other items that this Council -- or any Council that I've been a part of has discussed, this one is -- I don't want to say it's thorny. It's particularly sticky wicked.
- This isn't a yes or a no kind of an item.
- Obviously it is at the very end, but the range of opinions on this absolutely runs the gamut.
- It is 360 degrees of opinion, and none of them are wrong, and frankly, none of them are right entirely.
- What I would encourage everybody who's here tonight and everybody who will be viewing this in the future, and I trust there will be to keep an open mind and try to approach this from a place of kindness.
- It's not something that anybody is pointedly trying to do to anybody else. That's just not the case.
- I know people who may not agree with positions that have been taken would agree with that comment, but that's the place that I'm coming from.

Councilmember Glass commented as follows:

- I'm going to start out and then I will pass it on to Councilmember Rich, who has done an incredible amount of work on this, and then we will be hearing from our nonprofit partner SAVS.
- But I first want to start out by letting the Council know that the County of Sonoma did approve \$80,000 for the City of Sebastopol to pay for this initiative.
- So this will be funded by a grant, basically, that's being given to the City of Sebastopol by the County.
- Thank you County of Sonoma.
- The Board of Supervisors just approved that around 3:00 this afternoon. Hot off the press, news flash, and that is very good news for us.
- I also want to acknowledge as Mayor Slayter just mentioned there has been really an enormous amount of interest and comment and concern regarding this issue and the committee for the unhoused is working as hard as it can and rapidly as it can to engage the community with this process and get information to everybody about this matter.
- Having heard some of the comments from the public, I have to say that some of the things that people say that have been, they think that everything they say is accurate, but actually, for those of us who are working in this, we find that the nuance and the information about this is not always what we expected it to be.
- So one person commented on getting money to the unhoused who are female and not just men, and actually, Councilmember Rich and I actually spent four hours talking with the unhoused community on Morris Street and meeting those people a few weeks ago, and there are actually a significant number of women in that group.
- I think we all have to understand that there is not one kind of unhoused person.
- There are a lot of different kinds of unhoused people, and as we deal with this issue, we have to recognize that, and we have to work with our partner SAVS and some other organizations that we have worked with to understand that we have to engage with and create solutions to the right populations
- We can't fix all of the problem
- We can respond to a good portion of the problem appropriately, but we to understand that there are families who are unhoused, and thank goodness West County Community Services has been providing trailers and a place at Park Village for people who are unhoused, families to get back on their feet and move on into permanent housing.

- Some of the people on Morris Street are women.
- Some of them have full-time jobs, so those people range in who they are.
- They have different kinds of problems. Some of them are just poor. Some of them have drug issues.
- They've got mental health issues. It's not one kind of person.
- So we need to as we respond to these problems, as we respond to this crisis, we have to respond individually in the way that's appropriate, and we have to be clear about how we do that.
- We have to be keeping in mind the safety of the community and the safety of the people that we are working with to find accommodation.
- So that's what I know that Councilmember Rich has been working on as she has been working with our partner SAVS, foremost in her mind, I know, has been the safety of the community, and also is the safety of any people that move into this safe parking village.
- So I just want to assure you that a huge amount of effort has been put into looking at what could go wrong. What could go right.
- How can we do this the best that we can do it to make it successful, and that our City Council, our unhoused committee is very concerned that we do it well, that we create rules and regulations and aspirations that are going to make this a successful project.
- That's what I'm sure that Diana will be telling you about in a minute.
- What's most important, I believe, is for us to be realistic about what can and cannot be done, and I'm hoping that everybody understands from what Councilmember Rich talks about with her, the operating agreement that she's been working on with our partner, and what SAVS is able to convey to the public, that SAVS is being very realistic about what can be achieved and what can't be achieved.
- The kinds of people that we can serve and the kinds of people we can.
- The only way that we can serve a community that's going to live in an RV village is to find those people that want to participate and want to participate positively, and that's what this is about, creating a positive thing to do about what's an increasing problem in our town.
- So I wanted to thank Councilmember Rich for all the work that she has put into this, and I also want to thank Adrienne Lauby from SAVS and the rest of the SAVS board as well as the advocates, the volunteers that are out there working with our unhoused to resolve this crisis that we're seeing in our community.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I just want to extend my sincere appreciation to everyone who's here
- There's a couple of different import topics here but nonetheless your willingness to be here at almost 9:00 P.M. in order to participate in the process.
- I also want to thank all the people who have e-mailed comments in. We do read all of those e-mails.
- As matter of context, I can tell you that we've received many e-mails regarding situation on Morris, which has become a real problem for the town in terms of safety, health, and public nuisance developments.
- So that piece is out there too.
- There are many, many hundreds of people who have reached out to us about that.
- So tonight we're talking about the MOU that was entered into that was approved by the City Council on November 30th, and I'd like to frame it in that context.
- The City Council has agreed to the MOU with SAVS to operate the RV village.
- What we're talking about tonight is the operating agreement
- I want to just make sure everyone knows that there is a full agreement in that staff report.
- There is an overall multiple page agreement that sets out some basic standards, and then there is an attachment that has the MOU attached
- It's really attachment B that's the meat of it, and it outlines all of the operational provisions.

- I'm going to take just a quick minute to go through some of the provisions because I think it really underscores how much effort there was on the part of SAVS to document their commitment to safety and security.
- I recognize, and I think we all recognize that the primary concerns are safety, security, engagement, and accountability, and that this process has gone so fast that it's been really hard for any of us to come to terms with all of the details.
- I also before I go into that, I think it's really important that everyone recognize that one of the most important pieces here in terms of accountability and engagement is that SAVS is committing to regular contact through a community advisory committee with neighbors.
- The concept here is a commitment that's outlined in the document, and I'll tell you where the provisions are.
- A commitment to neighbors, to meeting their needs and to the school, to meeting the school's needs, and then in order to implement that obligation meeting regularly with those representatives, initially it will probably be SAVS will work with them, probably weekly but ultimately monthly.
- They have a very robust disciplinary and accountability policy that is displayed in their operations manual.
- SAVS will be doing a presentation for us in just a few minutes, so I'm just going to do the overview.
- That's where the specific provisions show up.
- The highlights really are a reporting obligation that is substantial, and that's where it starts out.
- think that's important for everyone to understand. There is a quarterly report required here from SAVS that's a written report that goes to the City Council that will be presented by SAVS. It includes a bunch of different very specific data items on enrolled individuals, a statement containing descriptions of security incidents. Reports of conflicts or complaints, challenges related to the physical area, narrative description of the ongoing development of programmatic factors, status of any issues reported. Again, it also requires incident reports.
- Everyone here needs to understand that. There is an obligation for an incident to go to the City Council.
- There's been some concerns raised about registered sex offenders.
- That's a really difficult phrase to even say, but registered sex offenders will not be permitted in this RV village, nor will regular visitors, and there's a system for reporting back about that.
- The other issue that's come up is basic neighbor relations.
- You'll see in this document a number of provisions that state specifically an obligation by SAVS to meet the needs of neighbors and of the charter school.
- As to the Charter School, there is an obligation to stay off of their property, and to the extent that there is an issue regarding their property, then that will be dealt with within the SAVS disciplinary process.
- There's an essential security piece, which is 30 days, 24/7 and then every night, but you need to read the fine print. The fine print says that to the extent that the community advisory committee wants more security, SAVS will address that need and the City has the opportunity to insist.
- So there is enforcement that is happening here, and there will be oversight.
- There is a curfew that is set up. I think that's really important for everyone to know.
- There are also in terms of designated contacts, please know this 24/7 phone anyone in the community, it will get answered by a person who is there at SAVS on site.
- The complaints will be dealt with through their internal process. SAVS will have the final say.
- You will see a commitment to rules and regulations, and you will see a commitment that's reflected on the part of the ad hoc committee in terms of responsibility to this community.
- The compassion here is for the entire town.
- The reason this is being pushed forward as Councilmember Glass pointed out is in order to make it better for all of us, in order to address all of the needs, the issues, the theft that we have been seeing develop throughout town.

Mayor Slayter discussed the process for the agenda item.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I just want to point out that there might be an opportunity here. I'm not sure when you want to do it.
- But I know that our planning director is present with us and that she was prepared to address the appropriateness under CEQA of the use of this property.
- I want to leave that with you and make sure that everyone knows that SAVS is hosting a meeting on Thursday, the 9th, and I'm sure they will come back to that.
- But this is their first big effort to make sure they reach out to the community.
- That Thursday, the 9th, I think we need to say that repeatedly, the date, the time and the location.
- It is at the community church at 6:00 P.M.
- Because of the level of interest and our understandable concern about COVID it will be by zoom.
- It is not a good time in terms of COVID. SAVS has decided to make it A zoom meeting,
- It is 5:00 P.M. on Thursday, the 9th as a Zoom meeting.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- I will ask staff to make sure that whatever zoom information needs to be made public and that it is prominently displayed in our City Website and whatever other channels.
- Discussed an update from the Planning Director after the presentation

SAVS presented a slide show presentation to the Council and community.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I wanted to emphasize something that Adrienne offered here, which I think everyone understands is a value added piece here.
- We had a conversation with the wonderful executive director of the Charter School.
- And one thing he asked specifically was he described an incident a number of times when he's had issues involved -- obviously not involving the RV village because it is not there, but unhoused who were on his property, on the school's property and he went through just this maze of efforts to try to figure out who to call to get some assistance.
- This person happened to be on the trail, which is Sonoma County parks property.
- So that was their jurisdiction leaning against the school fence. And he tried calling the sheriff. They are in the county, the school is. The sheriff said, no, that's not us.
- It is a parks property issue. He called there and he left messages. He got nowhere.
- Adrienne said and offered to do, it is incorporated into the agreement was to actually act as a resource for the community so that if someone calls to the RV village on the 24/7 phone number, Hector would have every right to say everyone who is in residence here is present so that's not our person.
- She said we will step up. We know the unhoused community. We're very effective at addressing these problems. To the extent that we can, we will be responsive. We will go out there and deal with that person and help make the phone calls.
- I want everyone to recognize this is stepping way beyond the essential.
- An act of good faith that takes advantage of their skill set.
- I want to make sure on a very concrete level in the agreement that everyone understands that this agreement has specific teeth to it.
- It does have provisions that require maintaining relationships with the neighbors and the community at large are an obligation.

- That they talk about participating in the community advisory commission.
- There is a process for addressing concerns. Major concerns go to the disciplinary procedure.
- It will be referred to the disciplinary or grievance system with the results consequences including possible expulsion.
- The City's enforcement opportunities.
- In the contract itself on page 80, it says that SAVS has to perform the services, quote, in a manner satisfactory to the City.
- So the City, your City Council, your City staff has the opportunity to oversee what is happening and step in. Our hope is that it won't be necessary, but we're here for you to do that if necessary.
- The agreement state if SAVS doesn't meet its obligations to the manner satisfactory to the City, then the termination of the agreement.
- Problems go to the community advisory committee or directly to the village manager depending on the seriousness.
- Then it tries to be resolved within their system there.
- Ultimately goes to the SAVS board, but if the SAVS handling of the situation is not satisfactory to the City, the City does have the power to terminate the agreement.
- Just from an empowerment perspective, you have an operator that is trying to do everything to make this a success, working with people they know.
- They know this population in order to make it successful. They are invested.
- You have a City Council that will keep an eye on things and we all have to work together.
- The community, these are collaborative people.
- I'm hoping if there is one message that you take away from the presentation tonight, they want to meet with you.
- This is what they do best. They will be responsive.

Mayor Slayter requested the Planning Director provided a description of the analysis of CEQA and the zoning ordinance and all those regulation questions that are out there.

Director Svanstrom commented as follows:

- Th use is a homeless shelter, which is a permitted use.
- The site, 845 Highway North, that's proposed is located in the General Commercial Zoning District, and homeless shelters are an Allowed Use in that zone.
- In fact the State of California actually required cities to provide provisions for lands for homeless shelters.
- So we did update that and added that to our code several years ago.
- If they simply wanted to open it as a nonprofit, there would be no hearing here tonight or no meeting here tonight.
- It would be simply a ministerial, or staff level, approval as an allowed use.
- We call that administrative approval.
- They simply need to adhere to the requirements of the zoning ordinance.
- I have been in touch with Councilmember Rich and the Committee for the Unhoused in terms of setbacks from the property lines and these types of things so and it will be consistent with the zoning ordinance.
- However, it would also be Exempt [from CEQA] because the City has been declared a Shelter Crisis and a Homeless Crisis and under the Government Code, section 8698.4, when you declare a shelter crisis under state law it exempts any action taken by a City to lease or to facilitate the lease of a couple ambulance of land or provide financial assistance to a homeless setter being used exclusively for homeless individuals.
- So that does apply to this.

- It also would qualify for temporary use exemptions categorically that allow for City involvement in operation, financing and as well as temporary use of existing parking areas, which is how we would exempt a community church that has a program as a temporary use of an existing parking lot.
- So there is a number of things. .

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I just wanted to clarify.
- It sounds like there are a number of different grounds for allowing this use, but the primary one that I'm hearing is that the property is, in fact, zoned for this use.
- Therefore, it is a ministerial approval, staff level and CEQA does not apply.
- They would pop in there and become important only if it were discretionary use.
- Is that basically it?
- So even without all these other exceptions, without the emergency declaration by the City without the temporary use, even if we didn't have an emergency declaration, didn't have a temporary use, this use would be within our zoning rules, would not require CEQA.

Director Svanstrom stated yes.

Mayor Slayter asked for questions of staff/presenter.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- It is not necessarily that they don't apply.
- It is that it's already been vetted through the General Plan process and the approval of our General Plan is where this categorically fits, I believe. Is that correct?

Director Svanstrom commented yes.

Mayor Slayter commented our general plan has the “big initials” Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that analyzed all of the various things the City -- the land uses in our General Plan and the following zoning components of it are analyzed by tiered off of that.

Director Svanstrom commented as follows:

- In order for it to be zoned in this fashion, it was vetted for purposes of CEQA and all other factors to allow it to be zoned within our City.
- If it helps to illustrate, in 2016 there was a mixed use project proposed for this site and actually approved.
- I did go and look at those to see if there was any significant elements as part of that file.
- It was a mixed use projects that was 11 units and 12,000 square feet of commercial space. so it was a fairly significant project. It is a pretty large project just in terms of if people can't wrap their heads around square footage.
- That is an allowed use as well, and that was also determined to be categorically exempt from CEQA.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- I also needed clarification about the meeting that's coming up Thursday.
- What I understand, I want to make sure I have it right, is that is a meeting that SAVS is running and sponsoring.
- In other words this is not an official meeting of the Council. It is not a publicly noticed meeting of the Council.

- We're just helping with publicity to make sure our community knows about it. Is that correct?

Mayor Slayter commented that is correct.

SAVS commented as follows:

- That's correct. It is our meeting.
- Two members of the ad hoc offered to come.
- But it is our meeting and we're reaching out to the community to have these kinds of discussions.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- It is important to clarify the rest of us, the other three Councilmembers if we do attend we cannot participate in any way because of the Brown act.
- I had another question about immediate expulsion.
- I saw you included drug dealing but I was hoping you would mention something about drug use/witnessed drug use.
- What is the policy about that if you go over that again, please?

SAVS commented as follows:

- Sebastopol has a law against public drug use, so that will be enforced within the village.
- People will be doing whatever they do in the privacy of their RVs.
- That is not our job.
- We are treating them as adults. Our model is behavioral model.
- So I'm sure you all know there is such things as functioning alcoholics who do fairly well, but sometimes you can't handle the alcohol.
- You make a big fight or outburst and that lands you in the disciplinary process.

Councilmember Gurney commented am I understanding correctly that your answer to public drug use was that you would call the police department? I wonder who the first response will be.

SAVS commented as follows:

- Certainly the staff would immediately be involved.
- They will get there and see it.
- I wish I had an answer for this, but I don't know yet.
- We will work it out and tell you in about a week or.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- It might be helpful to know by Thursday's meeting.
- I have heard a lot of comments that assume active public drug use on the site that's going to be a problem and spill out into the neighborhood and the trail, et cetera.
- So I think we have a head's up on that issue for you if you can work on it.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- The number of vehicles is noted on page 2 of 50 for the staff report. Accommodate 20 to 22 lived in vehicles on the site.
- The numbers seem to add up when I run through the math on the ratio that is outlined on page 106 in my packet.
- Basically according to the ratio that I see here is that there is roughly a 3:1 ratio.



- So it's either three vehicle -- three cars or one RV. It is on page 3 of the SAVS document.
- This will be my very next comment where the large body of the document seems to be geared for a Santa Rosa project and I found it to be kind of confusing because I had all these questions related to the document that seemed like it was formatted for Santa Rosa.
- Most of them were answered in the addendum.
- So I think there needs to be some sort of cohesion between the appendix and this.
- So on page 3, estimating two acre lot to contain approximately 25 RVs and 25 cars.
- So the 25 RVs are noted at an acre and a half. And 25 cars at half an acre.
- So if the Sebastopol site is 0.95 acres and then I ran through the calculation I come up with 12 RVs and 12 cars at that ratio.
- So is it necessary to memorialize a maximum number for the agreement so that it doesn't turn into sardines in a can?

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- Just to identify the primary document, the SAVS operation manual, that is their general document.
- The site specific provisions say to the extent there is anything inconsistent, the site specific provisions prevail.
- But they are clear about the number of vehicles, and they state there that it's 20 to 22, as I recall. 35 people max.
- The point where it says how many vehicles, which is in the site specific provisions.
- Addendum was agreed that if we were going to expand it all we would be doing it only with the permission of the City staff.
- So it did leave it somewhat open ended in the document but SAVS has agreed that we would add a provision that said that the last sentence in that provision allows for the expansion of additional RVs.
- We are adding a sentence that says subject to approval of the City.
- At the moment it is at the number of vehicles -- it is page 40 of 50 in the staff report and it identifies paragraph one is number of vehicle and up to 35 residents
- It says they have built the capacity to build more residents.
- Number of vehicles and residents will not be greater than what's approved here.
- I also wanted to identify for the speaker who commented before on this topic that you are raising, which is the size of the lot.
- The lot that was being considered, believe it or not in the public works storage yard was a half-acre for these 20 or 22 vehicles.
- It was shockingly they could actually accommodate that with all their support vehicles.
- So this acre is substantially larger and quite roomy

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Moving on to my next question on page 27 of 50 in the full staff agenda item. Page number 9 in the SAVS document. Neighborhood relations.
- Weekly teams of village residents will do litter pickup of approximately four blocks.
- Given the location and the length of blocks, I don't know if that needs a more formal boundary.
- Maybe there is a map posted for the community that shows the area approximately four blocks and four blocks up there you can be halfway to by the time you get to the third block.

SAVS commented I think that's one of the things you would work out with the community advisory committee.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- The next sentence in bold, no one will be allowed to linger in the neighborhood outside the village.
- I think that that is a significant community concern
- If you have a short answer this evening that is great but I think a much longer answer for the community would be appropriate on Thursday which is at 5:00 P.M on Zoom.

SAVS commented as follows:

- It is one of the rules so people sign it when they come in. It is one of the agreements they have to agree to.
- If it is a problem or if other people say, hey, I saw Danny again outside that empty CVC. He was there again.
- Then it gets referred to the disciplinary process.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Concerns over spillover encampments. That is a significant amount of my e-mail.
- There are some properties, and you just mentioned one of them, the large parking lot and direct adjacency.
- How will the City be able to establish that?

SAVS commented as follows:

- I can't answer the legal, but I do want to say again that what I said at the first meeting, we are not going to be attracting people because we are not going to offer anything to people.
- We are not having an open pantry or open food, but a dinner every day.
- We are going to be limited to the people who live in the village.
- We will cooperate in whatever way we can to try to avoid this overflow problem, but I don't think it's going to happen.

Mayor Slayter asked City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin to speak to the legal ramifications.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- Primarily the police chief and I are working on an outline of proposed parking changes in various places in the City, which would include highway 116 near this site to try and avoid what you are referring to.
- Those parking suggestions, changes will be coming to the City Council at the City Council's December 21 meeting later this month.
- That's when we intend to address those.

Mayor Slayter commented it's not illegal to be homeless, but how do non-vehicular encampments within the City, how are those addressed?

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- We address those on a Case-by-Case basis.
- We have already had a large effort by City and county working cooperatively with each other in the Laguna area because of the fire threats to do a sweep out there. It was very well organized.
- I don't know of other encampments right now, but when we get reports of those we address them individually.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- In a few places this is about reasons for folks being asked to leave.

- And that phrase is, I noted a few times throughout the document, asked to leave.
- Yes, we're asking them to leave, but we're also kind of evicting them.
- We're telling them to get out because they're not following the rules.
- And I would like to see that a little bit more definite in the language.
- I'm looking at page 11 in the SAVS agreement in the big underlined bold in the middle of the page.
- Will be asked to leave the premises immediately.
- I think that should read something like evicted from the village immediately or law enforcement will be contacted.
- I think it really needs to have a little bit more teeth in there.
- I will leave that to staff and SAVS to figure out. But I think that just making that really firm I think is important.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- Just wanted to point out that the agreement does include at the beginning under preliminary provisions, one of the preliminary provisions in that same section where we see the reporting obligations for instance identifies a series of documents that SAVS is required to submit to the City and one of them is a summary disciplinary policy that identifies all of those variables that have to do with just boils it down to one or two pages.
- What are the rules? What are the consequences?
- Because it does appear in various points in the document.
- Then the other piece I point out is that there are very explicit statements that say that those activities will result in eviction, but clearly it needs to be clarified.
- Regarding another couple of the questions you had earlier just wanted to point out that the fact that SAVS has volunteered to be a resource on broader issues, problems related to the unhoused I think will help address the spillover issue.
- I have seen them in action on Morris Street when there was a concern reported specifically by Green Acre homes about a particular RV and the advocates in SAVS stepped in very quickly and had conversations with that RV owner and the RV owner who had probably, although it hadn't been confirmed, had probably been unpleasant with Green Acre Homes, left.
- So we have their skill set and we know they're projecting their interest and their project.
- As Adrienne said, although they're kind, they've got structure.
- Between SAVS and potentially St. Vincent de Paul, that's a pretty high horsepower group of organizations.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- We have addressed the registered sex offender and I would say to anybody who has that concern go to the Megan's Law website in the state of California.
- You can type in any address and see where the registered sex offenders are in your current status.
- So that's an interesting and educational process to go through.
- Regarding motor vehicle operation, and I'm on page 12 of the document, SAVS accepted policy conforms to housing first.
- Individuals referred to SAVS parking sites must meet the following criteria.
- Applicant's vehicle must be in operating order or registered as not operational with the California Department of Motor vehicles.
- You can have a vehicle in operating order.
- It doesn't say anything about operational vehicles being registered legally with the state of California.
- I can get that that's what it means, but it doesn't really say.
- If it is registered as nonoperational, must have automobile insurance.

- Registration if you are not operational is not -- it's non-operational status. It is not currently registered.

SAVS commented as follows:

- Just to be clear, the intent is we see people's vehicles that they're living in as dwellings, so we're not going to say they have to be registered.
- It is an enormous cost.
- They're not driving them around. But we will be wanting their documents to be Up-to-Date.
- And any vehicle that they use, and I know some people are concerned about this, vehicles they use for transportation for going around and doing their rounds during the day, those will have to be registered with a valid driver's license.
- The wording may be confusing, but that's the intent of it.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- There are one day moving permits to get vehicles to the site and not incur that.
- I just want to protect the general public with following Department of Motor vehicle regulations as much as it pains me to say that.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- Do you think in the site-specific provisions which is in page 43 of 50 in this document there is an outline.
- So it says lived-in vehicles must be in operating order or be registered as not operational with the California department of motor vehicles.
- It goes on to say transportation vehicles, vehicles used for transportation must be operational, registered with the DMV and have automobile insurance.
- The resident drivers must have a current driver's license.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- That's getting closer.
- As somebody who has had non-operational vehicles because they have been dismantled or temporarily dismantled to be reassembled, I have been there.
- I know what the nonoperational status is.
- I'm thinking I might have a little insight.
- We can clean that up. I don't think it is a big statement.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Section 12 - recreational fires.
- I think the word recreational should be struck there.
- It's page 35 of 50.
- Fire and Safety Plan
- It just needs to read no fires.
- Page 38 of 50 at the very top of the page, modification of SAVS operation manual section 14.
- Modifications to this manual may be made upon a majority vote by the SAVS board of directors.
- It will be applied to any contractors of SAVS services.
- That sounds contrary to what was said about the Sebastopol City Council having a voice in this manual.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- The response would be that the site-specific provisions prevail.

- Those do say that there is provisions for being able to modify it but only with consultation and agreement.

Mayor Slayter commented I think it's good to be able to modify it, but just to also clarify that maybe made by a priority vote and to the Sebastopol City Council.

Councilmember Rich commented I think it is in our basic contract that whole thing about what modifications could be asked the following questions to the City Manager/Attorney:

- This is probably a question for our City Attorney, which is we have an agreement, an overall agreement that's very specifically about this situation about this contract and it has attachment B.
- Within attachment B there is the SAVS manual and also within attachment B are the site specific provisions.
- The question for our City Attorney I think, is this document acceptable without modification?
- If there are inconsistencies in the operations agreement but in the primary document and the site specific provisions stating that they prevail, those are acceptable terms, can we leave the document as is?

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- We have a general document embedded here that has provisions that are not specifically applicable to this site but the provisions that are specifically applicable to this site state that they prevail.
- To me the fact that the site-specific provisions prevail is adequate protection for the City.
- There are things in the basic operations manual that are for SAVS own use and it is obvious that's what they're there for.
- Their own internal program assessment and their own tracking program to achieve the SAVS long-term goals as an organization, those obviously don't have any direct bearing on the operation of this site.
- That's why the site-specific provisions prevail in this situation.
- The only problem you get into is if you have two provisions that seem to relate to one another and it's not clear which one prevails over the over.
- We don't have that one in this because clearly it is separated out and it's its own particular section and it is stated that it prevails in the event of any conflict.
- So I just don't think the issue here developing.
- It would have to be an issue of interpretation and I don't have any problem interpreting this agreement to see which parts prevail on this particular site and which are more general and relate to SAVS own operation.

Councilmember Rich commented I would point out, you probably know this Mayor Slayter on but page 38 of 50 at the beginning of the site specific terms, as our City Attorney was pointing out, these provisions supersede any conflicting provisions in the SAVS operations manual.

Mayor Slayter called for a break at 10:11 pm and reconvened the meeting at 10:19 pm.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Due to the late hour and the precedent set at the previous meeting, I believe we had a 90 second, a minute and a half public comment for the public meeting.
- That is what we did last time
- We'll go ahead with that due to the late hour, and I will encourage everyone, I know it is hard to stick with that minute and a half and I apologize if you have prepared a three minute thing.

- Please send it to us in an email and we will read it and consider it just as though you had said it this evening.

Mayor Slayter opened for public comment.

Jen Vertz commented as follows:

- I prepared a three-minute thing and I want you to read this before the vote, how can I do this in a minute 30.
- I think it is fair to hear people out. I think people have something to say, right?
- I'll read half of it if you want and I will e-mail it to you guys right now.
- You had three minutes on the calendar all night. You rushed all of this through.
- I think it would be appreciative for people to have a little bit of time.
- I will skip a whole bunch, but I've got some good stuff in here. You are missing out.
- I'm a homeowner less than a half mile away.
- I support finding the right resources but I was not contacted by anybody, especially how close I was.
- I only found out about this in a planning department report where I am a public servant for the City of Sebastopol.
- I keep Up-to-Date on all City information but this happened so rapidly during Thanksgiving week when I was away with family is unfortunate.
- I think you guys can do better and make this happen in a little bit more of an open way.
- After listening to the meeting I was taken back by the negative comments and you guys moving forward with the MOU.
- I took the day off today to spend with the residents on Morris Street to see their side view before I actually made this opinion to voice with you tonight.
- I met up with many people. They're safer on the street. They did not know about the rules in the RV park.
- I talked to all of them about it.
- Council woman Hinton said the places are the same.
- I know this is really hard to say. They're not the same.
- Morris Street is not the same
- This is super unfair.
- Here is the car where they were dealing drugs all the time. Here's all the people. They're all there.
- I spoke to all of them today. So there is women out there.
- B you guys not giving us the time to even be able to speak about this it is really upsetting.
- I am urging you to not approve the operational tonight.
- It is unfair to go forward with this without hearing about.
- Diana Rich, you can smile all the way through this.
- I wish I could read you better. It is upsetting for you to smile through this. I'm upset.

Courtney commented as follows:

- I would like to comment that I fully support the SAVS proposal.
- I think that it's great.
- I think it is really easy to complain about homelessness.
- I think it is really easy to point fingers and blame and say I don't want it in my backyard.
- What's harder is doing the research, is collaborating, is understanding the situation and problem solving.
- And I think that the director of SAVS is that.

- We have someone who is willing to take the responsibility for these vulnerable people, and I think we should
- I just fully support doing it.
- I think it is humane.
- I think homelessness is a humanitarian in crisis in Sonoma County.
- In 2018 there was a decision by the U.S. Court of appeals for the ninth circuit regarding the court case Martin versus the City of Boise.
- The ruling held that cities cannot enforce anti-camping ordinances if they do not have enough homeless shelter beds available for their homeless population because it violates a homeless person's eighth amendment.
- The eighth amendment prohibits cruel and unusual punishment.

Suzanne Lande commented as follows:

- I'm one of the people, the volunteers who has been on Morris Street often nearly every day of the weeks.
- Many people see me. I'm also around in Sebastopol.
- Anybody is welcome to talk to me whether a shelterless person or a resident. I will listen to you.
- I may not have the right thing to say back, but I will listen at least.
- I will go to the RV village, the new one. There is a lot of staff now. Sounds like excellent ones.
- So I might be there a little less, but I will go as much as is wanted, and I spend time with people.
- I'll listen.
- I still maintain my RN license and sometimes it is useful, even though I'm retired from working.
- I wanted to mention Jennifer Lake who was brought up who Sebastopol City pays for her through West County Community Services.
- Although she's not technically a social worker, she does social work and she will be doing that for people in the village, too.

Chris Topham commented as follows:

- This is the executive director of Sebastopol Independent Charter School.
- First want to thank Adrienne and Diana for meeting with me. I appreciated that.
- I look forward to meeting with you again as we prepare for our school town hall meeting next week.
- You received a letter from our legal counsel.
- It's on the behalf of the school board of directors of Sebastopol Charter from our board meeting last night.
- The intention is to set this homeless RV village up for success from our point of view.
- We have given you through our attorney's specific things we would like to see included in the operational agreement.
- So we really hope you will take it seriously.
- I did share that letter with our school community today so they all know what our school board of directors have in the past through our attorney.
- I hope you will take a look at that and discuss our concerns and our suggestions for you to include.
- Thank you so much for your time and again I look forward to working with Diana and Adrienne and wish this for the best success.

Kate Haug commented as follows:

- Thank you for taking my public comment.

- My questions involve people who are currently RV camping on Morris Street, Palm Avenue who did not accept service because they do not want to.
- What happens when someone refuses the RV village? Do they stay in the street?
- If someone is evicted from the RV village, where do they go?
- What happens to people who do not qualify for the RV village because they are registered sex offender or have other disqualifications.
- There are more RVs and car dweller in Sebastopol than spaces at the RV village.
- What happens to the rest of the vehicle dwellers? What is the plan for those who do not go to the RV village?
- The issues of theft, drug dealing and petty crime won't be addressed if there is still people living illegally on our streets.
- The people who accept are most interested in community self-help and participation in a rule-based society.
- I know SAVS wants this to be acceptable. Yet, they are only responsible for the RV inhabitants.
- Who is responsible for the rest of the people living on our streets?
- The inhabitants of the RV village will be in case management and most importantly they want to participate in the RV village.
- What about the rest? Who is responsible.
- Council needs to take responsibility for the remaining people who are living on our streets.
- We need RV permit parking.

Barbara Lee commented as follows:

- Thank you to the City Council, the City staff, chief and West County Community Services.
- I'm a volunteer with SAVS.
- I have also had many other years of experience working in nonprofit settings.
- In my view SAVS not only has the technical tools and ability to provide 24 safe parking but will provide the wrap-around services required to help persons reintegrate back into the community.
- I would ask those who are opposed to let's not demonize or scapegoat the people living on the street living without a home.
- With regard to the narratives we use and spread around, how they are perceived, let's change that and look a little deeper.
- What we don't see are the struggle, the underlying issue that have brought people living on Morris in their trailers.
- I see genuine concern for each other for the people who live there and we're living in times that are asking us to expand our humanness.
- There is nothing more needed right now than someone who is willing to go out of their way to make life a little more beautiful for others.

Lindsey commented as follows:

- I agree with Jen with the points she brought up.
- I appreciate hearing the flowery language and positive thoughts about this project, but for instance, the guy that delivered all the drugs to Cynthia and got shot in the head in an RV right down the street from us, he's driving up and down Morris Street.
- He's ripping off people. I know that for a fact. He has done that.
- We have mail theft. We have car break-ins. We have violence
- I know that from being a nurse.



- Mary Isaacson turns out a lot of street and it's a mess.
- There is a lot of people creeping up the streets checking the cars.
- There is a lot of package theft. There's a lot of violence.
- I had a patient that literally got beat up from somebody -- another homeless person.
- These are people who are drug addicted with mental health issues.
- It is a different thing they have a mental health issue.
- We will be mixing people with substance abuse issues.
- I don't hear any remedies to the substance abuse.
- There is no specific care. This is really a specialized care.
- You are only getting \$80,000 from the county and you have an acre and you are going to shove people on there and it sounds like a lot of people to me.
- I have a couple neighbors who are afraid for their own children. They are young people.
- The only people pushing this through are old people with gray hair and post-menopausal is what I'm seeing.
- We are missing the young people of this community to add their voice because they're really afraid for the children.

Oliver Marks commented as follows:

- So incredible that you are giving the general public 90 seconds.
- It's an outrage. It is so out of touch.
- You're describing this project which you are clearly going to vote through as like a Disneyland for homeless people.
- It's absolutely surreal.
- But more importantly we're supposed to be having some sort of serious debate and parking permits to actually go with this RV that I haven't heard anything at all about tonight.
- A lot of the people on the school are not on the school are not here because it is much too late.
- You spend hours and hours going through the tiny details of this manual you are all clearly very pleased with when you vote this thing through without any respect about the local community at all.
- It is astonishing.
- It is very similar to this time last year.
- We were sure there would be regular community meetings and a lot of happy talk and by this spring of this year all of it is just amazing.
- So I think it's critically, critically important that you actually start to take the RV permits issue very seriously indeed because this is poorly thought through and a Disneyland village of being very, very nice for a tiny number of people and ignoring all the other homeless people.

Martha commented as follows:

- I have worked with Adrienne in the past and I respect her intelligence and her activism and her commitment to treating people well.
- Of course the SAVS project can't do everything for anybody.
- It can help people within that particular boundary and the boundaries including the security provisions and everything that's been named.
- It is a drop in the bucket, but it is definitely a drop that needs to happen.
- But I do want to speak to Jen and the other people who feel rushed and Oliver feel pushed through this and I feel this way, too, with the issue of the water meters which we'll come back to
- But I think we do need to expand our humanness now.

- We're still in COVID and I think we need more tolerance and patience and kindness and having this sprung on people who are busy with their holidays and holiday plans, I think the City is trying to rush through too many things that are too important too fast and I don't understand why and I know there is money at the bottom of it.
- I know that funding has to get allocated for this project.
- I don't see why the funding has to get rushed on the other issue which we'll talk about in two weeks.
- Anyway, I just wanted to say I think slowing down has merit.

Mia Del Prete commented as follows:

- My questions and concerns are actually the same as the previous speaker Kate.
- So I'm not going to repeat those questions.
- But I would like some answers to those questions and I would hope that somebody is taking notes is the City Council can respond to those questions that Kate asked.
- I would like to urge the City Council to put up no overnight parking signs along Morris Street and throughout our City so we can avoid some of these overnight parking issues we are having with these RV vehicles.

Rick commented as follows:

- I want to thank us all for being here tonight.
- This is a terrible, terrible, terribly complicated situation for everybody. It is very painful to be around suffering.
- And the people living on the street and living in tents and living in RVs they're not there because they want to be.
- They're there because right now they have to be and I know a lot of them and I think that we've got to do something, and this is a start and starting something is messy and slow and frustrating and not enough but it's a start.
- Because I know lots of cities aren't doing anything. They just drive the people off and don't care where they end up. They have lost their, hey, this is another human being and that human being could be me or somebody that I know and love.
- So I had met Adrienne and many of the people working for the organization, and I have great respect for them.
- And I totally support this. I hope it goes through.
- I hope it works well, and I know these people have integrity, and it's a start.
- It's not enough and it's painful for everybody.
- We are all in one way our brother's keepers.

Arthur commented as follows:

- For me, this is not so much whether I support the program itself or not.
- For me, this is the fact that there has been no due diligence regarding the site approval.
- There are young children that share a fence line with the homeless village.
- I feel like I want to say that again slowly so that really lands for you.
- There are young children that share a fence line with this homeless village.
- My voice is shaking because I'm so emotional about the lack of inventory that has been done around the surrounding area.
- The other sites deemed not viable because of dependent and delinquent children that live nearby, none of that has been discussed.

- I have never been contacted before any of the votes and my young children play just where that homeless shelter will be.
- It is not about whether we have compassion for the unhoused.
- It is that these children have not been considered at all.
- Somebody who has a young child who will be a toddler playing in the same space separated by a fence shares a line with them.
- We haven't been heard.
- For me that's getting lost with all of this.

Arthur George commented as follows:

- We're here because of the detail and the questions that have been asked tonight, the graphic presentation, the deep dive in what is a 50 page detailed report.
- I would call attention to look at it and fine tuning the fine print, particularly sections 7 and 8 which talk about case management and needs assessment and wrap-around services that are going to be provided here, the rules that are going to be implemented.
- We talked about nondiscrimination.
- There will be attention paid to the specific needs of women, the biological differences, different hygiene issues and women as child bearers and there may be referrals to the Mary Isaac center or the living room in Santa Rosa that does the same thing.
- Sebastopol is stepping up, but it cannot carry the load itself.
- The City will have to address it.
- I have had conversations with now Vice Mayor Hinton that this future assistance may have to come from higher levels of government.
- Sebastopol cannot carry the load on itself but it is doing what it can.
- There is great incentive here for this to work.
- They have a lot on the line.
- It is true they have never done this before but it is important for them it succeeds.
- I urge the Council to support it.

Jill commented as follows:

- I have attended all these meetings and these discussions about this project.
- I attended all the ones that happened in this City in the last year and a half and the thing that resonates with me and it is bothersome is I find that sometimes there is too much preaching from the City Council pulpit and guilt mongering of the constituents because they don't necessarily agree with this project.
- I think it is disheartening, and I think that other people in the City are now starting to see that and I'm glad that other people are waking up and seeing that I understand that the unhoused do need help, but I also understand that the City Councilmembers you are elected to represent your constituents and I don't see you guys, I don't witness you guys hearing everybody on what they're saying.
- You say you hear everyone but then you just do what you want to do and push these projects through.
- I understand both sides of it. I understand it all.
- But I think that City Councilmembers would do themselves a favor and really listen to the constituents.
- We have listened to Councilmembers drone on knowing this is coming up and it is super important to everyone, but all the constituents get reduced to a minute and a half.
- Finally, we need to discuss RV permit parking.
- I sent links about all the different cities in California that have permit parking.
- There is a reason why that is in place.

Kyle Falbo commented as follows:

- Other than just the sheer lateness of this and the amount of communication that this Council has had about this topic over the last I'd say month and a half two months specifically though with the rush to the particular site because, yes, this Council has spent much, much time working with SAVS and I think that, there has been a lot of information that's been out there, but the rush to a specific site in such a short period of time, the communication with the public needs to be there.
- One thing in particular I'm questioning about is that there is discussion about a citizen oversight committee.
- I would like to remind this Council that when they approved for Jerry Threet to review the Sebastopol police department, at that time this Council voted for the creation of a citizen oversight committee has phase 2 of that decision. Phase 2 has not come to fruition. Phase 2 has not been discussed and it has been completely silenced every time I brought it up.
- Here is my concern. There is a suggestion about citizen oversight committee here.
- If this doesn't come to fruition, what recourse do we have?
- Because it doesn't seem like there is any recourse to the lack of a citizen oversight committee for our police department voted on by this Council over a year ago at this point.
- I would like to hear about what we could do if that doesn't come to fruition.

Ted Allegra commented as follows:

- So I have owned the property right next door to this property for 25 years.
- Everybody can get in touch with me
- I have not received one thing from the City of Sebastopol, an official thing telling me this is going on, a plan anything, nothing.
- Oh, it's great listening to all this talk tonight, but is there a plot plan of where these 20 mobile homes are going to go and how they're going to go or did we just bypass that part of it?
- If I submit something to the City about doing something with my property I've got to submit a plot plan showing what I'm doing, et cetera, et cetera
- How can you expect to have an intelligence statement when you don't know what's going on?
- There is a lot of rhetoric, a lot of talk about we're going to do this, we're going to do that, boom, boom, boom, but I would like to see a plan here.
- Again, I only found out about this two weeks ago from two of my tenants.
- So I just don't get it. What are we ramming this thing through? I just think it is too fast.
- I would think if you were a normal person coming up the planning department it would take you weeks, if not months, to get something like this out and all the property owners would be notified and they would be sent a diagram or something about what's going on.
- So I really feel like the boat passed me by and here I have been there for 25 years, so that's my two cents.

Mayor Slayter responded to public comments as follows:

- So to run through questions that I have noted and I will ask staff and my colleagues to note any that I may have missed as we work through this.
- From the Charter School, their list of suggestions and comments on the plan, the operating plan and the procedures, has the ad hoc and SAVS considered and incorporated those into the policies?

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I've had a number of e-mail conversations and one zoom meeting conversation with the executive director Chris Topham, both really productive conversations as he indicated himself.
- We have a school meeting scheduled.

- He's hosting it and he invited the ad hoc to be there.
- We do have a letter that outlines some various concerns and, yes, we will be addressing those.
- We're completely open to addressing any of the concerns from the school.
- They have to do with security, designated contact, the registered sex offender issue, consequences of any of the villagers being on school grounds and the dispute resolution question and then also the SEQA question.
- We have tried to proactively respond to many of those concerns in the agreement.
- So one of the pieces there is I think relevant to a couple of other comments, which is that the agreement does reflect all of the various comments and concerns that were received by the ad hoc committee.
- And that's why those specific provisions are incorporated so precisely into the final agreement.
- So, yes, we have considered their concerns but more importantly honestly, SAVS will continue to consider their concerns.
- The ad hoc will continue to be part of that information, and the City that does have oversight power.

Mayor Slayter commented on the next question which is probably for our City Attorney regarding law enforcement. What happens with a person who refuses the RV village or is disqualified from living there?

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- As I mentioned previously, we are returning to Council on December 21 with parking regulations designed to keep our neighborhoods safe, to keep our roadways clear but act within the law.
- So that's not before the Council this evening.
- It is being addressed actively. We have been in several consultations with outside legal counsel and the police chief is working up the comprehensive outline of parking options and recommendations.
- But as I said, it is returning to Council December 21. That is our very next meeting.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- On that topic, I'd just like to remind everyone that SAVS is coordinating actively with West County Community Services.
- So, to the extent that there are individuals that need to be removed from the RV village or who don't accept placement in the RV village, SAVS has committed to making sure that they coordinate with Jennifer Lake of West County Community Services in order to address their needs.
- I think she spoke about that, finding an alternate location.
- Also, I think the fact that SAVS has committed to being a resource on the greater unhoused issues hopefully will be instrumental in addressing some of those problems that happen in the immediate neighborhood and in the broader community.

Mayor Slayter commented that actually largely answers the next question I had noted -- "Who is responsible for non-village homeless?" It'll be the social safety network, and it will be our Sebastopol Police Department providing law enforcement.

Mayor Slayter addressed "What about substance abuse and counseling services for village residents?"

SAVS commented as follows:

- We just hired a very experienced counselor who is knowledgeable about these things
- Someone mentioned the way to get off of drugs with medical assistance. We'll be offering some of that.
- We'll be partnering with anyone who will be willing to partner with us, including county agencies, health departments, and so on.

- And we're planning and hopeful and think we can have both N.A. and A.A. meetings on the site.
- So, we're going to push a lot of stuff on this project and problem and see what happens, and then we'll probably push more stuff on it.

Mayor Slayter addressed parking regulations and stated that has been addressed earlier.

Mayor Slayter addressed the Ninth Circuit decision.

- An important component of that is that, unless the City changes or unless the City provides a facility, a location, we cannot legally change under the Ninth Circuit court's Boise decision, as was noted by a member of the public.
- We are legally prohibited from changing our parking regulations to address it.
- So, with the RV village, we are unable to change parking regulations to address the concerns that we are hearing from a wide swath of our community.
- So, one has to happen before the other one can happen.
- And this Council is committed to both steps along that ladder. I've heard that repeatedly.
- So, that's the parking regulations that are coming back next meeting.
- As far as the amount of time that the Council has devoted to this, yes, it has been in a compressed calendar, but, my goodness, we have spent 20 hours of public meeting on this topic.
- So, the opportunity for public comment has been profound and repeated, and this Council is committed to answering questions, and that's what we're trying to get through.
- And if it takes time, well, these are questions that have been asked.
- So we need to work through it and spend the time and answer the questions.

Mayor Slayter addressed "What if the Community Council doesn't happen?" and questioned is there any chance that that is a possibility?

SAVS commented as follows:

- No. There is no chance.
- I guess this person complained about the City not doing some public oversight group, but we're not the City.
- We're a small group.
- We're not just committed to do this. We believe in it. It's not because someone forced it on us.
- So, yes, it will happen.

Mayor Slayter addressed meetings.

- If a Sebastopol resident has interest, is that individual invited to these kinds of meetings?
- Or is that internal to the residents of the village?

SAVS commented as follows:

- The community advisory group will be neighbors and representatives of the neighbors
- I sort of presume it'll be open. I hadn't really considered that it wouldn't.
- It may be limited to a smaller group of people.
- I don't know how many people really want to be part of it, just in terms of who sits on the group.

Mayor Slayter commented if a resident has interest, I suggest that that resident contact Adrienne and make your interest known.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- As a member of the Ad Hoc, I'd just like to mention that that question, "What if the community advisory doesn't happen?"
- The City has in the agreement, if any of these things don't happen, the City has the option to say to SAVS, "No, you didn't do it." So, we have a failsafe.
- So, not only does SAVS really believe in these things and are they making a personal commitment to them, but the City has a legal out if they don't fulfill their agreement to do these things.
- With Councilmember Glass and me on the Ad Hoc Committee, the City Council and the community can be guaranteed that we will make sure that the SAVS group does, in fact, move forward with the community advisor committee.
- I think also I can speak for both of us that we would not be pushing forward and proposing this plan if we didn't fully believe in SAVS' intent to engage the community.
- That's why it's in the agreement. That's why it's in black and white.
- You've heard it from SAVS. You've heard it from all the rest of us.
- This is a small town, and they know that for this to succeed SAVS know they got to engage with the school, with all the people in this town, and has demonstrated by agreeing to weather some very, very restrictive provisions in the agreement.

Mayor Slayter addressed site plans and plot plans.

- In the Council packet, there is a proposed site plan for the layout of the village, and as somebody who knows a thing or two about submitting plan sets to municipalities, because these are vehicles and not buildings, the requirements are significantly different for the City's processes.
- We don't ask for layouts of where people are going to park necessarily.
- It is not a plan review for a construction, a development project that is a building with infrastructure and all that.
- This does not rise to that level of scrutiny for the City's plan application process.
- So, there is a site plan, rudimentary as it might be, at least from my perspective.
- But it's very descriptive, and it certainly shows the layout of the site and the proximity to the property lines and the six-foot-plus-two-foot trellis fencing that is proposed
- That's verbiage that's straight out of the City's zoning ordinance for the fence height and design.
- So, that is within the City and directly in response to the City standards.
- The verbal plan is what we've been discussing tonight for three hours or more, with the 50-page document that is the plan, plus the addendum for the site-specific items.
- So, that is all available to anybody who has any interest at all.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- The last speaker asked, "Why didn't he receive any communication about this project?"
- I mentioned that at the last meeting, and the City Attorney explained it all, but I think it would be really helpful to go through that issue, again, because it's not what we all are used to and it's not what the public is used to, either.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- Would like to address Ted Allegra's comment.
- So, that was the commenter earlier, and he is the owner of the property where the mini mart is located.
- And there was contact on the Saturday after Thanksgiving by Adrienne Lauby.
- She went door to door, and she did speak with Mr. Singh and his wife, Indy, who run the mini mart.
- And that was how, I'm sure, the property owner then heard about the plan here.

- So, he had that notice earlier -- as early as anyone did.
- It was posted on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving for the November 30 meeting.
- But Adrienne Lauby did go door to door and leave flyers.
- So, I was actually very pleased to hear that he was aware of the developments there.
- I did also call Indy and Mr. Singh myself directly, and I did get a phone number for the property owner and had passed that off to SAVS to coordinate with him.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- As the planning director noted I think a couple hours ago now, this is a unique situation where what is being proposed at this site is actually a permitted use under our zoning ordinance, which really doesn't require any hearing or no hearing before the planning commission.
- It's just a ministerial, across-the-counter-type permit. This would be required for this.
- So, there is no requirement to send out any legal notice.
- But of equal importance in that situation is that there was very tight time constraints with regard to this property.
- When we first became aware of this site as possibly being available for this use, it was already going into escrow to be purchased.
- And we have the same issue that you are already aware of with the timing of the financial grant that SAVS was receiving for this having a deadline.
- So, you take deadline for the money to do it, deadline for that grant.
- You take the site only becoming available at the last minute with regard to that deadline for the grant, and the fact that this is basically an allowed use under the City's zoning ordinance.
- We didn't go through or we could not go through the normal formalities.
- But what you've also heard from the committee members is the extraordinary efforts that were made by the committee members and by SAVS to alert all the neighboring property people who lived nearby and the business owners of this proposed project.
- So, there was a lot of on-the-ground effort to bring this to everyone's attention, which is no doubt why, at the November 30 special meeting that had a week ago, we had over 100, as I recall, people on that call who did know about this proposal and were there to speak to it.
- And we had almost as a large a number on the call tonight at one point.
- Some of our approvals in our City require lengthy public hearings with notices and an appeal process, a hearing before the planning commission.
- This required none of those things.
- It's an allowed use on the site without permanent buildings being constructed.

City Council Discussion and/or Deliberations:

Vice Mayor Hinton commented as follows:

- Again, it's been a long meeting.
- I've been making notes.
- I guess I just wanted to make a couple comments.
- We've received a lot of e-mails accusing us of things. I guess that's the only way to say it.
- And even tonight my name was brought up that this site is similar to the other site we looked at.
- I stand by that. I think on the other side of town, not only were we looking at another site which would have cost us a lot more money and was very similar, but we also already have Park Village on that side of town and the Homekey Project within blocks of each other, housing approximately 50 total individuals, maybe more actually.
- I think we've repeated it, and I've spoken to people.



- I've wrote to people. Arthur George commented on my response to him.
- This is a multi-step process.
- I've noted before Martin v. Boise. We had a speaker note it again tonight. We've had multiple people note it. We have to do a project in our City.
- We have luckily received \$600,000 in funding to do it correctly.
- I know it's quick, but, again, the funding's there, and it's a multi-step process to help us improve our town overall, and not only do the right thing for people that want to live in this RV park, but also to pass parking regulations that we will be discussing in two weeks at the next Council meeting.
- We can't do that without doing this. It's super simple.
- And I've heard a lot of people tonight talk about their property with their children that attend the school.
- And I heard this in other meetings lately -- just because I don't agree does not mean that I'm not listening.
- So, I just think we, in this case, need to be more than just a "me," but about a "we." It's about the community.
- I just have to from my perspective at least, assure the public again that all of us are working so hard, this City staff is working so hard to do this right.
- My colleagues Una Glass and Diana Rich have put so many hours.
- I don't even want to ask them because they have spent hours and hours during their holidays to make this happen.
- And I'm in favor of this project, and I'm going to say it again.
- It's not that I am not listening. It's just that we happen to maybe disagree.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- I agree with Vice Mayor Hinton's comments, so I'm not going to recite all that, but just add a couple other points.
- Given all that I've seen in the very condensed timeframe, what, of about two weeks, I want to have confidence in SAVS.
- What we saw tonight was a very thorough operating agreement.
- What I noted is that it addressed many of the community concerns, and when it didn't address some point, Adrienne was right there to say, "Noted. We'll do that. We'll get to that."
- I want to commend our Ad Hoc Committee for the Unhoused for the extensive work they've done in that short time.
- I think all of us would rather have it the other way, where we had a long time and even where we had the opportunity to give notice, official City notice on letterhead to neighbors when that wasn't required, because each Councilmember recognized that this is a huge and significant and very serious issue that we're dealing with.
- In fact, we've been dealing with Morris Street campers there for a number of years.
- This is our first step, as we mentioned.
- December 21st we'll be looking at the suggestions for a City-wide parking place, and we're hoping to do step one and then two so that we have acted legally and defensibly, humanely, compassionately, and taken that bold first step, yet another first step, to address the issue of the unhoused.
- Our earlier steps with Park Village, Elderberry Common, retaining West County Community Services, we've done a lot, and I think this is a new step and a bold step.
- Despite the timing of our process, I think it's a step we need to take tonight.

Councilmember Glass commented as follows:

- Thank you to Vice Mayor Hinton and to Councilmember Gurney for their comments.
- I think that really kind of crystallizes what it is we're doing here.

- We're taking the next step in the continuum of addressing this issue, and so this is the step where we provide a safe parking spot for RVs.
- And then we will go on from there to at how to address ongoing camping.
- And this is just part of a continuum that we actually need to be dealing with on a regional basis.
- This problem is not peculiar to Sebastopol.
- And a number of us have been working regionally with the county. We're getting county funding to help us with this.
- This is a step in a continuum, and I think the City of Sebastopol has set a good example.
- We're actually being proactive about these issues.
- And I thank my colleagues for observing that this is the next step in the continuum. And it's time to take that action.
- I wish that we had been able to do this in a longer timeframe.
- I would have liked to have seen a longer engagement process with the public leading up to this, but that was not how the funding situation worked out, and so that's why we are proceeding as rapidly as we are - because doing something is better than allowing the problem to linger and to not avail ourselves of this opportunity.
- So, thank you to my Council colleagues, and thank you to all of staff work and particularly to SAVS' incredible work on putting this together.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- just am so impressed by the various comments from my fellow City Council members.
- The only thing I would add is that I think it's important to recognize that this has been a painful and pressed process, that it comes within the context of COVID, which already creates anxiety for all of us, even though we're kind of normalizing it.
- But nonetheless, it's a stressful time, and it definitely admittedly has been painful for everyone involved, City Council, public.
- I'm so impressed with SAVS, with the board members here tonight, because they have faced some very blunt comments and criticism.
- And they just are moving forward with the same intent and the same pure heart and the same dedication to goals and structures and accountability and responsibility, all those things that are going to make our community safer and healthier, for both the unhoused, who are going to be in the RV village, but also for the rest of us.
- It's hard-coming, but I agree with everyone. There are no perfect options.
- This is an option that has come to us and that fortunately we and our community ultimately are engaging.
- Really respect everyone who's participating.
- Planning Director Svanstrom, thank you for clarifying all the CEQA stuff

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- I feel like it's really important to make a commitment to the businesses, certainly the ones that are in very close proximity to this location.
- We have the north end of town. We've got the south end downtown and the north end, and then the Barlow is sort of but not really part of downtown.
- We have these sort of distinct shopping districts.
- I have heard more from the business owners up at the north end regarding this proposal than the other two parts of town.
- That said, I want to make the commitment to the business owner community that once the federal money for the Build Back Better and the other programs that the Biden administration has proposed --

There may be some money in there for additional funding for community work, for potentially community policing.

- Our police department has been struggling with staffing that is just at or slightly less than optimal for a community this size and for everybody's public safety.
- And so my commitment will be to look really hard at what we can do to devote more police presence, more law enforcement to address the theft, the petty theft and the not-so-petty theft that seems to be on an uptick.
- We cannot have that continue to increase in this community.
- Many of the businesses are struggling to get by due to the pandemic.
- Even if they're not struggling to get by, it's the right thing to do, and I want to make sure that the business owners hear that and that that commitment is made.
- So, that said, I was in support of this before. I'm in support of it now.
- I am not incensed with rage. I am not incapacitated with anger over the fact that we are trying to address this in our own little way.
- Homelessness is an epidemic, and the only way it gets better is if everybody starts and just takes a little bite of the cookie and tries to make it a little better in the town where they live.
- So I, too, will be in favor of this. It's a one-year pilot program.
- I know that staff and SAVS will be looking at options throughout the year
- Perhaps there will be a much better location that is found.
- I don't have a crystal ball. I can't predict the future. But my sense is that that's what's going to happen.
- The county's working hard. It's a regional approach.
- I will be supporting this and am looking for a motion from one of my colleagues.

**MOTION:**

Councilmember Glass moved and Councilmember Rich seconded the motion to Adopt Resolution and Approve Agreement with Sonoma Applied Village Services (SAVS) for RV Village Pilot Program to be located at 845 Gravenstein Highway North as amended:

- Resolution to be amended correct where the funding will be coming from, which is the \$80,000 from the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors as approved today at their December 7th 2021 meeting.
- Ad Hoc Committee needs to make recommendations about how to spend that additional \$20,000 as they work through the details of setting the actual operating agreement and move forward with implementing the project.
- "recreational" to be struck out (recreational fire) Page 35 of 50, section 12.

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

**VOTE:**

Ayes: Councilmembers Glass, Gurney, Rich, Vice Mayor Hinton and Mayor Slayter  
Noes: None  
Absent: None  
Abstain: None

**City Council Action: Adopt Resolution and Approve Agreement with Sonoma Applied Village Services (SAVS) for RV Village Pilot Program to be located at 845 Gravenstein Highway North as amended:**

- **Resolution to be amended correct where the funding will be coming from, which is the \$80,000 from the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors as approved today at their December 7th 2021 meeting.**

- Ad Hoc Committee needs to make recommendations about how to spend that additional \$20,000 as they work through the details of setting the actual operating agreement and move forward with implementing the project.

- “recreational” to be struck out (recreational fire) Page 35 of 50, section 12.

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

VOTE:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Minute Order Number: 2021-314

Resolution Number: 6388-2021

Due to City Council protocols, the Mayor asked if the Council by majority wanted to move forward beyond the 10:30 pm end meeting time to continue the items.

The Council was not in majority to move forward.

The following items were continued to the City Council Meeting of December 21, 2021.

9. Approval of Amended City Purchasing Policy (Requestor: Councilmember Hinton)

**City Council Action: No action. Item continued.**

**Minute Order Number: 2021-310**

12. Adoption of Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Tax-Exempt Lease Purchase Agreement (TEIPA) and Related Documents for Energy Savings Contract with Signature Public Funding Corp. (Responsible Department: Public Works/Administrative Services)

**City Council Action: No action. Item continued.**

**Minute Order Number: 2021-315**

#### CITY COUNCIL REPORTS:

13. City Manager-Attorney/City Clerk Reports:
  - a. Update of Cyber Fraud/\$1.2 Million Funds

**No action. Item continued.**

**Minute Order Number: 2021-316**

14. City Council Reports/Committee/Sub-Committee Meeting Reports: (Reports by Mayor/City Councilmembers Regarding Various Agency Meetings/Committee Meetings/Sub-Committee Meeting /Conferences Attended and Possible Direction to its Representatives (If Needed) on Pending issues before such Boards)
15. Council Communications Received
16. Future City Meeting Dates/Events (Informational Only): (See City Web Site for Up-to-Date Meeting Dates/Times)

#### ADJOURNMENT OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING

December 7, 2021 City Council Regular Meeting will be adjourned to the Regular City Council Meeting of December 21, 2021 at 6:00 pm (ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING FORMAT)

Mayor Slayter adjourned the regular City Council Meeting at 11:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary C. Gourley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

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