

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR Meeting of June 15, 2021

As Approved by the City Council at their regular meeting of July 6, 2021.

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

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

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

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

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

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

****[GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20](#)****

RE CORONAVIRUS COVID-19

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

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

Government Code Section 54953.

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

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

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

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) ADVISORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Glass called the regular meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: None

Staff: City Manager/City Attorney Larry McLaughlin

Assistant City Manager/City Clerk Mary Gourley
Administrative Services Director Ana Kwong
Fire Chief Bill Braga
Planning Director Kari Svanstrom
Police Chief Kevin Kilgore
Public Works Superintendent Dante Del Prete

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

Mayor Glass read the COVID 19 Protocols.

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Linda Collins, Chamber of Commerce, commented as follows:

- Chamber event at Russian River Winery, Jul 28th at 5:30 pm
- I urge all of you who are interested to let me know.
- Their gardens are beautiful.
- As you all know, we are set for September 18th for our parade.
- Thanked City staff.
- The applications are ready to go, they're on our website.
- We've done a couple of things differently this year.
- We're having a flat rate fee.
- We have a spot on our application for non-profits that may not be able to afford to pay the entrance fee. There may be some businesses out there that have done well that would like to purchase that for them so we have that spot on there.
- That was the recommendation from Councilmember Slayter.
- It will not be a judging event.
- It's just really going to be for fun.
- We're hoping to get as many people as possible in the parade that are allowed, obviously, because we do have a limit.
- One other thing, we are celebrating our hundred year anniversary.
- The t-shirts are in. We have men's and women's.
- They were done locally by Greenacre Homes, which is located in Sebastopol.
- They are \$20 each plus tax. Come see me and buy your t-shirts and celebrate the Chamber's 100-year anniversary.

Councilmember Slayter reported on the GSA meeting as follows:

- This is a report on the hits of the Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Sustainability Agency.
- We had our meeting last Thursday and sort of briefly the crux of the meeting was continuing to work on the plan that will be put together and submitted to the State.
- The last couple of meetings we've had updates on drought conditions.
- I asked the mayor if I could make this report early in the meeting when we had the opportunity to reach the greatest number of people, because I think that these slides really show the trouble that we're in as far as the drought goes.
- These are three slides that were provided to the board and the community in attendance at the GSA meeting on Thursday.
- The first one is Lake Mendocino storage and projection.

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- As close back in our history as 2019 we were at all-time highs for at least the last 60 years about the level of Lake Mendocino.
- That shows for around two years that we have gone from almost record levels being held for use to where we are today in 2021.
- Important to note is the difference between the next lowest of 1977 and then 2021.
- That amount of difference is the greatest amount of difference on this entire graph.
- Lake Mendocino is 1,000-acre feet on the scale.
- Discussed Lake Sonoma, the scale is a little different.
- They are two different size reservoirs, by several magnitude, but the relative drop in how much water is stored at Lake Sonoma, it just really got everybody on the GSA board's attention as well as some of the public.
- A few folks commented they didn't realize just how bad things looked without seeing this information.
- For Sebastopol, we don't receive water from either of these reservoirs, but it's indicative of the entire drought that's gripping the entire Western part of the United States and we're seeing it particularly in California.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I think it would be helpful to see growth over the same period.
- Countywide might exclude Sebastopol or we might have to have the county water group added there because I'm very curious to see how the decline relates to other factors than lack of rainfall.
- The next part of that analysis would be what does each of us have to do as a water customer, speaking generally, to protect our future water supply?
- How much do we need to conserve, for instance, to go on six more months without rain or a year without rain or two years?
- If the group could provide those statistics for all of you, I think everyone would be interested in that.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- I will see if that information is easily assembled.
- It wasn't part of our presentation, the growth and population, that is an interesting question.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented that wineries could be added as well.

Councilmember Slayter commented that he wasn't ready to make those kinds of calculations and wanted to give everybody kind of a stark reminder.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- We do know that in our city, we do not rely on any of those reservoirs, and in fact our reservoir is way, way down deep in the ground, and so we may not seem like we are imminently impacted.
- Management monitors the wells every year and we have not found any decline in our wells thus far.
- However, I think we have to really keep in mind as a city that we need to be stewards of the reservoirs because what we know is that much less water that we're seeing in the reservoirs is being recharged into that reservoir that we have underground.
- We need to take responsibility for the long term even if we're not in as imminent danger of not having water as perhaps some other cities.

- We definitely need to take the long-term perspective, ensuring this we keep that resource viable and we do not deplete it.
- A very important thing for all of us to do as residents of Sebastopol.

STATEMENTS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Mayor Glass commented she has a conflict of interest for the discussion of the Community Benefit Grants as she works with the Center for the Arts and would be recusing herself from that portion of the discussion.

Councilmember Slayter commented he has a conflict of interest for the discussion of the Community Benefit Grants as he is involved with Rebuilding Together Sebastopol and would be recusing himself from that portion of the discussion.

Mayor Glass announced the following:

1. The City has a special Council meeting on Thursday June 17th where we will have a report out from our police auditor and some of the information he gives us will be pertinent to our police budget.
2. We will postpone the CIP budget agenda item tonight to June 21st.

Mayor Glass read the consent calendar item(s).

Mayor Glass asked if any Councilmember would like to remove a consent calendar item. There was no removal of items from the Council.

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

Mayor Glass called for a motion.

MOTION:

Vice Mayor Gurney moved and Councilmember Rich seconded the motion to approve Consent Calendar Item(s) Number(s) 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

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

VOTE:

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

CONSENT CALENDAR:

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

City Council Action: Approved Minutes of the City Council Meeting of June 1, 2021

Minute Order Number: 2021-126

2. Approval of Extension of Emergency Proclamation of Local Emergency (COVID-19) issued by the Director of Emergency Services (Responsible Department: Fire Chief)

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

Minute Order Number: 2021-127

Resolution Number: 6354-2021

3. Approval of Modification 1 to Contract Amendment #24 for On-Call Engineering Consultant Services with GHD Inc. (Responsible Department: Administrative Services Director/City Manager)

City Council Action: Approved Modification 1 to Contract Amendment #24 for On-Call Engineering Consultant Services with GHD Inc.

Minute Order Number: 2021-128

4. Approval of Letter of Support for Grant Application for Civic Spark (Responsible Department: Planning)

City Council Action: Approved Letter of Support for Grant Application for Civic Spark

Minute Order Number: 2021-129

5. Approval to raise the Progressive Pride Flag at Sebastopol City Hall annually during the month of June (Responsible Department: Public Works)

City Council Action: Approval to raise the Progressive Pride Flag at Sebastopol City Hall annually during the month of June

Minute Order Number: 2021-130

Vice Mayor Gurney commented she would like to add a thank you to Tanya Narath from the RCPA for encouraging us to do the CivicSpark application which is item number four as well as our Planning Department Director and the Climate Action Committee.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/PRESENTATION:

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

PUBLIC HEARING(s):

6. Public Hearing – To Consider Approval of Sebastopol Solid Waste Collection Services Annual Rate Adjustment by Recology Sonoma Marin (Responsible Department: GHD/Public Works)

Ryan Crawford, GHD, presented the agenda item recommending the City Council receive the agenda item, conduct the public hearing, deliberate and approve the Sebastopol Solid Waste Collection Services Annual Rate Adjustment by Recology Sonoma Marin.

Mayor Glass opened for questions.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- You did mention upcoming fiscal impacts from 18 3 and we're in the midst of budget planning, are those anticipated fiscal impacts, have you already informed the City about it?
- Are they already in our budget projections, or what your comments might be about that?
- The City Manager may have input as well.

Mr. Crawford commented as follows:

- I don't see it affecting this immediate fiscal year.
- The agreement for how it's going to impact each particular city is being drafted up now and there's a lot of moving parts.
- I'm attending it all and trying to keep up with what it really means and right now I can't say exactly how that's going to impact the City.
- Once we know, really anything as far as how it will impact the City, and exactly when in the upcoming year we're going to have a presentation for City Council. I expect that in the next couple of months we will have that prepared for you.

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Mayor Glass opened the public hearing.

Kyle Falbo commented as follows:

- I'd like to draw your attention to page 8, table 7.
- This table highlights some of the additional, or new products that the service provider is offering.
- I believe that this table gives us some insight into the direction we might see prices going forward, particularly discussions about yard waste and compostable organics.
- In particular, we see that an extra recycling cart is \$20 a month under this new monthly rate.
- An extra recycling bin is \$125 a month and an extra yard waste bin \$149 every month.
- I think it's worth discussing.
- These additional charges for these additional products that are being offered.
- It seems like that was just not even mentioned in the discussion thus far.
- Thank you so much.

Hearing no further comments Mayor Glass closed the public hearing.

Council Deliberations/Discussion:

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- What sort of flexibility do we have in terms of what these rates are?
- It was my understanding from the presentation that the rates are a standard formula like information in, formula out.
- Does that apply to all of the rates or just most of the rates that we're talking about?

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- Rates are basically set by a formula, where it's our engineers' job to check the calculations, check the information, make sure it's accurate and correct, and then make sure the formula's applied correctly.
- Some of the services you might have heard the public speaker mention are optional services.
- They're not part of the rate increase.
- The rate increase is basically intended to be a mathematical formula application.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- These are new services and these are the rates they're offering.
- Is that how I interpret this?

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented those are optional services which customers can avail themselves of if they choose.

Nikki Burke commented as follows:

- I'm a rate analyst with Recology.
- It's rates for additional services.
- Mr. McLaughlin has noted that we have requests from customers to provide but haven't been listed on the rate sheet.
- We've been trying to make attempts to include rates for all services that we're being asked to provide on the rate sheet.
- Those would be subject to the same formula and their creation was based on rates that are existing on the rate sheet.

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- They were not just created out of the blue.
- They were based on costs that we have from the existing rate sheet that have been subject to the formula since the start of the contract.

Mr. Crawford commented as follows:

- We looked at them and they weren't listed historically like Ms. Burke was talking about.
- Now you can actually see every single rate service they provide and how it gets calculated.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- I had a couple of questions over the past couple of weeks about replacement bins and trying to understand replacement carts.
- You get one new cart and then the second one is \$126.61, and a replacement bin, the second one is \$379.83?

Ms. Burke commented as follows:

- A cart is the plastic container our residential customers have.
- The bin is the large metal box that would be at a commercial customer.
- That explains the difference in cost.
- We're not talking about somebody calling because it was dirty and they want us to pick it up and replacement it with a clean one and take back the dirty one and clean it.
- We're talking about when it's been damaged beyond usage, when it's been stolen, or somehow lost and we need to provide you with an additional one. It is simply a cost we have in providing these bins.
- They're quite expensive, so we try to understand that things do happen, so we don't charge for the first one, but if we have a situation where it's repeatedly happening, it's a large cost for us as well.

Councilmember Slayter commented is it that most residences have three bins?

Ms. Burke commented:

- It's saying if you for some reason caught all three of your bins destroyed, you'll be looking at being charged for two of them.
- In the past in Sonoma County we have had spotter situations and we would not be applying the charge in that case.
- This is a is a charge that we have the option of applying.
- I wouldn't expect to see it in a situation where someone has experienced a disaster, but it's more of a situation where someone is really abusing their right to have us continue to replace the bins or the carts.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- The other question is from a neighbor who asked me, it looked like the driver just let it go from six feet up and it crashed.
- In that kind of a case, clearly that's something you're going to work with people on.

Ms. Burke commented:

- Talk to our customer service and let us know so that we can let our operations supervisors know so we can have a talk with the driver and make sure that's not happening.

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Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I have a broken bin right now.
- The truck broke the bin.
- I don't want to be charged.
- I haven't had bins for years.
- What should someone do?

Ms. Burke commented as follows:

- You need to call customer service and you're going to get a free bin because you haven't exchanged one in years.
- If the driver repeatedly breaks them, please still do let us know.

MOTION:

Vice Mayor Gurney moved and Councilmember Slayter seconded the motion to approve Sebastopol Solid Waste Collection Services Annual Rate Adjustment by Recology Sonoma Marin.

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

VOTE:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

City Council Action: Approved Sebastopol Solid Waste Collection Services Annual Rate Adjustment by Recology Sonoma Marin.

Minute Order Number: 2021-132

7. Public Hearing – To conduct a Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2021-2022 City of Sebastopol Budget (Responsible Department: Administrative Services Director)
 - a. Budget Subcommittee Report Out (Mayor Glass/Councilmember Hinton)
 - b. Presentation of Budget Details (Administrative Services Director Kwong)
 - c. Discussion of Budget Details/Additional Budget Requests Not Listed
 - d. Presentation/Proposal on Request for Funding for Community Vitality (CoMission) (City Manager)
 - e. Presentation/Proposal on Request for Funding for West County Community Services (WCCS) (City Manager)
 - f. Report from City Sponsorship Committee On Draft Policy (Vice Mayor Gurney/Councilmember Slayter)
 - g. *Council action on FY 21-22 City Budget

**It is anticipated that the budget will take more than one Council meeting. The following dates have been set aside for future meetings: June 21st – 6:00 pm and June 30th at 6:00 pm if needed.*

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I wanted to make some comments about how we're going to proceed today because there's so many varying things to consider and I expect that this is going to be quite a long meeting.
- First of all, I wanted to mention that I believe our primary focus this evening needs to be informational.

- This evening we will be revealing information about the budget as is provided by staff, and the budget committee, and additionally, we will be here to answer Councilmembers' and the public's questions.
- We will be receiving further information that will be pertinent to the Police Department's budget on Thursday.
- We will be hearing some recommendations that may have some varying things on that item officially.
- We have a great deal of information to cover tonight.
- I suspect that discussion and deliberation will not occur tonight.
- What we are doing today is getting the maximum amount of information, so we are all fully informed before we start talking about whether we want to make any changes in the budget, do we want to add items, do we want to take away items, and do we want to make specific stipulations about budget items?
- That's our primary mission today.
- If we are unable to get through all of our deliberations on the 21st, it is not a problem for us to pass a resolution and continue the budget deliberations into July.
- If we can't get through this rather large quantity of information, we still have options.
- Today our primary goal is to collect information.
- First, what we will be doing is having a report out from the budget subcommittee which is Councilmember Hinton and myself and then after that we will have the Finance Director provide us with a basic overview of the budget.
- Then we will move into the fiscal year '21-'22 budget.
- First, there is the general fund and reserve and our Finance Director will be going through the summary of each of the items within the general fund and reserve, and each of the departmental items.
- After that item there will be a time for questions from all of us Councilmembers about the individual items there.
- Then we will move on to item two, which is the enterprise fund, and the Finance Director will make a presentation to us about that, and then we will ask questions about that.
- We will go through general fund first, fund, then special rev newspaper fund, insurance fund, a summary of the departmental budget, and then a summary of the Community Benefit Grants, and we will be discussing that.
- After each one of those items, we will have an opportunity to ask questions of staff as well as the budget subcommittee.
- Then we will move on to a presentation regarding funding for the community vitality consultant we have been using, and then we will move on to presentation from West County Community Services (WCCS) regarding services for homeless outreach, and then we will discuss if there were any items that anyone on the Council feels that we need to add to this that got left out.
- Then we will go on to hearing a report from the City sponsorship draft policy.
- After all of that, and we will each have an opportunity to ask questions about each of these items as we go through them, we will move on to receiving comments from the public.
- Hopefully by the end of all of that information, we will have a lot of understanding of what has gone into this budget and have our questions answered.
- Then we will be deliberating on the 21st.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I'm just checking so the public understands, if we leave public comment tonight and go on to the Thursday meeting, which could give us additional information related to the Police Department budget which could affect other budgets, will the public have another opportunity to speak either on this coming Thursday the 17th, or on the 21st?

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- The public will have an opportunity to speak on the 17th and I expect to open it up to additional public comment on the 21st also.
- The other thing I wanted to say is if we have outstanding questions at the end of our meeting this evening regarding the items we're discussing this evening, then we will address those questions first at our meeting on the 21st so that we can, if for example, there's something that staff needs to look up.
- With that, I will move on to the first item, which is the report out from the budget subcommittee, which consists of Councilmember Hinton and myself.
- First, they just would like to go over quickly what the process is and has been so that the public understands it.
- I think many of my colleagues understand it, but I just want to reiterate what that process is.
- What our process is, first at the beginning of the year our department heads submit departmental requests, so each department looks at what they spent last year, probably what they spent the last couple of years, and then they come up with a budget request, and that request summarizes what they're particularly asking for over the next year.
- Each department heads the risk of their department budget request to our Finance Department and on a climb who is here who is our Finance Director, Dan compiled all that information in the preliminary budget, and the budget subcommittee meets with Director Kwong and with City staff including City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin and Assistant City Manager/City Clerk Gourley and department heads to go over the details of the budget.
- A lot of that consists of us looking at this, you're spending \$2,000 more dollars on asphalt this year, things like that.
- A lot of this is from reviewing how we suspend kind of the public's money on the general operations of the City and we do that for every budget, for every department.
- Then we come up with a kind of a recommended budget after getting feedback from City management as well as discussion between the budget subcommittee and myself.
- This year is a little weird.
- People probably noticed that this past year has been a little weird.
- That's because things were not quite normal.
- We've been shut down for a year, our revenues really changed, and we had a lot of special expenses.
- Now we're just emerging from an emergency situation, so we have a lot of special activities that have been proposed by my colleagues to address some of these matters as we reopen.
- There were some additional interests, and some additional new initiatives and you might move forward with many of them this fiscal year.
- We had a goals and priority meeting to discuss what those items might be, and as a body, we put together a list of things that we felt we might want to move ahead with, and we came up with a placeholder amount to put into the budget.
- Then the budget subcommittee and Director Kwong took those numbers and brought them into this tentative budget.

- The budget that we have now is a draft budget that includes our regular kind of operational budget plus these initiatives, special initiatives or new initiatives that got folded into the budget as placeholders.
- I want it to be understood that this budget is a draft budget and the budget subcommittee is not recommending every single item in this budget.
- What we've done is incorporate everybody's interests and desires into this budget and now we are all, as a body going to get together and review these items and get more detailed information on them so we can begin deliberating at our next meeting to see if we can afford to do all these things we want to do.
- What are your priorities?
- Where is our money going?
- Where is our money coming from?
- What should we invest in for the future?
- That's the process.
- As it stands right now, this at the present time active draft budget, we are spending \$1,253,241 more than we're projecting in revenue.
- In other words, we're running a deficit budget, so we're spending more than we're projecting that we're going to bring in.
- However, the other thing that we have been doing as a City is we have had a policy that we would have a general reserve account that is not to drop less than 15% of our revenue.
- This budget does include 15% staying in our general reserve.
- We also have additional reserves, these reserves are such a confusing name to the public, I think.
- They're kind of like savings accounts.
- We have a general savings account and under this proposed budget, we would be using some of those reserves.
- That's the account to make up the ditches in that 1.4 million dollar deficit.
- After using up that reserve money, we would still have a 15% general reserve, so it's not like we're dropping below our 15% reserve.
- Our total revenues, which includes reserves not only for our general reserves, but a reserve for future pension payments, because we know that our pension costs are going to go up in the future.
- We also have a special reserve for equipment and we also have a special reserve for buildings, etc.
- All of those reserves together right now at the beginning of our upcoming fiscal year, we expect that reserve is actually \$7.78 million dollars.
- With this budget we start out with a 7.78 million dollar reserve in total across all of our reserve accounts and by the end of it we would have a 6.67 million dollar reserve.
- I don't want anyone to think because this proposed budget talks about spending more than we are bringing in, we're not broke.
- We actually have improvement and we created our savings account for a rainy day, and of course the past year does seem to constitute definitely a rainy day.
- However, we may want to consider whether or not how much of that reserve we want to use up.
- We know that our long- term obligation for pensions is actually quite substantial.
- We do want to be careful about what we save for in the future.
- What are our priorities?
- I'm just going to say what my priority is to prime the pump so everybody can be thinking about what their priorities are.

- My priorities, I talked about when I became mayor this year, my first priority was actually to address the crisis in policing, and I felt that given the George Floyd killing and the crisis that was going on in our country at the time, that we really needed to make sure that our Police Department reflects the values of our city and that we were doing an excellent job.
- To that end, we employed Jerry Threet to do an audit of our Police Department and there will be a hearing about that on Thursday.
- We will hear his recommendations and we will hear his findings.
- Additionally, I thought it was important that we hire a really excellent new Police Chief, and we have already achieved that.
- He is here at this meeting.
- He has been working with Mr. Threet on reviewing our policies, procedures, and our plans for the future.
- The second thing I thought was very important to the City is our long-term plans for fire services.
- For one thing, we have increasing costs in fire while having less volunteers available to us, due to there being less people or volunteers in general.
- It's not to do with how great our volunteers are.
- These are things we need to review to know we have a sustainable Fire Department and we know that we have the funding to sustain the services we need there.
- In addition to that, the Fire Department was asking for an additional wild wings fire engine, which I feel is very important for the safety of our firefighters who are participating with CAL FIRE in the wildfires we seem to be suffering from so much.
- My priorities go to policing, the fire department, and then the third would be addressing homeless issues.
- Addressing the social services that are needed by our unhoused individuals that are in town and I see this as a way to first of all save money because our Police Department is engaging in things that they don't really need to be doing that really need to be done by other kinds of workers, and then also it should help enhance our economy because there are costs to businesses that are related to this.
- Fourth, I said I felt we needed to do something to help our business community, which is in this budget, it's called Relaunch Sebastopol.
- It has to do with helping our businesses recover and get back on their feet and promoting their ability to be sales tax generating businesses for our community, and that is another item that's in our budget, and I think that's another priority for our town.
- Finally, there is doing an RFP and identifying a mythical consultant to help us with several things.
- First is to identify how to better manage our research.
- I explained we have \$7 million in reserve right now.
- We'll probably have more like 6 million after this year if we approve the budget that's currently before us, we may decide to spend less and then we would have a higher reserve.
- It's important that we identify how to best manage those reserves.
- There are municipal consultants that will look at how much do we need to have in reserve for future vehicles versus how much we need to have in reserve for future equipment, and what would be the recommended funding level on an annual basis to put into our reserve that is for future pension costs.
- Officially, that type of consultant can help us with managing our assets and getting our plan on managing our assets that touches our fleets, and also in coming up with revenue enhancement strategies and even potential bond investments, and bond strategies for improvements to our city infrastructure.

- Those were the priorities that I thought up and think that these are addressed in the present budget, which is policing, fire, homelessness, relaunching our local economy, and finding a consultant who can ensure that we are getting more revenue so that we can add services rather than take away services, as we go down the road.
- The big question this evening, and I think that we all need to be thinking about is as we go through these budget items, do they address these priorities and do they address either enhancing, or making it possible for us to have more revenue?
- Do they help us save money, or be more efficient and effective in another way?
- Also extremely important, do they provide support for vital community needs?
- Not everything's about money in, money out.
- A lot of it's about community needs and community vitality.
- After this, we will be also having a presentation by our Finance Department and then we will be having some presentations regarding possible funding additions and presentation on some of the contractors that are proposing to be funded this evening.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- This is a really tough budget year.
- I think this was my third or fourth year on the budget subcommittee, and we approached it a little differently.
- Partly because revenues are not growing and expenses are.
- Just to get down to the nuts and bolts, I would say, not that every Councilmember doesn't understand spreadsheets, but it is what I have done my whole career, so I think the employees were more vetting the budget, vetting the spreadsheets, and hearing the recommendations from our City Manager, and at the end of the day, not to point it out too largely, but we have a \$1.25 million dollar deficit with what I would call these placeholders that we put in.
- As Mayor Glass said, it doesn't mean that we always have the same priorities or agree.
- We're members of the Council and there's five of us.
- Really, this year, because I think it's been such a tough year, we're in a deficit borrowing again and we all probably feel differently about how that looks and what we're willing to move forward.
- We just kind of threw a lot of things in there as placeholders so we could deliberate all together.
- I want to point out something I want to discuss, though, as part of the deliberations, and that's one of our budget policies, specifically use of our RFP policy and RFQs, highlighted on page 187 of the budget.
- I found out a few years ago, whether we're buying a new fire truck or hiring a consultant, that should be coming with a work plan that we have not been doing in the same fashion.
- The City currently has a consultant in the Engineering Department, and we have consultants now filling roles throughout the City.
- We have an HR consultant and we've used consultants for a variety of projects including vitality and policing.
- I would like to find time in this budget discussion to talk about how we spend large amounts of our resources because I think that we should have the same policy.
- We should vet consultants the same way we vet buying a fire truck or buying a large piece of equipment, we should have proposals that we can look at and analyze.
- I'm going to put that right up front.
- Also, that's on page 187.
- If you haven't gone back to the policies, and sometimes during the discussion I would like to have some discussion about that specific policy and what we might do to consider this.

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- We're a small city so every dollar we spend counts, especially this year.
- That's my comments.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- Discussed the math.
- I couldn't quite record it fast enough.
- You were starting with a figure of the total reserves.
- Then you got down to a number, I think it was 6.67?
- Is there a chart that outlines or summarizes that?

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- It is in the staff report.
- There's the reserves, but it doesn't have a total.
- I actually totaled it up, when you add up all the reserves together, that was the number that I came up with, the total anticipated reserves.

Director Kwong displayed the chart to the Council and explained the columns.

Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- We have a savings account, and we have been saving, but we need to determine how much of that savings we are willing to spend.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I have a follow-up question because I was focusing on the reserves that were not unrestricted but there's another term there that sort of balanced at the end of next fiscal year on June 30, 2022, of 1 action 77 there's the buildings facilities and infrastructure reserve and I see the equipment technology and vehicle replacement reserve and retirement reserves.
- Are those flexible enough for us to use for other purposes or are those restricted for the purposes indicated in those columns?

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- It's a policy so they are not actually restricted.
- We can move them around.
- That's one of the things when I was saying that we needed to have a municipal finance consultant, because what that consultant should do is analyze what those reserves should be, because we came up with those reserves by kind of eyeballing this.
- I think we need to have this much savings, but it wasn't done very scientifically and that's why we should have a municipal consultant who's looking at well, historically, how much are we spending on action, so that we have the right number of reserve to smooth out the ups and downs, not too much or too little.
- That's the concept of one of the things that would be done by a consultant.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- We used to keep everything in one reserve account.
- But it was like we weren't really planning.

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- We were just putting the reserve account together, we started when Councilmember Slayter and I were on the subcommittee together, we decided we should allocate it to specific purposes rather than just have this big numbers thing out there.
- We try to look at what it feels like we would need to have in reserve to smooth out the bumps.
- They're done that way to show that we have analyzed or attempted to analyze what those needs might be and put a figure to it and that we have considered those items, so we are planning in those areas.
- It makes the budget more navigable from a point of view of look, they've considered they'll need to buy those things or spend that money in the future and they've endeavored to put an accurate figure towards it.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented:

- They are not restricted at all.
- The Council can move them around and use them for other purposes.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- It would be a really useful column to have every budget, or at least in the draft budget because I would be curious to see our status on the previous five years, how do they total up and how are they going down?
- How are they assigned when the building is up?
- We have a record of contributions and management for money for vehicles if we're getting them.
- It's just an idea for the subcommittee with future budgets.
- That's a useful column, I think.

Mayor Glass commented:

- I think that's why we're recommending consultants that could help us do it correctly, because I think we've been getting better, but that would be super useful for all of us.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- Regarding those three different categories.
- When those were first suggested, it was about the same time in history that we had some wary work done for our future retirement obligations.
- Mayor Glass and I like to term them as underfunded liabilities.
- They are obligations to retirees who chose to work for the City.
- What we're trying to do is make them funded obligations by attempting to save enough money in the retirement and future obligations reserve to help set the peak of the purse crisis that is coming.
- Over the past couple of years, the State seems to be ignoring it a little more.
- It's not the big media story it was a few years ago, which is unfortunate, because the crisis is still there.
- How I've always looked at this is, we're in a really good position in comparison to most other cities, and districts, and other participants, that said, it's still pretty ugly, even for us, but if there's a bail out that comes down the pike from the State in some very generous way, what I see is that the reserve we put together for that function can be repurposed and whether it's a major infrastructure project or, you know, some other purpose, that's fantastic.
- But for now, I think that the retirement obligation fund is to me the most important of the three.
- It is certainly the most important of the three to keep building on.

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- The other two, I think, are meant to be more of a short-term buffer where maybe one year we don't have a large vehicle expense, but we continue to make our annual contribution because we know that in the next year or the following year there will be a large purchase, a new vacuum truck, or a new dump truck, or fire apparatus, or whatever.
- The purpose of those I think is to act more like a buffer when the first one is not.
- I'm in agreement.
- I think that what we have done to date has worked for us, but it's time to get more sophisticated.
- Looking at data for retirement, looking at vehicle replacements.
- There's a number of ways to deal with those things.

Administrative Services Director Kwong presented the staff report recommending the City Council discuss and consider the proposed 21-22 City Budget. Director Kwong presented a slide show presentation to the City Council.

Mayor Glass asked for questions.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- Discussed the slide on COVID.
- That is what has been spent?
- Is this information only for the Council and not additional deficit?

Director Kwong stated it is information for the Council.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- My question is related to the same slide that has the \$451,000 number.
- I see we've received \$95,629 in reimbursements.
- It sounds like we may have more money coming in.
- Do you have any estimates, even conservative, as to how much more of the difference between \$451,100 number and the \$95,629 we might receive.

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- I don't have any information on that.
- The City will be submitting to FEMA on all the COVID-related expenses that the City incurred since March of 2020 and we will see how much we can get reimbursement for.
- The Fire Chief is the one who's going to help in that process.
- As far as what FEMA will do, as far as reimbursement, and we have the American Rescue Plan, I'm not sure how they will be, overlap or not overlap, but we will try to attempt to submit everything that it cost the City so far that we spend, and it's still climbing.

Councilmember Rich commented:

- We can't assume that we will receive any additional money beyond the American Rescue Plan amount if we could leave it, we just kind of say, hoorah, extra money.

Director Kwong stated that is correct.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- My question had to do with the reduction in projected licenses and permits.

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- I can see that licenses and permits in 2020 were about \$450,000.
- Our estimated actual for this year appears to be \$443,500 and yet we're looking at a proposed budget of approximately \$300,000.
- I'm wondering what your explanation might be for that.
- Commented to the members of the public, I'd like to point out that for this City Council of five people, there are only two who have been on the subcommittee who are familiar with all those details.
- This is our first pass.
- We've seen this about the same time as you and the public will see it.
- There could be some questions but it seems like we should have covered them.
- With the Brown Act we needed to cover them in front of you, the public.

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- Building permits fluctuate from year to year.
- I don't know if I'm giving out correct information.
- It depends on the activities of what is going on in the city.
- That is something in the Building Department would have to address.
- So far what we've seen as far as estimates of what we will receive for 2021, it's about \$300,000.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I think that might be related to several things being built a year ago, so we have the townhouses that are behind the old Sebastopol Inn and we had a couple of projects, so that was why that was up for a little bit and now there's nothing, or not as much in the pipeline right now is what I would say.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- Discussed that these numbers are not taxes.
- Public Works, those are fee for service, which we cannot make a profit on under law.
- While that number maybe you know, we budgeted \$929 and \$4,435 is what came in.
- We turn around and expended that on providing those services.
- You have to make sure that you're thinking about which category it is, is it a tax, is it revenue, or is it fee for service, which is a different thing.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I read that as, I'm going to call it the yellow column in the middle that says 15%.
- That doesn't include any of the other items that are in the assigned blue columns that are on this chart, is that correct?

Director Kwong stated that is correct.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- The 15% is what we call a savings account because we're kind of making invisible what we're assigning, although we could use it anytime we want.
- Just wanted to make sure I have the 15% math right.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

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- In regard to the water fund, to those two funds that you just showed, the water fund and wastewater fund, we show a deficit.
- How are we covering that deficit of the \$500,000 for the water fund and little over, I think it was six, seven.
- How are we covering them?

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- It will come out of the unrestricted fund balance.
- The unrestricted amount opposed to those other categories.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I have a follow-up question which has to do with why.
- I understood that with these particular funds, these were amounts that we could charge an amount of the residents of those who are using these services that's sufficient to cover the expenses.
- Can somebody explain to me why we seem to be so out of sync here with these two funds, as a historical issue, what's going on?

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- Think I would have to defer to the Public Works Superintendent for that answer.
- The last study that we had, and I can summarize that, looking back at the rate study, this did not show that much of trends were outs to capital outlay.
- Meaning, these capital projects probably did not get into the study and staff did not tell the consultant that those are going to be.
- The planned capital project for the fiscal year '21-'22.
- It might be plan as much for the out but because maybe the City needs to have it done sooner so they move up the dates and t filled into the operating budget, and it causes the deficit.
- The bulk of the items are capital costs, water and sewer, both.

Superintendent Del Prete commented we have spoken of this before and definitely moving forward we need to work very closely with the engineering consultants that we have to truly evaluate the needs to have the city moving forward in our water and sewer utility and take a hard-earned look at our new rate study and capture those future costs.

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- It's not that water is going broke.
- There's some planned capital projects for water and sewer based on the previous administration in the Engineering Department provided to the consultant that could be in the out years.
- Based on the current needs of what is being evaluated now, it means to move sooner, we have to do it.
- It will all come out of the unrestricted and that caused a huge heartburn deficit, if you will, when you look at it.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- Just for clarification, I think some of those expenses were just emergency, too, that surprised us, and I appreciate the sort of professionalism of our anticipating repair.
- That's going to help us.

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- I believe that the short fall in the water and sewer columns is going to come out of the up assigned reserves.
- Is that coming out of earmarked money, the enterprise fund for water and sewer, it will come out of the water fund? Not coming out of the unrestricted?

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Stated that is correct.
- Completely separate from the general fund.
- Nothing is coming out of the general fund to fund for water and sewer.
- We have a fund to cover these expenses.
- We're just taking from it instead of maintaining it, and we are anticipating some giant expenses in our future.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I'm concerned about items 1 through 12 in the staff report.
- I just want to make sure I understand, or I can track those.
- All those are general fund?

Director Kwong stated that is correct.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- Quick question on the insurance fund.
- Comment on how shocking it is that our insurance seems to be less expensive.
- I mean that's kind of amazing given fires and, you know, flooding.
- Is that because we've changed our insurance arrangements?

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- I think part of it is due to this merger.
- It's a much bigger pool now so the spread of the insurance cost is shared by many, many municipalities.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- The issue we've been having is it's been difficult to get quotes.
- The insurance carriers we use for excess insurance and so forth are waiting until the last possible minute, so we're having a board meeting at the very end of the month.
- I want to caution that during this process these figures could change.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Just to illuminate the public, I want to let everyone know that we went from having our insurance carried by what was called the Redwood Empire Municipal Insurance Fund who merged with another municipal insurance pool, so now we have more municipalities in our pool.
- The way that works is we pool all our money with a lot of other municipalities, and then we buy some of our insurance from outside carriers.
- I think that some of it is just self-insured.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

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- In each case we have a certain level that we feel we can afford to pay out of the pooled moneys, and that is the self-insured portion.
- It's always possible to have a higher claim so we always have to purchase excess insurance.
- I just want to mention that it's been a pretty dramatic change in terms of the resources because REMIF was a total of 15 cities and the new sera will be a total of 50 cities.
- It's definitely savings by spreading out the risk amongst the number of payers.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin presented the proposal for the community vitality consultant and the homeless coordinator:

- Turning then to the community vitality services, I understand that the work plan from CoMission is in the packet.
- This work plan is intended to continue the same basic services that CoMission has been providing through this fiscal year and continue them, and specifically the monthly community council's which are the monthly leadership council, the benefit organization council, and the service organization council which recently had its summit.
- The average cost for CoMission to carry those basic services forward ranges somewhere between \$6,000 a month and \$8,000 a month.
- The figure that is in the budget and then the staff report represents a continuation of those services at the \$6,000 a month figure.
- Not anticipating on these items or any of the 12 that the Council would necessarily give direction tonight, these presentations to simply give the Council information about what this item actually is, why does it cost what it costs.
- This particular item that's first on the slide was CoMission's continuation and basically the three councils.
- Because the council had their special meetings and this was not on the slide, but one of 12 you'll see on page 4 and the very first item is a figure to Relaunch Sebastopol.
- There's been a placeholder put in the budget of \$74,000, and part of that figure is landscaping contract or beautification of city locations.
- Part of that is marketing consultant services for Relaunch Sebastopol.
- That is somewhat similar to the CoMission work.
- CoMission, when it was retained just prior to the pandemic, it was assumed that CoMission would do some of the work that is anticipated in Relaunch Sebastopol.
- In other words, attracting businesses that our community wants which would be successful in our city.
- Staff's proposal on that, if the Council goes forward with the Relaunch Sebastopol item is to do an RFQ and take that to the Council and make sure it's correct and in line with your wishes, and then issue an RFQ to essentially start Relaunch Sebastopol from scratch and get a new proposal and not go back to reutilize the proposal that we had prior to the pandemic.
- Just to clarify again, this is not Relaunch Sebastopol, the one you see on your screen here.
- This is to continue the core CoMission services of the service council.
- Now they also have a work plan which we have reviewed with them, which was to do other things and additional moneys and we're not proposing that at this time.
- We're only proposing to continue their core services with the service organization council's.
- I hope that clears it up a bit.
- A different item than Relaunch Sebastopol for which we are suggesting an RFQ and CoMission continuing its core work.
- That figure is in the budget already as \$6,000 a month or \$72,000 total.

- That's my presentation.
- We did not ask CoMission to come to this meeting tonight to make a proposal because it's relatively simple.
- I did indicate to them that I would present the work plan to you and that's what it consists of.
- Homeless Proposal:
- I believe you have a job description in the packet.
- The job description was provided by WCCS, and this is to provide services to our unhoused individuals.
- The central functions include studying the homeless service system in Sonoma county and integrate that locally to refer individuals without homes to coordinated entry as appropriate to provide general homeless services through WCCS.
- To assume a leadership role in the coordination of greater Sebastopol homeless services, to partner with local agencies to promote a more integrated approach in obtaining housing for the homeless and develop relationships with clients for the purpose of successfully connecting them with available services.
- More specific duties are to contact, connect, and guide individuals without homes to housing options, and to introduce homeless individuals to supporting services.
- To carry through with this work for those unhoused who are presently camping on Morris Street, to develop a citywide service matrix, to increase citywide awareness and understanding of laws surrounding homelessness, and to support safe parking efforts which were alluded to during our special meeting with the local churches that are going to be working with the City to provide safe parking.
- That would be under the management, generally speaking, of WCCS.
- What they did in that situation, besides the job description I just summarized, is they calculated the salary and benefits to have a full-time employee of WCCS perform this work and that cost is carried forward in the budget and proposed at approximately \$77,000.
- Again, this relates specifically to efforts on Morris Street to try and explore alternatives for those individuals presently camping on Morris Street as well as to specifically support the safe parking efforts that have begun to be reviewed here in Sebastopol.
- It was the intention of the housing subcommittee that the funding for this was tied to the \$370,000 in mitigation funding that we have received from the County of Sonoma that was for the loss of bed tax that was related to the Sebastopol Inn.
- We have not had time to completely vet this proposal with WCCS but I appreciate the fact that they were able, on such short notice, to put actual dollar figures to the work, and I believe the work I just outlined, that is in their job description is the work that we anticipate they would do.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I'm wondering what is not covered by this arrangement.
- Could look at it a couple ways.
- I guess the one way would be to ask whether the intent here is to provide a broad array of services, case management services to all homeless within the city of Sebastopol, or is there a focus primarily on Morris Street for safe overnight parking that distinguishes the level of services for that group as compared to others within Sebastopol?

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- It is in my belief, as it is in your first half of that suggested comment, that we should develop homeless services through better communication and better understanding of how to link individuals anywhere within our city who are unhoused with services.
- Because we have a significant population of such individuals on Morris Street, attention will be focused there as well because we've tried all the way along.
- We've had limited space to do that at Park Village, but we've been working all the way along to find options if they want to avail themselves of that.
- In some cases we found that a lack of information, and a lack of understanding of their options may be available and might be holding some of those back from relocating from their present situation and definitely want to work on Morris Street and I thought it would be important to mention this would pertain to Morris Street.
- It's intended to assist wherever individuals are within our city.
- Also, again, specifically to continue work on the safe parking program.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I'm wondering where the \$370,000 related to the Sebastopol Inn transition is accounted for in the budget.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I mean, it's not tied.
- It was just, we felt we couldn't afford to do something like this until we got that mitigation money.
- We have received the money.
- It's in this current budget.
- What I'm looking for is an accounting of how we use that money.
- For instance, if we put the number that is to WCCS and we have a balance in that account so to speak, that line item and we can just really use that for services and work that's related to how we got the money.
- I don't believe it's been assigned in this budget, where we took that and created a fund with it and then started funding some of these proposals.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- It is in here?
- Is it just distributed and not identified from that fund?
- That's what I'm wondering.

Mayor Glass commented I believe it carries over June 30th, or if it goes into the general fund as of June 30, and probably enhances the reserve figure on July 1.

Vice Mayor Gurney questioned if the budget subcommittee knew that.

Mayor Glass commented the budget subcommittee knew that the money had come in and that it just was put in the pot.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented what I'm suggesting here is that we account for how that money is used so we track it.

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City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- We definitely plan on tracking it, Vice Mayor.
- Part of the reason is that the discussions that led up to that payment were in some cases specific.
- We definitely want to show how we've used it.
- We would track it, probably as we do a couple of our sales tax measures where we show the public we're using it in the way we described in the measure when they voted in favor of it.
- Similarly, we would track the use of this but that would be somewhat informal.
- I don't think it's anticipated that we create a special fund with that money and then spend out of that fund.
- It is just to show we have these additional services that we are doing in the coming fiscal year and it supports the programs that those moneys were supposed to support.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Actually, I think I can expand on that a little bit.
- When we had our discussions with the County, we did propose, or say to the County that that was the area that at least the housing subcommittee was interested in spending the funds.
- When the County gave us the money, they just sent us the check.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- We don't have legal restrictions on the sales tax funds, either so that's why we tracked them, to just show good faith.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented I'm talking about transparency to our public and accountability from the comments from that discussion.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- When the County gave us the money and Mayor Glass has the funds in hand, the way they calculated the money was it's three years of TOT losses in addition to some money for mitigation.
- Technically, it wasn't just for this position.
- That's not what we received the money for.
- It went into the general fund.

Mayor Glass opened the public hearing,

Arthur George commented as follows:

- I'm speaking to floor to the Council and at the CoMission summit.
- The first of those are drug abuse and mental illness that we previously felt we could not do much about.
- We're very happy to hear council is considering a budget item to contract with WCCS to fund a caseworker to directly target these and other issues and to assist homeless persons with such basic but for them difficult tasks such as registering a vehicle, getting a Social Security card, getting directed toward health care.
- We vigorously request and support council action in funding this position for Sebastopol to take charge of its local efforts.
- We understand the City Manager has requested Public Works to add additional portable toilets and hand washing stations and garbage collection in the Morris Street area and the path by which many unhoused persons entered downtown from the Laguna.

- We vigorously request and support Council action in funding these services as well.
- Let's not be lulled into a complacency about the continuing importance of sanitation and hand washing at any time.
- It's important to understand these services do not only serve the unhoused, but they also provide a cleaner, healthier environment for the entire city, visitors, and the business community.
- They mitigate the transient populations into approaching into neighborhoods where there are no waste and trash services.
- They relieve the burden on merchants, and persons seeking to use restrooms.
- The City provides 3 to 4 garbage cans per block.
- If clean citizens require such pickups, why should the untidy, unhoused receive any less?
- They're a necessity, just as services like fire trucks, police cars, libraries, and street sweeping benefit all.
- One suggestion has been presented to the Council that the service and particularly the caseworker be diverted for county action through use of measure of fund.
- Whatever the source, it's suggested Sebastopol itself be active in taking care of its own.
- Sebastopol through the City Manager, Public Works through Climate Action, Zero Waste, and the Police Department has shown leadership and responsiveness on these issues where other entities have fumbled and wondered why blight and waste pileup around them.
- We continue to advocate for safe parking and housing.

Suzanne Lande commented as follows:

- First of all, I agree with pretty much everything Mr. George said.
- I also wish to thank the entire City Council, our Police Chief, our City Manager, and all staff.
- As some of you know I've been working in our group that some city Councilmembers have helped participate in and working with Sonoma Applied Village Services with some funding that came to them very short-term to help make repairs of vehicles, get people registered, whatever.
- I've been on Morris Street helping with that as have several other people who many of you know.
- We also work with Mr. George in our group.
- It's really collaborative.
- I'm very, very much in favor of collaboration between any service organizations, rotary club, anything, any of that.
- Also the City of Sebastopol and Sonoma county club.
- Maybe there's land that's outside of the city limits that could be leased for a small village or something at some point?
- Working with shelter less people, they were so grateful to have some assistance with maybe registering their vehicle or fixing something.
- Many of them said to me that they want to help volunteer.
- There were people cleaning, sweeping Morris Street.
- There's a lot of other things that are really needed mind you, one homeless woman I worked with wants to get a job.
- It's really hard.
- There's one place in the city of Sebastopol, the Christian church, that offers showers two days a week, Mondays and Thursdays in the morning.
- She feels she needs more than that, and I agree with her.
- If there's any funding that can go, maybe to another church to help with showers, or maybe Tim Miller from WCCS could think of something funded by Sebastopol

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- Mental health is extremely important.
- The caseworker is extremely important.
- All of you probably have my phone number, and if you want me to help some time, I will.
- I'll go talk to people.
- That's it for me.

JoJo Sanders commented as follows:

- I wanted to ask a question regarding the WCCS homeless program position.
- I totally support this position.
- I'm really glad it's being proposed.
- I was wondering if there was any formal process of consulting any of the unhoused residents of Morris Street and beyond in Sebastopol about this plan just to make sure that the actual needs are being met.
- Also, regarding the budget as a whole.
- I also want to emphasize that mental health specialists should be involved in responding to nonviolent 911 calls, not only homelessness in the style of the CAHOOTS program, which I think most people have heard of by now.
- I understand this is expensive with consulting and everything that goes into that.
- I sent a public comment via e-mail on this, so I won't go too much into it.
- I do want to really highlight that an alternative to police, beyond just homelessness should be a very high priority for the Council.
- I want to just to finish off by saying thank you to the Council for considering the WCCS homelessness program.
- I think it's a really great idea, great steps.
- Thank you all for your hard work and consideration.

Kyle Falbo commented as follows:

- While it's fun to suggest we have \$7 million in reserves, the reality is this budget is, for the third year in a row, running the City in the red.
- Running the deficit precedes the pandemic to the last two years of deficit this year takes nearly half of reserves.
- The actual cost was over 50% in what has been allocated over multiple years.
- I also appreciate Councilmember Hinton's request regarding the continued reliance on contract services to perform the work that citizens are expecting to be performed by City employees.
- In particular, we could take a look at this interesting budget item of non-departmental.
- This expenditure is a cost over \$400,000 in the past year and this is an increase of 70% over the previous year.
- Looking back, historically we see the City spends hundreds of thousands of dollars in contract services in non-departmental alone.
- In fact, each department seems to have massive funds allocated to contracting work outside of the city down by our employees.
- The City Manager/Attorney regularly spends over \$100,000 annually. The Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, \$30,000.
- Finance over \$300,000 each year over the last three years.
- Building between \$100,000 and \$200,000 annually.

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- Engineering \$267,000 with a choice to delay the actual hiring of a City Engineer is just mind-boggling.
- Police, \$384,000.
- I could go on but speaking to the police budget I'd like to pivot to the \$5.1 million the City is choosing to spend on police services for the next year.
- As a reminder, this is actually a 17% increase over the 2019-2020 budget.
- Looking back to June 23, 2020, the Council discussed the need for providing more detail of the budget.
- Yet looking at the budget we see an increase in overtime of 220% over the last two years.
- June 30th, 2020, Councilmember Green emphasized the need to look at how police are using their time and money.
- Here we are a year later, I will repeat these same questions.
- The budget question has been regularly described as an extensive process.
- How does this discuss specifically the budgeting for police and previous budgets?
- What changes have been made to the process in the last year?
- Were there any notable conversations with the current or previous Chief?
- With regard to mutual aid, what changes have taken place in the last year, what if any changes to the use of overtime to provide in-city coverage during times of mutual aid have been made in the last year?

Courtney commented as follows:

- Good evening, Councilmembers, and the community of Sebastopol.
- My name is Courtney, and I am a public servant in Sebastopol.
- I strongly support investing in a caseworker to mitigate homelessness in Sebastopol.
- I support safe parking, supportive housing, receptacles for sanitation and hygiene, and other support services.
- I do not want to see our unsheltered folks on Morris Street penalized in an authoritarian fashion.
- I encounter my unsheltered neighbors at my place of employment and these are not horrible people.
- These are individuals suffering from compounded trauma, brain deregulating, mental and emotional illness, chemical dependency, et cetera.
- Please, lovely community of Sebastopol, I urge you not to dehumanize these folks.
- In fact, their conditions could happen to any of us.
- I do not want to see unnecessary, inhumane policing of unsheltered folks, but smart and sympathetic problem solving by professionals who have advance degrees in social work.
- I have heard the misguided argument that if we make our city friendlier to homeless people, more will flock here.
- Instead of this type of thinking, let's hold our sister cities accountable.
- Basically, what I'm trying to say is I don't think that should hinder Sebastopol's efforts in mitigating homelessness.
- Instead, we should do our part, and Santa Rosa, Guerneville, et cetera, should do their part.
- That can take the form of us attending their City Council meetings and urging those communities in that way.
- Thank you very much.

Steve Pierce commented as follows:

- I want to acknowledge the good work done by Mayor Glass, Councilmember Hinton, and staff on putting together this budget.
- I do want to draw attention to page 201 in the budget document.
- I think it's worth everybody taking a look because for me, it was very eye opening experience because it's projecting deficits through the year 2027 as far-out as we go, millions of dollars of deficit will be short in our general fund which means either dipping into our reserves more, cutting our expenses, raising revenue, or some combination of the three.
- I'm encouraged that we're looking at hiring a consultant to hopefully get some ideas of raising revenue for the city, and we're also looking at ways to save some money on our Fire Department expenditures, and marketing our town to bring more people in.
- I want to point out three ways that the City can raise more revenue if we do end up hiring this consultant.
- One way is to raise our transfer tax.
- Doing that requires that we become a charter city because you can't raise the rate over what the County currently charges unless you become a charter city.
- This is not a difficult process to do.
- Other small cities, smaller than ours, have done this.
- Once we pass a charter, and there are other cities that have very easy charters that we can follow as templates, we would then be able to increase our transfer tax.
- We've all seen how property values have just skyrocketed in Sebastopol over the last year.
- There is a ripe opportunity for raising revenue there.
- The other is on rental properties.
- I own a couple of rental properties in town, and you know what?
- It's a business.
- Tax me like a business.
- Other cities do this.
- They require a business license tax.
- The last opportunity is around the utility user's tax.
- This is up for renewal in 2024.
- We could look at renewing it earlier than that and also raise some money for our climate action community.
- We'll hopefully be bringing that before the Council in the not too distant future.
- If we don't get a handle on some of these revenues that we really need to increase, unlike the previous caller, we do hire consultants because we're very understaffed.
- We need more money.
- We don't want to be in a position where we have to approve a bunch of new hotels to get transient occupancy tax when we really need to do equitable raising of funds including the three that I mentioned previously.
- Thank you.

Hearing no further comments Mayor Glass closed the public hearing.

Mayor Glass responded to comments from the public as follows:

- First of all, I think there may be some information about our City's examining participation in a CAHOOTS-style model.
- I think that information may be made available.

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- I'm wondering if we should wait until Thursday, or if we should do that this evening?

Chief Kilgore commented as follows:

- Thursday would be appropriate
- We are looking at our CAHOOTS model and how we can best move forward with that as we look at a variety of broad spectrum approaches to actively trying to have successful outcomes with our own house community.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- The next thing I wanted to mention was, as it was mentioned a number of times this evening, that the answer to many of the questions regarding our Police Department will be discussed and presented at our Thursday night meeting in two days from now where Mr. Threet will be discussing his audit of things and recommendations of new policy and procedures to implement.
- There will also be discussion and presentation with our Chief who just spoke, our new Chief who has been working with Mr. Threet on changes that we are making to our department policies and procedures.
- It's going to be all about the police Thursday night, and there will be information that relates to questions about the Police budget and some of the costs that have been associated with that over the past several years.
- Stay tuned for Thursday night for more information about our Police budget and the reforms that we are putting into place and the work that our new Chief has already accomplished and is moving forward with.

Councilmember Rich called for a break at 8:02 pm and reconvened the meeting at 8:12 pm.

Council Deliberations/Discussion:

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I do have some general questions related to the budget that aren't specific to departments that are overall questions that I think I want to direct to Mayor Glass.
- Do you want me to wait with those questions or present them now?

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Can you wait with those questions?
- We'll just get through this one first, and then get through the City sponsorship draft policy, and then we'll go onto more questions.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- Then the one proposal that I'd make at this point, in terms of an additional item, I have some other thoughts but I'm going to just start out with this one.
- There was a proposal from the Climate Action Committee in tandem with the Zero Waste Committee.
- Those are both citizen volunteers who are aware of those efforts to have set aside \$3,500 for what they called a community upcycled art project.
- The effort, if you'll recall they made a presentation to us, was to take a series to engage many members of the community to in effect create a combined art project that would then

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communicate the message of environmental responsibility and also provide a beautification opportunity.

- A lot of good things happening there.
- Both groups are also very interested in SB 1383, supporting reduction of waste, and all those issues.
- I'd request we consider the \$3,500 amount.
- I do see in the budget there is a \$5,000 amount that appears there as a new art project, and I'm assuming that isn't related to this request.
- But I do see that that's in there, in that specific restricted amount.
- That's my request.

Director Svanstrom commented as follows:

- The \$3,500 for an upcycle art project is not included in the budget as of yet.
- The \$5,000 that is in the budget is for a new call for a commissioned art piece, which is the first step of that project.
- The \$5,000 covers the typical honorarium we give to the finalists.

Mayor Glass added this to the list of items for deliberations for June 21st.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I just want to make sure these items are in the budget, and I couldn't successfully track them down.
- For several years we have subsidized the fair collection on the local 24, and City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin has been handling that with Brian Albee of Sonoma County Transit.
- I have no idea how Mr. Albee will be calculating the fair box because of the experience of limited ridership during COVID.
- I think there is an intention from the regional level hopefully, as well as all the cities who have free and local shuttles to keep them free.
- I don't know where that subsidy is.
- I was going to ask is that the item in City Council budget \$17,000 shuttle fare?
- I also didn't find in the list of organizations in which we're a member the dues for the SCTA and RCPA which have increased slightly this year.
- They should be there.
- If somebody can look and find them by the next meeting that's fine with me.
- I think either a \$5,000 number, or an \$8,000 number.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- Stated both items are in the Council's budget
- I think we need to move them and put them together if we can.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I also didn't see any money reserved for an update of our Bicycle Pedestrian Plan.
- I think there are potential future funding sources for that that could be handed to us.
- On the other hand, it could be a grant we have to apply for.
- I think that's significant work for this next calendar year.
- You can just make a notation of that, and we can talk about it.

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- Also, some sort of start on the Laguna Preserve Master Plan, whether that starts at the Railroad Forest or continues work out on Meadowlark Field.
- I need help identifying if that's worked into the Public Works department budget somewhere because I think we need a concerted plan, an approach to moderately enhance that property as well as the park which gets a lot of attention.
- In great measure because COVID has taught us that people need to be out in nature and be recreating in order to be healthy.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- I find it in the parks and landscape budget, but it was not budgeted.
- It was budgeted last year.
- If this was the item, it was budgeted last year.

Superintendent Del Prete commented as follows:

- That unfunded item in the previous two budgets was a collaborative effort with the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation to add to their already funded vegetation management so as to kind of capitalize on their contract already, add to it, and work with them.
- That isn't part of the Laguna Preserve Master Plan, but I can look into that.
- I believe that was one of former Director Webster's items, so I'll work with Director Svanstrom, we'll get to the bottom of it.
- There are two items in the Capital Improvement Plan directly related to the Laguna that are on the radar.
- I can work with Director Svanstrom and our engineering consultant and see where we're at on that.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- Membership listing for all those things is on page 174 in the budget book, a couple pages ahead of tab "I." All the memberships are noted there including RCPA for 7,700 and SCTA for 4,900.
- I find that to be a very useful page.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- A couple of items I think we need to track, that I think haven't been mentioned too much, one is SB 1383 expenses.
- I know that was mentioned earlier by Mr. Crawford.
- I think that City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin may have it on his radar at this point.
- To the extent there are expenses to this City, those will in fact hit us during this next fiscal year because it goes into effect on January 1, 2022, this next year.
- If we could note that somewhere so that we could follow up on it, I think that would be worthwhile.
- Secondly, I heard a mention of a possible insurance premium increase.
- Again, I don't know if that's an amount that we just have to kind of figure we're going to cover when and if it comes up, but to the extent it's substantial I think we need to ask our City Manager whether we should be planning for that.
- Any comment on either of those, City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin?

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- Yes, we will have the insurance information by June 30th so we will work it in at the last minute.

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- We are tracking SB 383.
- Like Mr. Crawford said, I don't think we have final figures yet on the zero waste.
- I would recommend we consider viewing that at midyear budget time.
- I think that's the probable timing.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- The other comments I had, Mayor Glass, were really related to administrative support.
- I don't have a specific proposal, but as I look at our administrative group, our City Manager/Attorney and our Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, and I also look at the Police Department, it occurs to me that we might want to consider whether those departments need some administrative support.
- I'm sure that our City Manager has already thought about this, and perhaps, Mayor Glass, you have too, but I have to put it out there because we do have a very limited staff.
- We do see, I'm sure, some upcoming responses that we as a City Council, and the entire community will want our Police Chief prepared to respond to.
- I see a likely increase in work there at the Police Department.
- I also see our City Manager/Attorney and Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, although working diligently, as far as I know Assistant City Manager/City Clerk Gourley hasn't quite cloned herself yet, so I have to put it out there.
- There might be a need for some administrative support for those departments.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Just to let you know, the budget subcommittee asks our management team repeatedly if they want administrative support, and they always seem to be turning us down, which is just really kind of super annoying that they don't want more help.
- But they do seem to be turning us down.
- I do think the matter of administrative support in the Police Department is an issue that we can take up on Thursday.
- There may be some information about budgetary recommendations associated with that reporting.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- We all see the hard work done by our City Manager/Attorney and Assistant City Manager/City Clerk.
- City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin, I'd appreciate it if we could have an opportunity to hear from you clearly as to whether in fact you feel at this point, as you project forward all of your many duties, it might be worthwhile for us to look at support for you in those departments.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- We did have a proposal that we did discuss with the budget committee that was a part of the discussion for a potential Planning Department reorganization that would perhaps have led to some administrative help both at the City Manager's office as well as potentially at the Police Department.
- That's on page 5 of the staff report, those are under items for information only.
- The budget committee did not propose to fund the Planning Department reorganization.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

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- I'm happy to talk about the suggestion of the reorganization of the Planning Department, if that's where we want to go, but I did not take that from Councilmember Rich's comments.
- I do think that we should try to move forward with a long-range plan for City Hall and support.
- One of these days our great staff is going to decide retirement is coming and I think we need an organization plan for the future.
- In addition, we did add at the very last minute a note regarding the Finance Department having a temporary person who turned in their notice of retirement at the end of the year and so we had to add \$50,000 at the last minute for that addition, and we have another person in that department we'll have to probably eventually replace.
- We probably do need to look at that whole structure and some sort of long-range plan for the whole department, not just City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin, and Assistant City Manager/City Clerk Gourley.
- I agree for sure with that.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I have heard the input from our City Manager/Attorney and Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, but we have yet to hear from our new and fabulous Police Chief.
- I continue to feel that we need to look at and consider as a full Council administrative support in this next fiscal year, for both our City Manager/Attorney and Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, and our Police Chief.
- No, I didn't specifically say anything about reorganization, but if that is the pathway to getting the administrative support they might need in those departments, then I would be completely open to taking a look at it.
- My goal is administrative assistance in those two departments.
- I don't know those departments completely, but I do see a lot of work being done in both of those departments, and specifically as we look into the future in the Police Department and having that support, I think, it may be essential to all of our efforts of looking into the future, being productive, and hopefully delaying any sort of retirement stuff.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I just have to say that when the budget subcommittee considered all of that, actually there were a lot of pieces on the table, and a lot of HR considerations about various things, and there was a consideration that we did need to move forward in the long run with administrative support, but with restructuring in particular, it did not seem like right now would be a prudent time to do it.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- There's a whole complex of jobs and responsibilities that I think we might reexamine and define differently.
- That includes this idea of the relaunch person, the marketing person, the community vitality work, communication outreach, and that whole sort of bundle. I don't know if you want to call it marketing or specialist vitality work, or something else.
- I think we've got people presently doing work, and work we want to do that's being described a little differently.
- I would like us to discuss if there's some organized way to put that together into one job description rather than a piece here and a piece there, so it has more power to it.
- It has more power to it because we've got to leave COVID behind us and do something dynamic.
- I think it would maybe be helpful to have some kind of specialist doing that.

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- I'm just suggesting that it be a more expansive conversation.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- Just to clarify from Vice Mayor Gurney, is the consideration to, I think you verbalized something I was struggling with which was Relaunch Sebastopol and that umbrella of somewhat loose parameters or definitions at this point, coupled with the work our community vitality consultant has been doing.
- There does seem to be some dove tailing or overlapping of efforts, and honestly, when I brought the community vitality idea to the Council in the pre-COVID days, I think a lot of the ideas I heard verbalized about Relaunch Sebastopol were actually what I was thinking for the community vitality position.
- Not to throw a spanner in the works here but I think we're all, I see question marks over our heads about what makes sense here on that front.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- We've got four different things we're talking about, and I think we could be more economical and organized and forceful with the person in the work product.
- Why is one group writing a community newsletter of a certain fashion and somebody else writing a different community newsletter for a different group?
- Could we put it under this umbrella of, I don't know if I can call it relaunch, you can call it vitality, you can call it economic development specialist.
- We've talked about these responsibilities so much I think now is the time to dial it in on Monday night and figure out what it is we need.
- It's got that sort of jump start with it.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- If I can jump in, I think this also goes to what Councilmember Hinton was mentioning in her opening remarks.
- I think it's incumbent on the Council to figure out what the work is that we want done and ask for proposals for that work rather than have consultants come to us and tell us what they think we need.
- I think that this is an example, perhaps, of that, and overlay the weirdness of the last year and a half almost.
- We are where we are, so I think it's up to us to figure out the best path forward.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I know what you're looking for here are additional items.
- Since we're on this topic, yes, I agree, we've got \$50,000 for a consultant as a placeholder for the Relaunch Sebastopol idea.
- We also have \$72,000 that's currently slotted in for CoMission.
- We also have Holly Hansen doing some very valuable work for us, that's \$52,000.
- There may be another item there.
- We look at the CoMission and \$72,000 and I think hey, we've got an RFQ there to put out and really define very quickly, we've learned a lot from the experience over the last year about relationship building through CoMission.
- We have a solid base of Holly Hansen doing her work with the City.

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- Seems like we have an opportunity to really get a lot done and define it as Councilmember Slayter described.
- I completely agree with that particular approach.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- What I'm hearing, and what I certainly agree with is the notion that we look at all these different components and say how do we put them together and create a list that's sort of either a job description, or an RFP description.
- This is what we need to have done, and how are we going to approach it and have a singular source that is actually not siloed between different departments.
- I think we'll probably save a considerable amount of money if we do that and have more focused dynamic services.
- We'll add that to our Monday deliberations as well as water/sewer rate discussion.

The sponsorship committee reported the following:

- We met a couple of times, and we looked at some examples.
- What's in the agenda packet is a draft version.
- It's still a draft.
- I'm not ready for this to be the final yet.
- I have a couple of additional ideas I'd like to get in there, but it's a way to organize the reality that our committee benefit grant process does not address sponsorships.
- There are different things, and they're for different reasons.
- Considering them as separate items I think is important.
- What we tried to do is come up with a policy that was understandable and easy to follow an application that isn't particularly onerous and shouldn't take people a lot of time but allows the City to understand that it is something that is worthy of public funds and that there is a community benefit to it, that it's not a Community Benefit Grant, but focusing on Sebastopol and the surrounding community that we share with our county neighbors and the reality that Sebastopol is the city where a lot of people come for shopping, activities, school, doctors, and all those other things.
- How can we benefit that greater community, that was an important component in the verbiage?
- We talked about all that at some length.
- There is a budget placeholder for that, the idea isn't that that policy would be implemented in the upcoming fiscal year, correct?
- That budget number was informed by going back and looking at historical data which is actually difficult to do because of the way that sponsorships had been handled.
- Sometimes they were sort of treated as Community Benefit Grants, sometimes they were a one-off request by a Councilmember.
- I think this is an important opportunity to note that the Councilmember initiative funds, as best as I can see, don't show up in the budget anymore which I think is the appropriate thing to do.
- Those were intended to be sort of sponsorship funds, and they became what non-profit does this Councilmember support.
- That's where the placeholder came from, it was trying to fare out what we devoted before.
- It's partly a research number, but also partly made up because we haven't put our minds together as a subcommittee to say, well, under our draft policy these sorts of events that we know of could apply, could fit, and they might need...I don't know if there are ten of them or thirty five of them because we just haven't had the opportunity to think about that.

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- For me, the easiest way to explain this is to think of Jim Corbett, Mr. Music.
- He's got his application and the community grant was about ongoing educational efforts.
- He has Peacetown which was this whole event and marketing of our town.
- People in Sonoma county know about Peacetown and they come over here.
- It relates to our identity, and that sort of sponsorship is an economic driver for other parts of our community, it is a cultural driver as well.
- It makes a music scene for us.
- There is the potential for it this year to expand into poetry reading, collaborative work, and maybe even walks.
- It's that sort of event that's a signature event for Sebastopol that I think of, as opposed to an activity that needs support, an activity like Rainbow House is another.
- We tried to put those words in there.
- I have some problems with the draft, too, so probably Councilmember Slayter and I, and whomever wants to be available should talk about it some more before we have a more formal policy to bring before the Council, but I think we all agreed it was important to figure this out as best we could looking at the budget timing.
- We're not going to have this result by Monday.

The Council was in consensus to have a placeholder for this item.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- The first question is, can you give us a sense of this overall budget?
- We all know, or I think I've come to understand that a lot of our budget is really people power.
- It's salaries and benefits, consultants.
- As a percentage, it's not a number.
- How much of our budget is cost to people?
- If you don't have it handy now and you want to get it to us at the next meeting, that's fine.
- I think it's important for us to understand that that's a lot of what we're paying for, getting a lot of bang for our buck, it's a lot of our budget.

Directed Kwong commented as follows:

- I can say that in the general fund, salary and benefits account for 58% of the budget.
- Contracted services is about 2%.
- These are really rough numbers.
- Capital outlay, which is buying vehicles or what have you, that's 1%, and get service payment in general fund is about 1%.
- All other accounted for 38%.
- What's in all others would be allocated insurance, staff development, which is training, vehicle maintenance, and telecommunication.
- That would be in all others.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- About 58% is salary and benefits.
- When you say that 1%, 2% is contractors, does that include consultants?

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- Yes, that's consultants for example.

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- What's housed in my department would be the HR and IT outsource and support.
- That's also including GHD in the Building and in the Engineering Department.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I'm going to ask you a very direct question that's come up a number of times.
- I look at these numbers, salary and benefits, 58%, consultants, contracts, that kind of thing 2%.
- That underscores an important point which is that our consultant and contractor final dollar amounts relatively speaking are fairly minimal.
- When we look at, you can give us an example, Engineering, and Building, one of those departments where we're using a consultant, recognizing that in both of those instances we tried to recruit for someone with the right level of expertise and we couldn't find someone with the right level of expertise.
- We were willing to pay the amount that we'd have to pay but couldn't find that person.
- We love to have employees, but there you go.
- Given that, give us a cost analysis.
- How much would it have cost to have an employee in those positions? Choose one of them for us, versus what we're paying to a consultant.
- Looking at salary and benefits for whatever the qualified level would be, entry level but qualified, versus the consultant.

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- I say that if you want to look at the Building or the Engineering Department, of course the City would do our best to hire a person.
- Often, like you mentioned, there will not be a good fit.
- We're not going to take anybody from the street and just plant them there and say you do this work.
- To fill the void the City has to resort to consultants.
- Consultant costs for Engineering or Building is about \$120,000.
- An employee is going to be more than \$120,000.
- Let's say the base salary is \$120,000, and you add in benefits, pension, medical.
- That's another 45% on top of the base salary of \$120,000.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- Okay, so looking at it from just a cost perspective, we have \$120,000 for a consultant which, yes, we recognize that's a lot of money.
- But if we were able to find a qualified employee we'd be looking at that amount plus 45% more for benefits.

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- Right, correct.
- Also, with a consultant you're paying for a firm who has a wide range of experts that, you know, if you're working on a project and you need an expert on storm water and they might not have that expertise on storm water.
- There's a benefit of having a consultant.
- I can speak for my department where we handle routine day to day for H.R.
- When employees have questions about their benefits, we handle that.

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- Anything special beyond that regarding disability, family leave, anything specialized, we don't have staff that would attend trainings and know all the laws that are changing daily and make sure that we are protecting the City and the employee so that we don't get ourselves in trouble for not following the law and being in compliance.
- There's some plus and minuses in having a consultant, and some plus and minuses in having staff.
- Of course, the City always strives to have staff who handle the day-to-day routine, but when it comes to the specialties that I just referenced, disability, special pays, family leave, we don't have staff that handles stuff like that.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- I'm sure part of it it's that we're a small City.
- We can't afford to hire a subspecialist.
- An employee is a subspecialist in all these different areas.
- You who have your hands on our finances and who we know to be incredibly conservative in your projections although realistic, I just want to make sure that you feel that in hiring the consultants, we're getting the quality services we need.
- We're making a decision that is cost-effective.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- For the time being, yes.
- For the time being, because to the extent we can find the right employee that would be better.

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- For the time being, just to get through this first year because we did have an employee who's been here for five years retire.
- There's always that reevaluation.
- We can't find a good fit to fill that gap, so now we have a consultant who's doing a great job at trying to figure it out, to get the city in best practice, good practice.
- We can always reevaluate that down the road.
- Capital project is being done, we have the right people in the projects, or does it make sense for the City to take a look at the city as overall?
- Do we need to reorganize, merge some departments together?
- That is an evaluation that can be discussed as we move through filling this gap and filling the void that was left in those departments.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- Are you feeling that the \$30,000 placeholder you have in there for someone to come in and do that financial assessment is going to be sufficient to meet these needs to get that analysis done?

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- I'm not sure.
- I think the number is low.
- We're not going to know until we put out a wish list of what we want of this consultant to do.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I'm just trying to track the consulting services we use.
- We have Engineering, Tony and Joe, and somebody in Building.

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- We have a city attorney, and we have outside consulting services there.
- Those are four of our departments that I'm coming up with.
- Did I miss anybody?

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- The consultant is generally doing our engineering services for an indefinite amount of time.
- Sometimes we hire a consultant because we need a very specific task accomplished, the kind that requires specialized expertise.
- I would say the attorneys that have been used are more in the second category because they have been hired for specific reasons having to do with conflicts of interest.
- We've had a number of consultants in the Engineering Department who have performed highly specialized services relating to city wells and things like that that we don't generally use for specific purposes.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- Questioned if it might be helpful to the entire council if Director Kwong could prepare a list for us on Monday that had the various types of consultants/legal services et cetera, and the total amount that we're spending on them.
- Then we can look at what we're spending on Engineering, Planning, Building, Attorneys, et cetera.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- Are we putting attorneys in the same line so sometimes they look like consultants, or are they separated?
- I think we should separate them by type so we can know what we're spending on Engineering, on Planning, on Building, and on Police because we have had contract people for that too.

Community Benefit Grant Discussion:

Mayor Glass recused herself from the meeting for the Community Benefit Grant discussion on Center for the Arts application.

Councilmember Hinton presented the Community Benefit Grant application on Center for the Arts.

Councilmember Rich commented a specific one, we fund salaries.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- They could reallocate that because the program's \$35,000, and we're funding \$10,000, but you're talking about Rotary because we never funded salaries. I don't really like to fund salaries either, but they basically have listed it that way, but they could easily, if that was our criteria, which we don't state that it is or isn't, rejigger that so that the money isn't going to salaries.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I was wondering if that was within the guidelines, it sounds like it is within the guidelines.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- We've never not made it within the guidelines.

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Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- You'll see it again when we talk about Mainstage West, I believe that is another one that would probably be included.
- We do have an extra \$500 that was allocated to this group beyond what they received in prior years.
- Although that's not a huge amount of money, it's something we need to keep in mind when we think about other requests where we reduced the amount that they had asked for.

Mayor Glass returned to the meeting and Councilmember Slayter recused himself from the meeting for the Community Benefit Grant Discussion for Rebuilding Together application.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- We pretty much, across the board because City revenues were down last year, recommended all the nonprofits also take a 25% discount because they weren't usually able to implement their programs in a full way.
- This year they asked for \$3,000 and we recommended funding of \$3,000.
- They do a lot of good work for that money.

Councilmember Slayter returned to the meeting.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I see that we have a couple of community grants that no money was recommended for.
- Looks like that was Food for Thought and the Sebastopol Entrepreneur's Project.
- Is that correct?

Councilmember Hinton stated that is correct.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I also see that we did not apparently receive an application of any kind, or request of any kind from the Alliance Club or from the other fireworks booth people.
- Is that correct?

Councilmember Hinton stated that is correct.

Councilmember Rich questioned did the Sea Serpents request come in after the Chief provided the updated application?

Staff stated that is correct.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- The Sea Serpents are still getting \$11,000.
- The one question I have as I look at these Community Grant requests is really for the rest of the City Council in terms of what was told to the Sea Serpents last year when they received \$11,000 in a Community Benefit Grant.
- My concern is that this group, is the budget subcommittee aware of any efforts by the Sea Serpents to create some sort of fund-raising opportunity for themselves?
- Did they try to raise some sort of funds that would be meaningful for me?

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- What were they told about what would happen this year when they were given \$11,000 last year?
- What did they do, if anything, to try to pivot the situation in order to create an opportunity for fundraising for themselves?

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I think it might take a little bit of research to find out when they put in an application for the Community Benefit Grant last year and when the Council decided to disallow fireworks sales.
- I can give a reasonable timeline on this and answer not 100% correctly.
- We talked about due to COVID and the extension of the Community Benefits Grants deadline due to COVID that fireworks sales were not going to happen in the city of Sebastopol.
- When they were very active in that Council meeting they applied for a Community Benefit Grant.
- I believe something to do with swim lessons, or something.
- This year, I think it's fair to assume because even as a Councilmember I did not necessarily know we would not allow fireworks again this year, so they did not put in for a Community Benefit Grant.
- I didn't, nor do I think the City told them to, or not to.
- Or, they assumed they could fundraise themselves for fireworks.
- I think that was probably a fair assumption, maybe not totally reading the room that we're in the worst drought ever and that cities were starting to ban them, but a fair assumption.
- I feel really strongly about funding the Sea Serpents this year.
- As we can see, it was just pointed out that we fund organizations year after year and the Sea Serpents is one of the non-profits we have funded at the least amount when you compare it to our other cities' buildings like the Community Center, or Senior Center.
- I don't know if they've done any pivoting, or work.
- They didn't address that.
- It seems like it'd be really hard to pull a fundraiser together in two months when they probably anticipated fireworks sales happening.
- Whether we fund them again in the future, for me the jury is still out whether on the subcommittee or as a Councilmember, I would hope each grant request is weighed year to year and it's not a once we fund it it's not an automatic it gets funded again, or we funded it last year so we're never going to fund it again.
- That's how I feel about it personally, and that's all the information I have.
- As you said, we do have a pattern here of funding year to year for a lot of these organizations.
- I think we do need to be careful as a Council about what we're messaging here.
- Because to the extent that this Council plans on not funding this program year to year, I would bet we need to convey that message in some way and not at the last minute.
- I guess that would be my sense of hesitation.
- The Sea Serpents provide an incredible benefit, and it's not just an enrichment benefit, it's a safety benefit for our community.
- They're going to come to rely on us.
- They're already relying on us.
- This is a substantial amount of money.
- It's not just a portion, it's money that they need to continue their program.
- I look at the amounts we fund, and this is more than we're funding to any other organization.

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- If we weren't funding this \$11,000 to the Sea Serpents, we in fact might be funding something else since we have this 1% rule.
- My instinct is to respect their recommendation at this point, but I just have to express some hesitation and concern about whether we're creating a sense of reliance on us that may in the end harm this organization, otherwise they might be looking to other sources.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- We do have the 1%, though.
- We have funded it.
- I would be curious because I do think that at least for me, I weighed all the applications.
- There's nothing else that I think is a stronger application that I would recommend funding for this year.
- We've got a policy of 1% to support our organizations, and that came long before I came to the Council.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- When we came up with the 1% policy it was back when Councilmember Slayter and I were the budget subcommittee.
- We wanted to regularize a specific amount because before that, it kept being up and down, and it was all over the map.
- The other thing about organizations getting funded year to year, in my opinion this City used to have a Parks and Recreation Department.
- Michael Kyes, my husband who was on the Parks and Recreation Department board way back until we dissolved it because we couldn't afford to do it anymore.
- We outsourced our Parks and Recreation cultural activities to particular nonprofits.
- I don't think it's suitable to give grants to those partner organizations on an annual basis because they are basically our outsourced parks, rec and cultural resources because we can't afford as a City to actually do that in-house.
- I don't have an issue with that.
- Many nonprofits, particularly in the county get regular amounts.
- The County gives them a regular amount every year to do specific tasks that are basically outsourced to a non-profit, it's like a grant kind of thing.
- Just my opinion.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- You're both making good points.
- I have a couple I would make.
- To the point that organizations are providing parks and recs services, maybe we need a different budget heading or something where they're grouped together so they're recognized for that?
- Why is the Community Center and the Public Works Department budget but this is somehow in Community Benefit Grants, and the Senior Center?
- They're all providing parks and recs services, and cultural services.
- Why aren't they all together under one umbrella?
- That's just a new idea I got listening to you.
- That might be more consistent treatment.
- The issue that Councilmember Rich is raising is this dependency we're potentially building.
- I see real differences between those organizations.

- Let's look at Rainbow House.
- They're providing services and I think we're critical money to them and, yes, they do rely on the funding.
- Look who they serve.
- They don't serve a fund base.
- They can't rattle money out of people.
- Sea Serpents funding started in 1955.
- They have all those years of alumni and alumni family.
- My kids had a good experience there.
- This is an organization that has a huge fund base, and they say that can't tab them, or if they do, they can't get money.
- I don't believe that because I'm not seeing the effort.
- This is where I think they might have pivoted.
- I think it was fair to assume they could sell fireworks this year.
- I think it's fair to assume it was going down and they weren't going to get them.
- I didn't see that energy.
- Not only that, but I also saw a certain attitude in the presentation that didn't really appeal to me.
- I just think these groups that have the possibility of asking for money can ask because we're a very generous community and people do find money to support them.
- I think giving them the \$11,000 is very appropriate, but creating the dependency is a problem, and I think that's the important message we need to give these groups if they have that possibility, they should demonstrate that they can.
- I think they could try.
- I also think they're a very deserving organization.
- My family is indebted to them for a wonderful experience.
- I'm all in favor of them getting money, and I'm in favor of them getting back into their routines of finding ways to raise money.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- We might be able to avoid taking that vote if we just hurry-up and say we're done with this.
- I think that we have reviewed all the information that was on our list for tonight.
- The next thing up is going to be our Thursday night information that has to do with law enforcement that will also have budget implications or inform our budget choices.
- Then, we'll move on Monday to full deliberation on all that information that we have received and make some decisions.
- The public can speak at each of those meetings, Thursday and Monday.

Mayor Glass re-opened for public comment.

Kyle Falbo commented as follows:

- I'm highly critical of the presentation of the number of 2% for contract services or hiring a contractor.
- Secondly, there was an additional agenda item that hasn't been discussed.
- I'm hoping to get information on when that agenda item will return to the Council.
- Thank you so much.

Mayor Glass closed public comment.

The item was continued to the June 21st 2021 Special City Council Meeting.

8. Public Hearing – To Conduct a Public Hearing on the Capital Improvement Program FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26 and the Proposed CIP Budget for FY 2021-22 (Responsible Department: GHD/Public Works)

This item was continued to the June 21st 2021 City Council Special Meeting to be held at 6:00 pm by Zoom Virtual Format.

City Council Action: Continued Item
Minute Order Number: 2021-133

REGULAR CALENDAR AGENDA ITEMS (DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION): None

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS:

9. City Manager-Attorney/City Clerk Reports:
10. City Council Reports/Committee/Sub-Committee Meeting Reports: (Reports by Mayor/City Councilmembers Regarding Various Agency Meetings/Committee Meetings/Sub-Committee Meeting /Conferences Attended and Possible Direction to its Representatives (If Needed) on Pending issues before such Boards)

Mayor Gurney reported as follows:

- The SCTA and RCPA met this week.
- It's important to note, with the resignation of Logan Harvey, mayor of Sonoma, and his relocation to Seattle, the vice chair position was made available.
- The board unanimously elected Chris Rogers.
- The organization is created by legislation that has included a two-year term for the chair, and a two-year term for the vice chair.
- In each situation those have to be a county and a city.
- You can't have two cities, one in each role.
- We had to pick from the cities.
- Chris Rogers, the mayor of Santa Rosa was unanimously elected.
- He just has so much equanimity and good will.
- He's a great employee.
- We talked about the upcoming transportation funding opportunities.
- It was a very long and detailed report.
- I spoke with Tony about it prior to the meeting.
- She's very onboard in scheduling our work to coordinate with those possible funding sources to put in applications.
- I think all of us involved in that will be reporting and seeking council permission as those develop.
- We'll talk about it more in the CIP Monday night.
- What is the amount?
- \$73.5 million in funds to be distributed over the next five years.
- Some of them are front loaded and another round for money.
- We also had a report on the history of each jurisdiction's success in getting money, our numbers were good.
- We have performed well in getting money from the SCTA, in getting their support in getting money.

- I have to say, as a side note, I think both these agenda items were driven by Sebastopol's comments on the quick strike application.
- There was a long discussion from SCTA staff about how they make decisions about who to support, and performance is their top criteria.
- If you can perform and deliver on a contract and they see you doing that, then they have faith that you deserve the next money.
- That's where we need to be.
- With our success on the quick strike application, we need to make sure we do well.
- The committee had a long presentation from Golden Gate Transit on how they lived through the pandemic, what they did, how they had to change, and what their future looks like.
- If you heard the details of a 45-minute report, I'll summarize it by saying this;
- Peoples' lifestyles have changed tremendously.
- They're concerned their ridership will stay down because people don't want to commute, and people are changing their jobs so they don't have to spend the time commuting, they used to be commuting and this great financial impact on our ferry system and our bus system and the bridge as well.
- We had Ariel Kelly join that committee because we did lose Mr. Harvey.
- There was a discussion, because it's going to need funds, and there's a lot of interest in climate action, which takes money, so the discussion was talking about potential ballot measures.
- It has to be put on the ballot by the supervisors and be pretty limited to a sales tax measure, but that was just the initial conversation and I'm sure it will go forward.
- There was a conversation in the last item about the Sonoma Climate Mobilization Strategy, which has 13 objectives, and the commitment was to add a 14th which was adding an all-electric code.
- Information I received that I didn't realize is it won its lawsuit.
- Windsor was also sued but they withdrew their electric code, and Santa Rosa prevailed on their lawsuit.
- It's looking better for an all-electric world.
- The meeting ended with a compliment to the City of Sebastopol for our initial success on the water upgrade save program and the statistics.
- They're excited about how our community is responding to the opportunity to retrofit fixtures and save community water.
- Those are the two committees that have met since the end of last meeting.

Councilmember Rich reported as follows:

- I did have an assessment of my house so I can report out that that was super interesting.
- They came in and were very efficient and gave us some recommendations for changing shower heads and replacing our water guzzling toilets with modern toilets and putting in little screens into our faucets, which is apparently going to save us thousands of gallons of water.
- That will be done this Friday.
- I would encourage anyone who's interested in having that done to go ahead.
- It was definitely worthwhile and not complicated, very efficient.
- The Climate Action Committee is still moving forward with a lot of proactive efforts.
- We are looking at some changes to increase accessibility and add information on the webpages of the Climate Action Committee and the Zero Waste Subcommittee.
- Also considering a resource library for the Climate Action Committee.
- Their working groups are really putting together a lot of information and would like to see the results of that displayed on the website.

- I did attend on June 6 the emergency exercise organized for purposes of determining whether a neighborhood-based communication system using a walkie-talkie, it's a GMRs radio which is very much like walkie-talkies, has a much bigger range, whether that would be effective.
- That was super interesting and resulted in a lot of good data that our local neighborhood communications group is using to kind of move forward with the map your neighborhood and Sebastopol neighborhood communications efforts.
- Zero Waste Sonoma is all SB 1383 preparations, contracts, and getting ready for January when everything kicks in.
- The Sebastopol Service Board Coalition is continuing to meet.
- That was the group established with facilitation by CoMission.
- It's moving forward fairly independently now.
- Craig Litwin is attending but otherwise, we're just moving forward with me facilitating and the group driving the direction of their efforts, which are really trying to build on the summit results.
- I talked about Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District.
- Watch out for ticks.
- The combination of the drought and, ticks being what ticks are has resulted in a lot of ticks out there.
- There are some really weird photos out there of blades of grass just covered with ticks.
- The effect of the drought is, unfortunately, loss of vernal pools.
- Frogs are predators for ticks, and we don't have as many frogs.
- We have more ticks.
- Be really, really aware of it.
- Get the word out there.
- They did their budget work at the Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District, and they have topnotch staff there.
- It's really impressive.
- Not as great as ours, I have to say, but they are good.
- Mayors and Councilmembers meeting, I attended, and I'm sure Mayor Glass will be reporting out about that, but I thought it was really, really super interesting.

Councilmember Slayter reported as follows:

- I reported on the GSA activities at the front end
- Sonoma Clean Power, the big news there is that the advance energy, the store front had its soft opening today so you can go down there and check out all manner of really great displays and presentations and if you go to the energy center website, you can sign up and take online classes.
- There will be in-person classes.
- There's a demonstration kitchen, so there will be some cooking activities centered around induction cooking and modern ventilation and those things.
- It's a really great space.
- It's incredibly well designed.
- The other part of Sonoma Clean Power, the board meeting.
- The legislative action going on in Sacramento and Sonoma Clean Power in conjunction with other CCAs through the trade association, Cal CCA, is running a bill this year.
- It's modest in scope, but it's important in topic, so that's kind of the first time that that's happened, so I think that that's going to be a really interesting process to watch.
- Other legislation, there's always really, really good bills and then there's always the opposite.

- It's just a matter of taking positions and letting legislators know where Sonoma Clean Power and then when it's something that affects the whole industry, where the whole industry feels things ought to go.
- The difficulty that we have is the exit fees and the way that they're structured, Sonoma Clean Power continues to push back on, if you look at you bill, the PCIA, the power charge and difference adjustment.
- It's the departing load.
- It's making the investor owned utility whole for customers that have departed, and the problem is the way that that's calculated is done behind a black curtain inside of a black box, and so, pushing on trying to get that day lit so that people understand, and other places have sunsets on these things, and to date, the California Public Utility Commission has not instituted a sunset on this, so investor owned utility sees it as a bit of a piggy bank, so that's a big deal.
- I talk about the PCIA with some regularity here, so there's that.
- The Planning Director has undertaken the design standards update, and there's a committee that was empaneled, actually, quite a while ago and we're just now getting into our activities, and that is to put together some objective design standards so that the City has greater control over certain types of projects and the end around that some developers try to do to go to the State and get approval, which completely removes local control and the ability for us to actually regulate land use, which is something that municipalities are supposed to be able to do.
- It's an architect member of the Design Review Board.
- It is an architect member of the Planning Commission.
- It is an architect member of the City Council, and it is a Planning Director who holds a license to practice architecture. We also have allowed a structural engineer into our little club, so that's the group, and we're getting going on that.
- That's, I think, going to be a very highly functional group.
- I suppose the other thing we did talk about is that the sponsorship committee met a couple of times and put together what you see this evening.
- Reminder to look at that and if you want to formulate your thoughts on what that draft might need to, if you have any suggestions for the revision on that, that would be great.
- The housing committee has met a couple of times, and just a lot of it has to do with coordinating the proposal that WCCS provided to us, and that's in the budget item.

Mayor Glass reported as follows:

- Councilmember Hinton thinks we didn't do anything, but actually we did, because we were really busy working on the staff report, et cetera, that had to do with the budget tonight.
- We had a lot to do.
- We were working on that.
- I also attended my personal favorite, the 7:15 in the morning ad hoc meeting regarding homelessness that is a meeting of south county cities including Petaluma and Santa Rosa, which is mostly staff people but a lot of discussion how to pull together a regional approach to sorting out homeless issues and working collaboratively.
- One of the things that that group has really been working to achieve was advocating for a new pro-city director of the COC, and somebody that would really listen to the city's point of view, and so, very thankfully, well the COC, CDC, one of the people that this group did lobby for was David Kip, who is now the new head of the CDC.
- He is the former city manager of Healdsburg and the former city manager of the City of Sonoma.

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- I think I first met him as the city manager of the City of Newport Beach back when I was doing coast walk things.
 - He's very city positive, and he's very interested in collaborating on homelessness issues with the cities and not having the county just look at things from a county perspective but including the cities and collaborating with us.
 - That was good news.
 - That kind of sums up that meeting.
 - There are a lot of details of people talking about, in name project, a lot of education about how varying agencies deal with collaborating on housing or homelessness issues.
 - I also attended a housing subcommittee meeting that was about an update on the Sebastopol inn that is amazingly enough continuing to go just great, so everybody seems very happy, yay, and I should back up to this south county homelessness meeting.
 - City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin and I were at the meeting, and we were asked to talk about Elderberry Commons and what a success it's been in Sebastopol, and we got lots of kudos for that, and everybody thought the City of Sebastopol did kind of an extraordinary thing in making that slip into our community as, yeah, there was some controversy, but compared to things that happened in Santa Rosa, things went really pretty well.
 - That was a good report.
 - I also attended the Mayors and Councilmembers, so I voted on all of the people as directed, amazingly enough, everybody we appointed, we voted for, everybody else voted for, so that was good.
 - There was also a really great presentation by an individual, actually, that the south county group all knew of, and he specifically talked about a town in Alberta that has ended homelessness, and I will send everybody the report from that, the link to that report, and how that city did that.
 - It's pretty impressive.
 - Anyway, there was a presenter there that actually made a very compelling case about the model that I think looks quite a bit like what we would be doing with WCCS in conjunction with collaborating with the county CDC.
 - I thought it was a very good report.
 - Then, additionally, Supervisor Coursey and some others made a report about aging together, and let's all age together and let's put together aging-friendly things in our town, and so there are several cities that have gotten certified as age friendly cities, including Healdsburg and I think Petaluma, and this seems like a no brainer thing that we should pursue, so I'm going to pass that information on to our Planning Director, who is sitting there just waiting for another initiative to land in her lap, I'm sure, but this actually sounds like a pretty great initiative, and maybe she can take a look at exactly what we need to do so that we, too, can be an age-friendly community because we have lots of aged people here.
11. Council Communications Received
 12. Future City Meeting Dates/Events (Informational Only): (See Agenda Below City Web site for Up-to-Date Meeting Dates/Times)

CLOSED SESSION ITEMS: NONE

ADJOURNMENT OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Meeting will be adjourned to the City Council Regular Meeting of *July 6, 2021 at 6:00 pm. (VIRTUAL ZOOM PLATFORM)

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*It is anticipated that additional Special City Council Meetings will be held to continue discussion of the City budget and Capital Improvement Plan/Budget. Tentative Meeting Dates are: June 21st and June 30th both beginning at 6:00 pm (Zoom virtual format).

ADJOURNMENT OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Meeting will be adjourned to the City Council Regular Meeting of *July 6, 2021 at 6:00 pm. (VIRTUAL ZOOM PLATFORM)

ADJOURNMENT OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Glass adjourned the meeting at 10:24 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

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