

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR Meeting of April 6, 2021

As Approved by the City Council at their regular meeting of April 20, 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 6:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: Councilmember Neysa Hinton – Approved Absence

Staff: City Manager/City Attorney Larry McLaughlin

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

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

Mayor Glass read protocols for the meeting.

PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS:

The following were presented:

- Proclamation – Recognizing April 4-10, as National Library Week
- National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week (Dispatchers) is April 11-17, 2021
- Proclamation - Recognizing April 2021 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month
- Proclamation – Proclaiming the “Locals Who Make a Difference” Recognition Program Honoree

City Council Action: No formal action.

Reference Order Number: 2021-059

Mayor Glass recognized the passing of Police Officer Bill Snyder.

- I’m convening our meeting in recognition of Police Officer Bill Snyder who passed away in the past week.
- Bill was 67 years old and was a resident of Rohnert Park.
- He began his career as a deputy sheriff, owned Stanroy Music Center, and joined Sebastopol as a Reserve Officer on April 27, 1982. He was later promoted to Police Officer.
- Bill retired from the Sebastopol Police Department in 2016.
- We are convening this meeting in his honor, and our community is thinking of his family and sending our support and best wishes to his family
- We and his family are very sad he is no longer with us.

Chief Kilgore commented as follows:

- Bill was a significant contributor to the Department, and I received many e-mails from people who are saddened to hear of our loss.
- Our Department is very sad to have lost Bill as well, and we continue to think and keep his family in our thoughts and prayers as they move forward and grieve his loss.
- Thank you for recognizing Bill and keeping him and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Mayor Glass commented that the City has had so many really amazing people that have worked for the City and have moved on from us in the past few years and we need to remember them and think of how grateful we are for the legacy they have left us.

PUBLIC COMMENT (for items not on the agenda).

The following emails were received:

- Bridget Ross
- Christy Laborda Harris

- Tasha
- Jenifer Piccinini
- Mike Mortensson
- Natalie Timm
- Nancy Hair
- Kamran Nayeri
- Mary OConnor
- Tony Gerald
- Cheryl White
- David Henneman
- Arlene Houghton
- Michael Burson
- Susan Fink
- Diane Psota
- Philip Saluzzo
- Lauren Morimoto

Linda Collins commented as follows:

- I wanted to share this opportunity with everyone that we are going to actually be having a virtual Apple Blossom Festival.
- I have contracted with Dax Entertainment, a local entertainment group that is very knowledgeable on doing virtual events.
- It will be happening hopefully within the next 45 days.
- We are going to have old time photos and we're going to be interviewing five different individuals that have a history of putting the Apple Blossom Festival together.
- This is the best we can do this year for a festival due to COVID.
- We are planning to do a parade, possibly in September, but there will be no festival following that.
- I appreciate all that you do.
- Thank you so much and have a great evening.

Katherine Murray commented as follows:

- I am a Sebastopol resident.
- I strongly believe an environmental impact report on the housing development is needed.
- State law SD-743 on the California environmental quality act was proposed for traffic congestion, with goals to improve air quality, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by building housing closer to where people work.
- In July 2020, SB-743 began measuring impacts and making sure that housing is building in the least amount of commuting.
- It was designed to address congestion by reducing it at the source.
- The priority is to add less car traffic on the roads, which is the only proven way of reducing congestion, and reduce the commutes that clog highways and limit time spent with families.
- The majority of residents of the proposed development must be agricultural workers, and where they work is very significant.
- I studied the data from a farm worker study, and a few statistics were notable.
- 3% of farm workers reported using public transportation.

- The vast majority drove a car and less than 7% of all workers surveyed actually work in Sebastopol or the surrounding area.
- The vast majority work in Healdsburg, Santa Rosa, and Sonoma.
- Farm workers who live in the development would commute much further.
- This is the exact opposite of the requirements of SB-743.
- There are many lower income people who need affordable housing.
- Putting a large development of farm worker housing is contrary to the goal of SB-743.
- It will increase commute times and add to the cost of workers who struggle financially.
- It will increase greenhouse gases and will not provide housing for people actually working in Sebastopol.
- According to a SB-743 government website, the California Act is controlled locally, and local governments will work to improve their communities.
- I strongly urge the Sebastopol government to do just that.

Evert Fernandez commented as follows:

- I felt compelled to comment on the Council's decision last meeting to not appoint Kate Haug, the alternate on the Planning Commission to the Planning Commission.
- I'm the Planning Commission Chair and a citizen of Sebastopol.
- I struggled whether to make a comment but thought that perhaps something can still be done or at the very least, wanted to voice my opinion.
- That is what we do in Sebastopol.
- I make these comments with all due respect to City Council.
- The situation to not appoint the alternate was a little confusing for me.
- Originally, five years ago when the decision was made to have an alternate, at that point, I was on the Commission and every one of the Commission members felt it wasn't needed.
- It was Council's decision and we certainly support that.
- One of the reasons that was given as to why it would be a good idea is because if we ever had an open seat, the alternate could be moved into that open seat and then the alternate could be replaced as that could be more efficient.
- That way the person is already familiar with everything on there.
- I expressed my opinion.
- Ms. Haug has done a great job during her time on the Planning Commission.
- I encouraged the Planning Commission to get more involved and she certainly jumped in and did a lot of things. The Planning Commission has four presentations on housing coming up. All kinds of different items.
- I'm not here speaking on her behalf, by the way, Ms. Haug has no idea I'm speaking about her.
- Time has to be taken to put out the public announcement, to get applications for a new member, and also to then interview and go through that process.
- I do understand that the alternate could also apply for the open position, but you can understand how that might be a little awkward or be something that they don't want to do.
- I just wanted to mention that I felt compelled to make this comment.
- I appreciate everything that the Council does, and I hope that these comments are taken in the intent they are meant to be.
- Thank you very much.

STATEMENTS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BY MAYOR/CITY COUNCILMEMBERS FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:

Councilmember Slayer commented as follows:

- A question for our City Attorney.
- Given that I am a member of the VFW 3919 Gold Ridge, and they are one of the common recipients of the fireworks stands, do I need to excuse myself from that conversation?

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- The most action the Council can take this evening is to give direction to City staff to come back with more action proposed in the future.
- Based on that, I would advise that you do not have a conflict in participating in that item tonight.

There were no conflicts of interest.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM(S):

Mayor Glass read the consent calendar.

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

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

Mayor Glass called for a motion.

MOTION:

Councilmember Slayter moved and Councilmember Rich seconded the motion to approve Consent Calendar Item(s) Number(s) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 6, and 7

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

VOTE:

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

Noes: None

Absent: Councilmember Hinton

Abstain: None

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- Thanked the Council for passing items 3 and 4.
- It's necessary for the Quick-Strike money, and I'm grateful to staff as we continue to push for approval of the grant application.
- Thank you.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM(S):

1. Approval of Minutes of the City Council Special Meeting – Study Session of March 10, 2021 (Responsible Department: City Administration)

City Council Action: Approved Minutes of the City Council Special Meeting – Study Session of March 10, 2021.

Minute Order Number: 2021-060

2. Approval of Minutes of the City Council Meeting of March 16, 2021 (Responsible Department: City Administration)

City Council Action: Approved Minutes of the City Council Meeting of March 16, 2021

Minute Order Number: 2021-061

3. Adoption of Resolution of Local Support and Approval of Letter of Support for the SR 116 and Bodega Avenue Pedestrian Access and Mobility Improvements for the OBAG 2/Quick Strike Grant Application (Responsible Department: GHD Engineering)

City Council Action: Approved Adoption of Resolution of Local Support and Approval of Letter of Support for the SR 116 and Bodega Avenue Pedestrian Access and Mobility Improvements for the OBAG 2/Quick Strike Grant Application

Minute Order Number: 2021-062

Resolution Number: 6334-2021

4. Approval of Amendment No. 4 to Master Agreement 2010-01-37 with Wood Rodgers for Bodega Avenue Bike Lanes and Pavement Rehabilitation Not To Exceed Amount \$250,805 and Adoption of Resolution Approving a Budget Amendment to Increase Adopted CIP; Total Cost: \$270,000 (Capital Improvement Project Number 0516-85.00) (Responsible Department: GHD and City Engineer)

City Council Action: Approved Amendment No. 4 to Master Agreement 2010-01-37 with Wood Rodgers for Bodega Avenue Bike Lanes and Pavement Rehabilitation Not To Exceed Amount \$250,805 and Adoption of Resolution Approving a Budget Amendment to Increase Adopted CIP; Total Cost: \$270,000 (Capital Improvement Project Number 0516-85.00)

Minute Order Number: 2021-063

Resolution Number: 6335-2021

5. Approval of Notice of Completion, Contract No. 2019-05 - Park Village Renovations: New RV Pads Plus Utilities (Responsible Department: City Engineer)

City Council Action: Approved Notice of Completion, Contract No. 2019-05 - Park Village Renovations: New RV Pads Plus Utilities

Minute Order Number: 2021-064

6. Adoption of Resolution of Intention to Levy and Collect Annual Assessments for FY 2021-2022 for the City of Sebastopol's Lighting Special Assessment District, Preliminarily Approving the Engineer's Report and Setting the Date for the Public Hearing in Accordance with Provisions of the Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972 (Responsible Department: Administrative Services Director/City Engineer)

City Council Action: Approved Amendment No. 4 to Master Agreement 2010-01-37 with Wood Rodgers for Bodega Avenue Bike Lanes and Pavement Rehabilitation Not To Exceed Amount \$250,805 and Adoption of Resolution Approving a Budget Amendment to Increase Adopted CIP; Total Cost: \$270,000 (Capital Improvement Project Number 0516-85.00)

Minute Order Number: 2021-065

Resolution Number: 6336-2021

7. Approval of Letter of Opposition to SB 556 (Dodd) Removal of Local Authority of Public Rights-of-Way -Wireless Broadband Infrastructure Deployment (Agenda Review Committee)

City Council Action: Approved Letter of Opposition to SB 556 (Dodd) Removal of Local Authority of Public Rights-of-Way -Wireless Broadband Infrastructure Deployment

Minute Order Number: 2021-066

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/PRESENTATION: (Please Note: Although informational/presentations items are routinely informational in nature, some informational items may contain request for actions such as support, direction to staff, follow up, or receipt of item based on the presentation/information provided.)

None

PUBLIC HEARING(S): None

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

8. Consideration of Approval and Adoption of Resolution Condemning and Combating Racism and Intolerance Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and All People, Regardless of Their Race, Color of Skin, Religion, National Origin, Sexual Orientation, Gender, Gender Identity, Gender Expression, Disability, or Age, and Commitment to Inclusion and Advancing Equity and Justice for People of All Races, National Origins, and ethnicities and Commitment to No Tolerance of Any Actions and Or Comments of Hate of Any Kind to any Person (Requestor: Agenda Review Committee)

Mayor Glass and Vice Mayor Gurney presented the agenda item recommending the City Council approve the Resolution Condemning and Combating Racism and Intolerance Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and All People, Regardless of Their Race, Color of Skin, Religion, National Origin, Sexual Orientation, Gender, Gender Identity, Gender Expression, Disability, or Age, and Commitment to Inclusion and Advancing Equity and Justice for People of All Races, National Origins, and ethnicities and Commitment to No Tolerance of Any Actions and Or Comments of Hate of Any Kind to any Person.

Mayor Glass commented that every one of us is very, very concerned about this issue, particularly with the kinds of things that have happened recently, not only nationally but very unfortunately, and very concerning in our county.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I'm glad that staff could put this on the agenda when we suggested it.
- I wish we could have heard it closer to the time of the incidences of hate and violence.
- The community stands against hate and racism, and wants our businesses, residents, employees, visitors, and everyone here to be free from any hate conversation or hateful action or violence against them.
- It's very important that we speak with one voice and we speak unitedly in the zero tolerance position we're taking tonight.
- I hope we can read the resolution too.

Mayor Glass read the resolution in its entirety.

Mayor Glass opened for questions.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- Just to underscore the comments that you've already made, and that Vice Mayor Gurney so clearly articulated, one of the reasons that I was interested in being on the City Council here in this wonderful little town of Sebastopol is because of our standards and principles and our commitment to them in word and in action.
- That inclusive, collaborative spirit.
- We think we can take it for granted sometimes in Sebastopol.
- This is an incredibly useful reminder to say we don't take it for granted.
- We always speak up.
- We're always there for all of the people in the town, no matter what.
- No matter who they are, no matter what their perspective is.
- We don't allow anyone to denigrate them in any way.

- Thank you for bringing this forward, and I'm fully in support of it.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- The last version of the agenda that I've seen has an item I've requested.
- It's going to be a repeat of something that I brought last year, midyear, when I was Mayor.
- That is some very tangible steps that the City operation, the government can take for our boards, our commission, and Council, and staff.
- That will be coming back and it is difficult to consider some of these things as necessary.
- This is something that I promised would come back.
- Culturally, in a broader sense, what we see across the country is very, very difficult.
- It goes to something like a Senator introducing a bill that would challenge particular Sister City relationships.
- Sebastopol enjoys two Sister City relationships, one in Japan and one in Ukraine.
- The Japanese relationship would not be subject to this potential Federal Legislation but the Ukrainian one would.
- If it happens, our relationship, which goes back nearly 30 years, would be severed.
- That would be a tremendous loss to us and it would be a tremendous loss to the good folks there.
- Those are the kinds of systemic things that are happening in absence of a broader picture, a bigger picture.
- To bring this a little bit closer to home, I'll share a little bit of personal stuff here.
- That is that I have a Sister-in-Law whose parents immigrated from China.
- She is the first in her family to be a citizen of the United States.
- I have two lovely nieces, they're half-Chinese, ethnically.
- They report a difference in the way that they are treated in society.
- That is just not right.
- The older one, who appears to take a little bit more after her Italian and Irish side kind of gets a pass.
- That's just not right.
- The younger one, who appears much more Asian, it's just disheartening to hear that from young people who are out in the world.
- It just breaks my heart to hear them talk about that.
- This kind of acknowledgment of the difficulties is important.
- I'm happy that the Mayor and Vice Mayor have brought this to us this evening.
- I obviously will be strongly supporting this when it comes to a vote.

Mayor Glass opened for public comment.

Lauren commented as follows:

- I'm the President of the Sonoma County Japanese American Citizens League.
- On behalf of the chapter, I'd like to read a short statement about the resolution.
- The Sonoma County Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League supports the resolution of the Sebastopol City Council condemning and combating racism and intolerance against Asian-Americans and all people.
- The recent attacks against Asian-Americans based on the derogatory comments of certain public officials shows how quickly it can lead to hate crimes.
- The resolution makes a clear statement that hate will not be tolerated.

- We commend the City for its efforts.
- An attack against one race or individual is an attack against all.
- We must share a commitment to include, celebrate, and respect all people.
- Thank you for the chance to make a statement.

Mo commented as follows:

- I'm a longtime resident of Sonoma County since 1982.
- I'm Founder and Chair of Sonoma County United Project, which was founded in March 2019.
- The Board of Supervisors gave a resolution in support of this project, and I'm very glad to report that the City of Sebastopol was the first to support it.
- We declare that we shall not permit discrimination to anybody based on language, race, color of skin, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or ability.
- We're committed to building lasting tolerance, equity, peace, and unity in our communities.
- As a member of society, we have a tremendous obligation to ourselves, children, family, community, and humanity to actively engage and address injustices.
- Practice daily acts of kindness.
- Acts of hate and racism in our communities, from simple acts of disrespect and unkind gestures to each other, they could be blatant or hidden.
- This is not the time for neutrality.
- This is a person to person and heart to heart war.
- You and I have an important role to play.
- We have to do it with kindness.
- Let us commit to acts of kindness in every interaction and every task that we are engaged with during our working hours.
- Thank you, Madam Mayor Glass and Vice Mayor Gurney and the City Council for your leadership to bring this resolution and address the much-needed issue in our society.

David commented as follows:

- I support this resolution, and I thank you very much for bringing it forward and expressing this sentiment that is much needed these days.
- This resolution will help to send a powerful message, and as Mayor Glass indicated, it's up to all of us to put it into effect.
- How we confront issues that the resolution condemns.
- With that said, I would like to also comment that there are a lot of things at the State level, County level, and local level that the resolution is silent about.
- It would be helpful that if the City Council finds some time at some point soon to address the more problematic, racist behaviors at a more local level and to recognize those rather than turning our backs on it.
- It is also important that the City Council take steps to eliminate some of the continuing systemic racism that exists locally in City government.
- I look forward to hearing what it will be moving forward.
- As I've commented before, one of the ways that we still have some systemic racism is the way we conduct City Council elections.
- To date, the City Council has chosen to find excuses not to address that. I hope that will change some time in the future.
- Thank you.

Susan commented as follows:

- I'm Susan McDonough, I live in Sebastopol.
- Since 2017, I've been active with the North Bay Rapid Response Network in terms of their 24-hour, 7 day a week hotline, dealing with problems with ICE.
- As the resolution points out, we're facing new problems. Especially number ten, where it says all Sebastopol residents can play a role.
- I couldn't agree more.
- We have to be pro-active in this, not just sign a document.
- In light of this, the West County piece of the Rapid Response Network has decided to reach out to Asian-owned businesses and establishments to let them know where we stand, that we stand with them, and that we condemn racism.
- The Sonoma County Human Rights Commission is there to make sure they know that if something does happen, they can confidentially report.
- What is so exciting about the report, is that it is in 18 different languages.
- We can really reach out to the community.
- Thank you for your very thorough and comprehensive resolution, I look forward to carrying out its intent.

Council Deliberations:

There was no further discussion.

MOTION:

Vice Mayor Gurney moved and Councilmember Slayter seconded the motion to approve Resolution Condemning and Combating Racism and Intolerance Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and All People, Regardless of Their Race, Color of Skin, Religion, National Origin, Sexual Orientation, Gender, Gender Identity, Gender Expression, Disability, or Age, and Commitment to Inclusion and Advancing Equity and Justice for People of All Races, National Origins, and ethnicities and Commitment to No Tolerance of Any Actions and Or Comments of Hate of Any Kind to any Person.

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

VOTE:

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

City Council Action: Approved Adoption of Resolution Condemning and Combating Racism and Intolerance Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and All People, Regardless of Their Race, Color of Skin, Religion, National Origin, Sexual Orientation, Gender, Gender Identity, Gender Expression, Disability, or Age, and Commitment to Inclusion and Advancing Equity and Justice for People of All Races, National Origins, and ethnicities and Commitment to No Tolerance of Any Actions and Or Comments of Hate of Any Kind to any Person

Minute Order Number: 2021-067

Resolution Number: 6337-2021

9. Discussion Regarding Fireworks (Requestor: Agenda Review Committee)

City Manager McLaughlin presented the agenda item recommending the City Council provide direction to staff and made the following comments:

- I believe as the item goes forward this evening, we have Chief Braga for any questions regarding the fire prevention aspects of this.
- The Agenda Review Committee has sent this item to the Council, believing it would be timely for the Council to have a discussion at this point.
- Similar discussions are ongoing in several cities around the county, in terms of whether fireworks will be allowed, whether sales will be allowed, et cetera.
- I thought it would be timely for the Council to discuss this item.
- There is no particular action proposed.
- After the Council hears from the public and reviews this, any further direction that you opt to give to staff, any subsequent actions or not resulting from this agenda item would return to the Council at a subsequent time.
- Right now, there is an existing ordinance in the City that provides for the issuance of permits to sell fireworks and for the use of fireworks.
- There's an associated resolution with that ordinance that sets the dates and times for when fireworks can be sold and/or used in the city.
- Potential actions the Council has taken, directing staff, runs the full range from doing nothing to awaiting potential applications this year for permits to sell fireworks.
- That has been the case every year except last year, which I'll talk about in a minute.
- To the other end of the spectrum, so to speak, potentially giving staff direction to return with a subsequent action item for the Council, which could be either an amendment or repeal of the existing ordinance and enacting a new ordinance which could ban the sale and/or use of fireworks within the city.
- Again, the item is before you this evening to give staff further direction.
- What happened last year, there was some confusion about that.
- We've tried to clear it up in a couple of newspaper articles that have been written about other cities' potential actions.
- Last year, the Council determined there would be no permits issued last year.
- That was the action the Council took.
- Fireworks were not banned.
- The use of fireworks is not banned within the city at the present time.
- Sales of fireworks have not been forbidden either.
- The item is to look at it anew.
- Last year's action only pertained to last year.
- There's really no guided discussion because it depends on where the Council wants to take this item.
- We have Chief Braga with us this evening if you have questions about the impact on the use of fireworks in our community, whether it represents a threat, or it leads to use of illegal fireworks, or if there have been any issues in the past from a public safety perspectives.
- Chief Braga can elaborate if you would like to hear from him.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- As I recall, the reason why we did not issue permits last year was due to COVID.
- It seemed like a very bad idea to be having gatherings with fireworks in that particular situation.
- It would be an attractant to gather people in an unsafe way, and that's why we took that action last year.

- Meanwhile, when I'm looking at the list of what other cities in our county and what the county does, as far as I can see, the only cities that have not actually banned fireworks because they're fireworks, not related to the COVID situation, is Cloverdale, but they're making a new decision in April, in another week or so.
- Another is looking like they're going in the same direction and they're slated to decide on the issue on April 13th.
- Other than that, fireworks are not allowed anywhere else in the county which I suspect has a large relationship to the fires that we've seen over the past several years.
- I'm wondering if Chief Braga would have some additional comments about this before we start any discussions.

Chief Braga commented as follows:

- You're absolutely right, there are three remaining cities in Sonoma County that have allowed the sales and use of safe and sane fireworks.
- We are one of them.
- Rohnert Park will be meeting on the 13th, and Cloverdale will be meeting on the 14th, next week, to make the determination if they're going to continue to sell and use safe and sane fireworks.
- The other notes that you see on the staff report are reports that I received from the other cities that have banned fireworks many years ago.
- That's Sonoma, Santa Rosa, and now Windsor but what those cities are discussing is the potential of a one night fireworks show.
- Similar to what it was, but those cities that I just mentioned banned the sales and use of safe and sane fireworks years ago.
- Those cities that banned fireworks years ago are only considering a one-night show.
- They are not considering bringing back fireworks.
- It's true that Sebastopol, Rohnert Park, and Cloverdale are the three remaining cities that are discussing sales and use of safe and sane fireworks.

Mayor Glass asked for questions.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- To clarify, I'm understanding that three cities allow the kind of fireworks we have on the street and our neighborhoods, and they also allow the large, big fireworks displays that are commercial.
- Those three cities today allow both of those things.
- Then all the other cities, do they allow commercial at all, are any of the other cities allowing commercial displays?

Chief Braga commented as follows

- For instance, Santa Rosa has already advertised that they have canceled their show at the Santa Rosa Fairgrounds on July 4th. It's called, Red, White, and Boom! It's put on by the 20-30 Club of Santa Rosa.
- They've already determined they will not hold the show this year.
- Our Sebastopol Kiwanis has also decided to not hold the show on July 3rd.
- They looked at potential other dates, maybe later in the year.
- They would have to make a commitment to purchase all of the fireworks to hold the show even later in the year.
- Kiwanis has decided not to hold their show this year.

- Those other cities, again, even Petaluma, who did a total ban a couple of years ago, they are considering, due to the pandemic, and due to everybody being locked in over the year, they are, like a few other cities, considering having a one-night show.
- Their dilemma, like ours, will be based on the health order at that time.
- If there's a health order still in place that will restrict large gatherings, that is the issue with that.
- They just don't know how they would manage a show without the risk of large group gatherings.
- Windsor and Petaluma and Sonoma are looking at the possibility of having a one-night show.
- They're still waiting for guidance from the County and from the State.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- An issue that comes up repeatedly is safety, fire hazard, risk to the population.
- I appreciate your giving us an update on what is going on in the other jurisdictions.
- I'd really love to have you capture for us the risk to safety, and fire hazard and what your opinion is about continuing to allow the sale and purchase of fireworks within our jurisdiction.
- That would be helpful.

Chief Braga commented as follows:

- We have had minimal issues, concerns, due to mishandling of safe and sane fireworks over the years.
- We've only had a few incidents over the years, it's due to negligence, it's family members that are using safe and sane fireworks, but they don't properly submerge the fireworks into, let's say, a bucket of water.
- They'll scoop them up and put them in a garbage can, or in a debris box.
- Later that evening or late that night, we will get called out for a garbage can on fire.
- We have had those over the years.
- We've had no major fires, and quite honestly, the few small curbside type fires were determined to be the illegal aerial devices that were shot off and came down into a field and started a small grass fire.
- Those are the ones that I worry about the most.
- I honestly don't worry about the safe and sane fireworks.
- We have had a very, very good track record with minimal callouts for the Fire Department.
- Again, it's just normally not properly disposing of the fireworks.
- They do smolder during the night and can then catch back on fire and catch a garbage can on fire.
- It truly has not been an issue for safe and sane fireworks in Sebastopol.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Have you had complaints from the public regarding fireworks being set off during the time when COVID restrictions have been in place?
- In the past year, we were not allowing them, did you have any complaints regarding them being set off in that time when they were not allowed?

Chief Braga commented as follows:

- No complaints came in to my office.
- What happened the one year where we denied the Use Permits, the residents of Sebastopol drove into Rohnert Park and purchased safe and sane fireworks there and brought them back into Sebastopol.
- I did see a small increase of aerial devices last year, those are illegal.

- The Police Department and I investigated the aerial devices so there may have been a small uptick of illegal devices coming into the city.
- No complaints other than similar complaints that the City Council has received lately of what fireworks does to the animals, dogs, cats, and horses in the field.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I want to make sure I understand our chronology.
- Which was the year that we denied the Use Permits, was that 2019 or 2020?

Chief Braga commented I believe the first year that we actually denied the Use Permits was 2019.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- Unfortunately, we only denied the sale of fireworks.
- We did not stop the use of safe and sane fireworks.

Chief Braga stated that is correct.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- That's what I was understanding from your comments.
- People went outside of Sebastopol, bought fireworks there, and brought them home and used them.
- Fortunately, it was safe and sane enough that we didn't have fires.
- What I've noticed over the years is that our public parking lots now have signs across them that say this is closed for the Fourth of July, no fireworks here.
- Even the grocery store, with a big parking lot, puts up signs and blocks the entry at night so people don't come to their private parking lot and light them off.
- Also, we've seen Morris Street pretty littered, where there aren't homes but there are bushes and trees that could catch on fire.
- Whoever is lighting off the fireworks may be contributing to litter, particularly toxic litter.
- I'm wondering if you've noticed the issue, or the City Manager, or Public Works?
- What does anyone know about that?

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- I have part of an answer, Chief may have the rest of the answer.
- My understanding from police discussions in the past has been that some of the use you just described along Morris Street had as much to do with the aftermath or the ongoing festivities elsewhere at the time of the July 3rd fireworks commercial show.
- I also have received reports, however, on the Fourth of July at night use of fireworks, especially in the market parking lot.
- That was the reason it was blocked off there.
- I've noticed it personally at the marketplace.
- That seemed to be somewhat of a gathering for use of fireworks on the Fourth of July.
- My response based on observation, because I live near there, is that it really didn't disrupt anything.
- It's a very large parking lot.
- People do gather their fireworks together, and they bring all their friends and they want to have a display of their own fireworks.

- Which is one of the reasons that we did not allow sales last year.
- Again, because of health orders and the propensity for gatherings.
- Some of that is the July 3rd show, some of it is safe and sane usage in our city.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- It's a clarification.
- I don't believe it was 2019.
- I believe it was 2020, it was last year.

Chief Braga stated that is correct, it was not 2019 but 2020.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I just wanted to get some clarification from someone here.
- We've been selling fireworks within our jurisdiction, but something that the Chief mentioned just a minute ago triggered a thought in my brain here.
- We're aware we're selling fireworks within our jurisdiction, but that doesn't mean they're staying within our jurisdiction.
- That's an important piece for us to consider, and maybe I'm wrong about that?
- Is that accurate, can we accurately assume, Chief Braga, or City Manager McLaughlin, if the fireworks sold within the jurisdiction of Sebastopol are not necessarily staying there?

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- It's difficult these days to find a place where the use is legal.
- We saw more of that last year when you could still obtain them elsewhere.
- They brought them into Sebastopol.
- It's hard to find a place locally where they're legal to use.
- You have to use them illegally in these other cities.
- I'm not sure how much goes on within our city for that.
- It would have to be an illegal use elsewhere.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- That's certainly a concern to me.
- If we're kind of the lone rangers as far as the only place where they can still be used, we may end up being someplace that people are going to flock to.
- We'll get more than our fair share of users on our streets.
- That's of concern, when so many other jurisdictions are not allowing them.
- That seems of concern to me.
- If there's no other questions, or comments right now from my colleagues, we should open this up to public comment.

Mayor Glass opened for public comment.

Lehla, Sea Serpents, commented as follows:

- I'm not sure if you guys are aware of the news, but California is opening everything starting June 15th, except you have to wear a mask.
- There will not be any restrictions.
- That's something to consider.

- I know the Chief stated that last year, safe and sane were not permitted.
- I believe he did say that illegal fireworks were the problem.
- I know there are Facebook posts going around, people are buying more illegal fireworks than before.
- If you don't have safe and sane, you're going to get them somewhere else.
- I have an entire team that does cleanup on July 5th, we have many volunteers.
- That issue I can take up.
- Without the pool, we were shocked to find that the Council banned our \$20,000 fundraiser before it was supposed to happen.
- They are contracted to pay them \$20,000.
- We can't apply for a grant because the \$20,000 grant cannot be used for the rental of City facilities.
- Our team has 106 members.
- Right now, we can fit 85 due to COVID.
- We have 79 on our waiting list.
- This is more than the other cities.
- We normally spend 3 1/2 hours a day with kids, we're reduced to 2 hours and 35 minutes after 8:30 P.M. for children.
- We can't get more hours, we can't fit more people in the pool, we can't fit people from the waiting list, we can't incorporate people from the program, with 45 people on our list.
- We can't earn profit, and last year the Council banned our one fundraiser that pays our rent for \$20,000.
- This year, it will be another \$20,000.
- I'm just going to tell you, last year the City Council stated, if they're going to look at transitioning fireworks, this is the year to pull the band aid and support the non-profit.
- Is the city going to provide annual funding?
- That's my question.
- Otherwise, we're dead.
- Thank you.

Michael commented as follows:

- I'm a member of the VFW 3919.
- I am a veteran.
- Last year we had no fireworks because of COVID.
- The Fire Chief has had concerns over the years because we've had large fires that have hit our county which were not caused by fireworks.
- There is still fire danger and the worry of it.
- I know of one dumpster fire and a grass fire that was done by a bottle rocket that we don't sell.
- After the concern of animals, there's not too many horses in the county or in the city limits.
- We don't sell loud or explosive fireworks.
- They're whistles, they make some pops and booms, but nothing like real fireworks.
- If you ban safe and sane, and don't give people an opportunity to be patriotic on the Fourth of July, and to play with fireworks, it's something we've done our whole life, many generations have, they will go outside the system and buy them illegally.
- Over the years, I've watched Santa Rosa have illegal fireworks come in to existence in such a manner that sometimes they give the city fireworks a run for their money.

- If you've ever been down there on the Fourth of July, you will see the south side of Santa Rosa's fireworks, they are incredible.
- Much more dangerous.
- Safe and sane also keeps as far as if there's any concern about COVID, we may be on the way out of it, maybe not.
- We don't know that yet for sure.
- But small, safe and sane, to the family, in their backyards and front yards, in the driveway.
- Keeping everything small and contained and not in larger groups.
- My other concern is we're getting old as veterans.
- It's not easy to make money to keep our funding, and our committee things going.
- This is taking away a major one if we don't get to use it.
- The last thing to say is, I commend and support and acknowledge the truth of what the lady said before me as far as taking care of business.
- It's not easy to make money.
- Thank you.

Andrew commented as follows:

- I'm a resident of Sebastopol.
- I just want to echo what Lehla said and make a statement in support of fireworks sales in the City of Sebastopol.
- The funds help support a non-profit, people that use fireworks will continue to use them, no matter if they're banned.
- I understand the concern with more traffic from the sale.
- I do not think there's concern over the use of them.
- I can see potential problems with the traffic from the sale.
- The benefits outweigh any concern of that.
- Deferring of the support for the sale will hurt our swim team.
- Basically, the kids that use the team and any parents and residents will be forced to go elsewhere for these services.
- It would be unfortunate if we lose that in our city.
- Thank you.

Steven commented as follows:

- A member of the Sebastopol Gravenstein lions club, one of the three organizations that has historically been allowed to sell safe and sane fireworks in the City of Sebastopol.
- I would like to point out a couple of things.
- Number one, the profits, if you can call them profits, from our sales are distributed entirely to other non-profit organizations in the area that couldn't afford to put up a fireworks booth if they were allowed to.
- I am concerned, as others have indicated, that the banning of the sale of safe and sane fireworks is going to cause a significant bump in the importing and use of illegal fireworks and the attendant fire hazard of those.
- Thank you.

Michael Dei commented as follows:

- Sebastopol VFW.

- Last year, by us not allowing sales, didn't prevent anything because we were still able to have them here.
- All it did was take money away from our non-profits that use this as a big contribution that allows us to help other local non-profits and ourselves.
- Because we ban them, people will use other fireworks that are not safe and sane.
- We understand last year because of COVID, but today we're in a positive direction, hopefully.
- We'll take every precaution to still be able to have outside sales, keep distance, masks, and do it the best way we can.
- With the year the way it's been, us, the kids, everyone needs something to look forward to.
- There's nothing better to look forward to than freedom and safe and sane fireworks.
- I hope you'll consider that, and we'll have another year to raise money and keep our non-profits going with the funding that we raise from the fireworks.

Dave commented as follows:

- My name is Dave Kimball,
- Sebastopol VFW also.
- This vote, decision, and discussion is really based on public opinion, popular optics, and fear.
- We have established that we do not have a fire hazard so that isn't really on the table.
- We know the wildfire problem is serious.
- Safe and sane fireworks aren't part of it.
- I noticed that City Council did not regulate Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, or Easter gatherings, and there is no reason to think it would be appropriate to regulate Fourth of July gatherings either.
- We are moving in a good direction with regard to COVID, and again, that hasn't been an issue for the city yet.
- We have been in much worse situations.
- I would like for the Council to really think about that, and then just reflect on the implications of its decisions.
- Canceling the fundraising for three major non-profits in the community has had an effect and it will continue to have more of an effect if that's the decision the Council chooses to make.
- I hope they give it serious thought.

Megan commented as follows:

- I want to say how important it is to have the non-profits in our community.
- I feel like it's especially important for the ones that help the smaller groups of people and the youth in our community.
- I'm part of the Sea Serpent family, and I feel like our youth struggle to get access for the kids to play sports.
- I'm also involved in soccer, and right now, we can only play at Ragle and we have hundreds of kids.
- We're not allowed to play on any sports fields at school.
- Swim has been the one outlet.
- It's very important, and it's a huge decision to make, and I do know last year during the Fourth of July, there was no selling of safe and sane fireworks in Sebastopol but people were sending ginormous ones throughout the day and night.
- I feel like no matter what, people are going to get fireworks, and I would rather have them do it safely.

Mike commented as follows:

- I'm Mike Mortensson with the Lions' Club, and I did send a note to the City.
- We serve as the Lions' Club International formed in 1917, and the Lions Club was formed in 1976, and for decades, we have sold fireworks to raise funds for local and worldwide projects.
- Dealing with vision, hunger, youth, education, environment, and others in need.
- From 2013 to 2019, thank you for correcting that we were still able to sell fireworks in 2019, the Lions have donated over \$100,000 over 25 separate organizations, and even though the firework sales were banned in 2020, we were able to use some of the reserve to donate over \$13,000 to 19 organizations.
- We are a small club.
- We have not been able to organize any fund-raisers to offset the loss of revenue from fireworks sales.
- I can tell you on a personal note, I have been in seven clubs in three states for over 53 years.
- Fireworks sales is the largest revenue generating fundraiser I have ever worked on to support our club.
- Safe and sane is a way to continue.
- I don't live in a city, I live in a country and I can look out the window on July 4th and watch the fireworks going up in the sky, and say, oh my gosh, illegal fireworks are going to be a problem.
- Let us continue to sell safe and sane fireworks to support the programs we support.

Council Deliberations:

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I'm trying to understand, do the Sea Serpents rent the facility from the organization that rents it from the City?
- Is that how it works?

City Manager/Attorney stated he believes the Sea Serpents rent it from Ives Pool.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Does staff have any idea how much they charge in rent for the pool facility?
- Not that you can remember every single line item in the City budget, but it would be a nice piece of information to have.

Staff stated the lease does not reflect any rent to the City.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented that it may be that we support them in terms of all the expenditures that we make.

Lehla commented as follows:

- The City owns the property and the pool.
- A separate non-profit organization runs the facility in which we are contracted to pay them \$19,500 annually in pool rent for three hours a day.
- We just renewed a contract, Councilmember Hinton was involved in the contract negotiations last year.
- We are in a contract period and we cannot change it.

Mayor Glass commented the non-profit organization that actually runs the pool is not paying rent.

City staff stated that Ives Pool does not pay rent on the building to the City.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented the City pays a lot of the expenses of keeping the pool in good repair such as the infrastructure, the equipment, coordinators, heater, all the expensive items needed to keep the pool in operation.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- I have the budget up here, and on page 79, the actual page, not the page in the PDF, which is very confusing, summary, recreation and community services, funding, pool reimbursement, adopted funding, 2020-2021 is \$52,000.
- I don't know how to interpret exactly what that means.
- Pool reimbursement?

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- The payment for electricity from Sonoma Power that gets reimbursed by the pool, the City and the approximate amount of that is approximately \$45,000 a year, and the pool chemical purchases reimbursed to the City and that runs almost 15,000 a year.
- Those are the reimbursable items.
- We don't get reimbursed for the equipment repairs that we do, the infrastructure of the pool to keep it operational, as a heater, coordinator, things like that.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I just want to see if we can pull this together.
- Lehla is telling us they are in a contract to pay rent.
- However, the review of the budget is indicating that the pool board is not charging them rent.
- They're trying to recover some of the expenses they pay for operation of the pool.
- The Ives board is not renting the pool from the City.
- It's not that the swim team is paying rent and the City is getting reimbursed for rent.
- We have to straighten it out, and City Manager McLaughlin has helped with the summary.
- There's a rental contract, but it's not reimbursing rent that the City charges the pool board.
- It's covering expenses that the pool board has for operating the pool.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I am concerned about the revenue for the non-profits.
- I also have a hard time with the motion that fireworks are a good idea, particularly when we're moving into a drought on top of everything else.
- It's kind of hard for me to feel like fireworks are a really great idea to be having when there's a drought.
- I'm ripping the band aid, everybody's going to be mad because I said that.
- It's hard for me to conceive of us being one of the only cities left that's allowing fireworks.
- It doesn't make any sense to ban sales without banning use.
- That definitely doesn't make sense.
- That is clearly a mistake in what happened last year.
- I am thinking that we need to be considering how to not have use and not have sales, particularly because by having sales, we're going to be moving safe and sane fireworks to other cities which

they don't really want, or else we're going to have a disproportionate number of sales, and it sets up a larger volume of something that is problematic in the first place.

- The other concern is that we don't put the Sea Serpents out of business or other non-profits.
- I'm interested in any ideas my colleagues might have on how to resolve this problem.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I love the efforts locally especially that these non-profits are making to contribute to the community.
- I just want to express heartfelt empathy for the three worthwhile groups.
- They're not making the money and going off to Hawaii.
- They are actually putting it to good use.
- That no matter what, there's got to be some way that we ponder that, how to help them pivot.
- I mean, every non-profit is pivoting and having to come up with a way to support.
- Especially the local, and I would focus on the local.
- There's some worldwide efforts, but local is what we're talking about here.
- I share your concerns.
- Mayor Glass, we heard comments here on the one hand, we heard people also comment that in Santa Rosa, they're using fireworks that they pick up elsewhere.
- Elsewhere is very limited and it includes us.
- We are exporting this, and it doesn't feel right to me to do that.
- The fact there hasn't been a horrible fire within our jurisdiction, that just says to me we better be proactive and not risk all of it in advance.
- The one big point I want to note is that the consistent message here is patriotism, celebration, and engagement.
- We haven't talked about it, but to me, that says that we should support a big celebration, which the Kiwanis is asking for support of, as we have always done.
- That's my comment for now.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I'm with Councilmember Rich, Councilmember Slayter, and Mayor Glass as well, supporting the particular non-profits.
- The city has realized the great significance of our non-profit organizations and our service organizations through the work that we initiated about a year ago with CoMission.
- In response to the pandemic, CoMission itself pivoted and took on the work of helping the business community, first of all with the technicalities with their applications, et cetera, and the Community Benefit Grants, and so that the non-profits would get together and talk about the great impact of COVID, the challenge of pivoting, trying to figure out where do you pivot to when funding is disappearing.
- This group has created a great collaborative spirit where they're coming through this pivoting effort and kind of pivoting together in significant ways.
- Meanwhile, the service organizations, several people have mentioned this evening, have come together to talk about how they might organization the resources, and have time and money to help the non-profits and continue to them the community with their generosity.
- We have, later on tonight's agenda, an item that Councilmember Slayter raised from our last meeting, which all of us wanted to be on the agenda, in that last meeting, and that's a discussion of how we support our non-profits, and the community grant program and sponsorship.
- We are trying to work with this.

- Two different Council groups.
- We will talk about how we can get our support and the addition of our City logo out there in a way that will allow these groups to thrive.
- That's really what we want.
- I say that as an alumni parent of the Sea Serpents that had two children swim at swim practice.
- They could hit the bagel store and be with friends in a very safe environment.
- Their first two mentors were the swim coaches.
- I hope they are names that are remembered by the community today.
- We still have the logo t-shirts.
- You can see my level of support.
- I know we are in all in support of these organizations.
- The question is, what do we do in a circumstance where support for fireworks sales and use is dwindling because of any number of factors?
- The first of which, we're in a drought.
- We have experienced fire situations.
- We have seen them other places, and last summer, fireworks caused a huge fire in the south.
- We have to make a decision here balancing how we can go forward in a protective way for the community, protecting the non-profits and the health and safety of the public.
- For me, I lean towards not allowing the sale, not allowing the use, and supporting some single big-time event.
- That to me is an opportunity where the service organizations and the non-profits can get together in creating that celebration for the community and all of them make money, whether that's having a booth at the event to sell tamales, whatever it might be, it would be important if we can support a big event one day, one afternoon, evening event, and use our swim team members to do that clean up, as Lehla suggested.
- We can pull it together and have a celebration that is successful.
- Not only that, but it also shows a collaborative spirit between all the groups where we are working as a community to make sure all of us are having fun in a safe way, and we're supporting each other.
- It's the only way we're going to get through COVID.
- It's a way we're going to get through all the changes we're going to face, and these are changes beyond the pandemic.
- They are cultural changes.
- We have to adopt a culture and take actions that are consistent with our values.
- I'm not sure it will be easy, particularly if this year, it's late to plan a big event or event planners may have decided not to do that.
- We have time to think.
- We have an opportunity later in the meeting to talk about how we can bring the support forward, and we have a budget coming in.
- Perhaps there's that money we talked about last time, it was \$37,000, or something, maybe there is a way to manage getting to the Fourth of July and getting to next fiscal year's budget that will provide the support we all believe in, and then in an organized way for the fiscal fear to allow a process that is consistent, and transparent for all the people who might want City help.
- That is where I am right now.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- For my time on the Council, this has been an annual item, and the three non-profits are repeat applicants, and we know them.
- We love them.
- They're fairly long-time valued community members.
- I would say maybe 30% of the time, it is something that rises beyond a Consent Calendar item, a simple rubber stamp approval, go do what you did last year was the way it was always handled.
- Over the years it's risen to a community conversation, I'm thinking of 2018 following the historic firestorm in 2017, and then the same thing a couple years later.
- Last year, with the pandemic, that was a whole different set of operating principles we were under.
- Every time we have a robust discussion about this, I always have the thought, and it's kind of a cliché, how perfectly reasonably people can hold differing opinions that are both valid on some point.
- Whether or not you share that opinion may color that opinion of the other person.
- That's the way that I view this.
- We have the local swim team saying we depend on this money to support our organization in order to provide the valued service to youth.
- It's very difficult to not be swayed by that.
- That's an honest, wonderful point of view.
- On the other hand, we look at the increase fire danger and apparently, it's not just October anymore when it's fire and earthquake season.
- Now the fire season has expanded.
- We're heading into a drought year.
- We know that already and it's only the beginning of April.
- The very real effects that Fourth of July, the third of July, and the fifth of July and all the other days with added amounts of explosives, whether they are small or large, that can have a real effect on people who suffer from PTSD.
- No, it's not a large number of people but we need to care about those people.
- I have had a pet, a dog that suffered terribly, and I know Michael will hear me on this one.
- Even the whistles, he would hear the neighbors up the street start on the Fourth of July and we had to bug out.
- He was going to put himself in a heart attack because he was in bad shape.
- It was something as little as the whistles.
- Not the bangs.
- The environmental impacts of fireworks.
- I saw something recently that on the Fourth of July, some heavy metal, I forget which one, a long scientific name that is terrible for humans, increases 42 times across the country, and that kind of got my attention.
- Not just small things, I'm sure it takes into account the large community events as well.
- There's increasing information about the source of the products that get resold to fund the wonderful no profits and where they're made and who they're made by, I'm not sure that that's really in line with the community values, if you go tracing it back to the source.
- Everybody can catch my drift about what I'm talking about there.
- As far as a large community events, what Vice Mayor Gurney was suggesting is great.
- If the non-profits, if the work that CoMission has been doing with the different community council's and getting the non-profit organizations together, and post a day long festival

somewhere, and then we have instead of explosives, maybe we lead again in the environmental realm and we have modern laser show or something that doesn't increase heavy metals in the environment by 62 times.

- If there's a way it can work, at the same time, be responsive to a great number of people who aren't on the meeting tonight, but I guarantee all my Councilmember's will nod their heads when I said, we received a lot of e-mails saying why in the world is Sebastopol continuing to allow fireworks?
- It was a big number this year.
- Those people's voices also, may be not verbally this evening, but we heard from them, and some of those are part of the public record that was on the website right now as part of the Council packet.
- Those are my thoughts initially.
- The other thing I want to point out is in our City Municipal Code.
- Chapter 844.0.0 which is on fireworks.
- I'm going to read the final sentence of paragraph "C." The sale of fireworks in retail stores shall ultimately be terminated in the interest of health and safety in the City of Sebastopol.
- That mentions retail stores because it was written in 1972.
- We don't allow them in stores.
- The intent could be read from it, from a reasonable assumption being to think was the direction that the City Council was going in 1972 in some way.
- It's impossible to read their minds.
- It's interesting to look at it from a historical perspective.
- I look forward to additional comments from my colleagues.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I actually brought it up last year, but when I hear about the environmental impacts of fireworks and the potential problematic origins of their manufacture, I am less prone to this idea, but I did bring it up last year, what about if we switch to having New Year's Eve instead when it's cold and wet as opposed to Fourth of July in the middle of summer when we are really prone to having fires.
- That is one idea.
- But the other is the mention of a laser show by Councilmember Slayter.
- I recently saw that there is a drone show in Dublin, Ireland.
- I don't know if you have seen it.
- Their drones that fly around and formulate different things in the sky.
- I am wondering if somebody is selling that kind of show?
- If not, they should be.
- Maybe everybody can switch to drones instead of fireworks.
- It's an incredibly impressive thing.
- These drones flying together, they form together and formulate pictures in the sky.
- I'm wondering if there's some kind of substitute for the firework thing.
- Meanwhile, I really like Vice Mayor Gurney's idea of activity.
- I have gone to the third of July event many, many times.
- If I said how many years I have gone, I would reveal how old I am and I don't want to do that.
- For me, the biggest, the most fun about the third of July event is actually not the lighting of the fireworks but the most excitement is actually the carnival that is around it.

- What if we can move towards having a very, very large carnival that features all of our non-profits and becomes like a summertime carnival, kind of equivalent to, now that we have in the spring, the Apple Blossom Festival?
- In the summer, we have the Fourth of July carnival, maybe we can look at doing something else in the fall?
- Well, fall, we are just waiting and hoping not to have a fire. Maybe we can do a winter festival?
- Maybe we need to think about how the City can do that and benefit non-profits and raise an equivalent amount of money?
- We need to look at how to solve the issue of being funded.
- My father who was an aerospace engineer said we should never use engineering where the consequences are catastrophic if something goes wrong.
- If something goes wrong, we can have a really big problem as opposed to a minor problem.
- How do we come up with alternative ways of celebrating and raising money?
- That is the bottom line for me, and I'm open to hearing more ideas from my colleagues.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- On the issue of the laser show, I can share that Kiwanis is looking at the possibility of alternatives to a traditional fireworks show in 2022.
- They haven't confirmed anything in terms of an event.
- I love the suggestions I'm hearing from all of my fellow Councilmembers that could raise money.
- It seems like it's a perfect thing to be discussing since we already started that path.
- In the service organization that is led by CoMission and that is Vice Mayor Gurney's comment too.
- I'm pleased within the room here, we have representatives from the veterans who participated in that group, and the Lions Club.
- I'm thinking we better pull in the Sea Serpents.
- There is a real opportunity there, I love the concrete ideas, and I know that Vice Mayor Gurney and I can bring them forward as the group moves forward.
- Really exciting tough.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- This is it a fun topic that needs exploration, and I'm glad CoMission is online for both the non-profits and the service clubs, and that Councilmember Rich has worked with CoMission to create a summit opportunity.
- Perhaps the groups would like to talk about this idea.
- Maybe they want to form a joint separate subcommittee to figure out how to plan together?
- I don't know.
- We're not the event planners, and nobody wants us to plan the event.
- Other people who are the beneficiaries of the event can plan it much better.
- As we are approaching 9:00, do we want to give some direction to staff?
- We also have CoMission coming up later in the agenda.
- Maybe this topic is something we want to raise with CoMission about their work plan in April and May and June?
- Maybe for the next fiscal year.
- That's coming up with the budget considerations for next year.
- I'm hoping the non-profits including the swim team are hearing our support.
- The pool group was invited to the Council several times.

- With some prodding, and we didn't get a response or a participant, but maybe now we can bring him in and make sure somebody's there from the pool board and the swim team, if there is a board for the swim team?
- I'm not sure, and Lehl, you're welcome to contact me offline, to see if we can figure out who would be interested in committing a little time to that discussion.
- What I'm hearing is an interest in directing staff to explore the appropriate changes that would prohibit the sale and the use of safe and sane fireworks, obviously illegal fireworks here, and the same time, we're willing to consider an application for a Use Permit for a single event that is related to the Fourth of July.
- That is what I'm hearing from this.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- That is sounding like a good idea.
- Of course, the reason we put it on the agenda was because it's about that time when the non-profits would be applying for Use Permits for the sale of goods.
- Time is of the essence in figuring out what we have here.
- Are we saying we don't have Use Permits this year?
- As I understand it, we can't actually take that action this evening because this isn't a public hearing, and we haven't gone through an ordinance modification, and City Manager McLaughlin can speak to that.
- I want to make sure I'm correct.
- What would be the process, I think we have two options? Is continue both a sale and use ban or this year temporarily, or to go through and actually modify the ordinance?
- What is involved with doing those actions?

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- The Council can conceivably give direction to staff this evening not to accept any applications for use, but if you want to ban the sale and use of fireworks within the city, you can then direct staff to return with appropriate ordinances or amending the existing ordinance.
- It would likely be a repeal with the new ordinance.
- To bring back to a subsequent Council meeting the ordinance of changes and resolution changes that are necessary to affect the ban on sales and use.
- That would be the direction.
- We haven't figured out whether we're appealing or amending the ordinance.
- You can tell us what you want the result to be, and we would bring an ordinance back, for introduction.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- What I'm hearing from four people is that they are not particularly interested in issuing Use Permits this year.
- Is that what I'm hearing?
- This is it a straw vote.
- Is that a 4-0?
- What do we need to do to give that direction?
- I feel like we need to give that direction to staff.
- It also it needs to be clear to the non-profits because it's unfair to keep them sitting on the edge of their chair wondering what we're going to do.

- City Manager McLaughlin, what do we do?

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- Well, you can signal your intent to not issue permits this year by directing staff to return with appropriate ordinance modifications and resolution to in effect ban the sales and use in the city.
- You can direct us this evening not to accept any applications for Use Permits but that would not deal with the use of them, only with the permits.
- You can signal both actions with the non-profits by directing staff to return with the appropriate ordinance to affect the ban on sales and use.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- Checking on staff about the work that staff would do.
- How much time would it take?
- The Fourth of July is coming up, would we be able to have an ordinance in place in time for this particular holiday?
- We have three months.
- Does that allow time for the public hearing process?
- It's pretty tight.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- I ran it through this afternoon, in my mind.
- You need a first and second reading and at least two weeks in between those, you need 30 days for the ordinance to be effective.
- Basically, if you fast track an ordinance, introduction, and passage in 30 days, you can do it in a two-month period.
- Stretch it a little bit, in the same token, you direct staff not to accept any Use Permit applications for this year at the same time.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- In three months, it would be fast tracked and super-fast tracked.
- Add this to agendas that are often very full any way.
- If that's what we want to do?

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- You have to do that if you want to prohibit use.
- You can do the same thing as last year if you just want no applications accepted.
- We can handle that from your direction this evening.
- If you want to have a ban on use, you're going to have to move through the ordinance procedure.
- If time became very short, it could rise to an urgency matter.
- I would not recommend going that way, necessarily.
- But there is time.
- However, if you had to pass an ordinance on an emergency basis, you could also do that.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I'm in favor of directing staff to do the ordinance work now and fast track it so it's about sale and use.
- Because we experienced prohibiting sales but we had use anyway.

- I don't think it conforms to the conversations this evening.
- We want it to end both.
- Interested in directing staff not to accept applications?
- That is the consensus I'm hearing also.

City staff repeated the direction for the record:

- You are directing staff not to accept applications for Temporary Use Permits for the sale of safe and sane fireworks.
- You are asking staff to get a resolution to affect the ban on use of fireworks and the Council is willing to consider a Use Permit for a single event related to the Fourth of July if it comes forward.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I know there's a CoMission discussion coming up later on in the agenda.
- We need to not lose track of the fact that this group, these three groups, if they don't do their July 3rd fireworks boost, which is what we're looking at, we need to figure out an alternative funding option for them, for this year.
- I want to put it out there, and compel, and who we support, we are going to lose track of that and we are going to try to figure out a solution to support them in trying to subsidize their efforts for the community.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- When get to number 10 tonight, perhaps we want to investigate additional funding between now and July 1st, the new fiscal year to see if there is a way to offer support?
- That is part of the discussion I mentioned that we revealed in the last meeting.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- We should give direction for this upcoming summit that is going on.
- We need to perhaps, in a subsequent agenda item this evening, really get very, very serious about finding another funding source, another venue for the three non-profits, specifically to support them so that they are not basely out of business by the end of the summer.

Direction to Staff:

- Explore appropriate changes.
- Not to accept applications for Temporary Use Permits.
- Staff to return with appropriate ordinance and rescind resolutions to affect the ban on sales and use of fireworks/prohibit use.
- Council willing to consider application for Use Permit for single event related to the Fourth of July.

City Council Action: Provided Direction to Staff

Minute Order Number: 2021-068

Mayor Glass called for a break at 8:57 pm and reconvened the meeting at 9:10 pm.

10. Discussion and Consideration of Approval of Funding for CoMission Through June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 (Responsible Department: Administrative Services Department/City Administration)

City staff presented the agenda item recommending the City Council Approve Funding for CoMission Through June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 and commented as follows:

- You got a little preview of this item from your last agenda item.
- Because there were several references to the work that CoMission is and will be doing with the last agenda item.
- The purpose of this item this evening is simply to ask the Council to fund the same work the CoMission has been doing for the entire year.
- To fund it through the end of this fiscal year, specifically to make sure we cover the months of May and June.
- The work CoMission has been doing and would continue to do if funded is in the scope of the work Mr. Litwin will be discussing in a few minutes.
- You had references to it in the last agenda item.
- That's the council's that have been set up and were organized and are being led by CoMission.
- The business leadership community benefit organizations and the service organization.
- You also heard of the planning for a summit that will be taking place in the middle of May.
- The work also includes that work.
- The budget committee has requested that we bring back the funding proposed for next fiscal year in a couple of Council meetings.
- We'll be doing that just prior to the council seeing the full budget for next year.
- The item is just to fund CoMission for the remainder of this fiscal year through June 30th.
- CoMission bills by the hour for the work that it does.
- It has a schedule of each of the positions, various people at CoMission who do the actual work.
- That work is figuring in to the formula by the hour.
- I'll ask Mr. Litwin tonight, just in case there are any questions.
- He's prepared to go into the actual time that they've actually spent doing this work over the last year to give you an indication if you want to learn that information.
- To give you an indication of the actual level of work that has been performed.
- We get billed every month.
- We review the bills.
- It's been averaging \$7,500 to \$10,000 each month for the work he's about to explain.
- Again, the proposal is simply to fund CoMission through the end of this fiscal year of an amount not to exceed \$20,000.
- I would propose that Mr. Litwin then go over his work plan for you unless there are questions from Council?

Mr. Litwin, CoMission, commented as follows:

- We got brought on in May of last year to help with the community vitality project of Sebastopol.
- The long story short is that we got brought on for a community vitality project envisioned back in 2019 City plans.
- Then we found out pretty quickly that there was a pandemic, and so everything had to stop, or change, from what it was originally envisioned.
- We had to act fast and take basically to triage the community vitality effort.
- Businesses were punched in the gut, not sure if they could stay open or what to do.
- We wanted to figure out how to keep the lights on and any sort of business going.
- We were able to, with the council's support, implement a loan program for small businesses to apply and get some relief.

- That was very successful.
- I also ran a series of surveys and polls to kind of find out not only what the business community needed, but what was the temperament and is and was the temperament of the consumer.
- We have seen the trends get back to being a little more hopeful in the shopping, in getting out there and doing things.
- We can feel that, its springtime, people are excited, we're going to orange tier.
- There is a lot of excitement.
- Today, we started talking in one of our councils about the concept of in-person events again, and what hybrid is going to look like.
- It's exciting to get back into the saddle.
- The budget request is pretty straightforward.
- We could continue to work as the city manager said through the rest of the fiscal year.
- What we've been doing is maintaining three community councils.
- We started with the business council, getting business leaders to work on projects, we also helped with information to business owners, and items for their windows to inform consumers about what is open and what is not.
- We also started up a CEO council.
- The City was already meeting and having a business council for some time.
- We came in and participated with that one.
- The Community Benefit organizations that the Vice Mayor spoke about earlier, we started to brand the concept that Sebastopol has been about for a long time.
- Working together, figuring out how to get it done.
- The CEO council, they approached Councilmember Rich and said, let's organize and do some things here.
- They started to gel.
- Ultimately, we had this incredible opportunity in the summit.
- May 12th, from 4:00 to 7:30 P.M., the thing about the summit is right now, the service clubs are taking an inventory of all the different non-profit needs, identifying those.
- What money do they need, what stuff do they need?
- Articulating that in a report that is easy to understand, that any member of the public will have access to.
- For anyone who wishes to lend a hand with time, money, stuff, and really pitch in to help our non-profits succeed, there's a tool in place for them to identify that resource.
- That will be presented in the summit.
- Which will be on Wednesday, May 12th, again.
- That opportunity will give everyone a chance to hear directly from the non-profits and individuals serving the community what those needs are.
- They'll serve as panelists with facilitators.
- Those will be comprised of the service clubs and local non-profits with individuals leading the way.
- We have members of the business community saying, hey, I want to be a fly on the wall, I want to give, I don't know where to give, how do I give?
- Not only that, but this is also an opportunity to kind of reinforce the concept that we're all so aware of and proud of here in Sebastopol.
- Service above self means something.
- We step forward and give our time, where we can, to support the community.

- It's an opportunity for folks as well to see the service clubs and what they can do to plug in.
- Scrolling down here, the idea is that we would need no more than an additional \$20,000, and we requested in the study session to bring back funding for next fiscal year.
- Which we'll see in two council meetings.
- It's largely the same, except we've gelled the service organization council, the third one below.
- As we gel these different community councils and we're able to assist them with less administrative efforts, we then build capacity to start other community councils and efforts, such as the door-to-door group we talked about, or an equity council that was mentioned at the study session.
- We're working to metabolize what is happening with the community, and existing city staff, and presenting everything that is going on.
- When something happens in the community or for us, and we say, can you put this in the city newsletter, there's a lot of great promotion and collaboration that is happening that way.
- I anticipate we'll have a more rigorous dialogue when we talk about the long-term work plans.
- But for right now, we're staying the course through the balance of the fiscal year, seeing the summit through, and making sure it's a successful event.

Mayor Glass opened for questions.

- Mayor Glass commented you're proposing that we come back later in the funding cycle here and have another presentation that has to do with '21/'22, and that will be closer to probably May, right?

Mr. Litwin stated that is correct.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I think I missed something about how the summit is being organized.
- You said the service organizations are going to be the facilitators, and the CEOs are on the panel, but I'm not quite sure I got that straight.

Mr. Litwin commented as follows:

- The CEOs of non-profits, those are the groups filling out the questionnaire as far as what they need, what they're looking for.
- They'll be the subject matter experts on the panel.
- The service clubs, this amazing coalition between the city and all of the local service clubs here in our area, they will serve as the facilitators.
- They also happen to be subject matter experts, oftentimes.
- But the easy way to think about it is, the service clubs are helping to bring out the dialogue of what the non-profits are looking for.
- We can all focus to make sure that every non-profit that serves folks in our area is given a fair shot at the funding that they need.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I have a follow-on question if I can.
- One thing, Mr. Litwin, that we learned from the residential survey was that the respondents felt the sense of isolation and also insecurity.
- Due to the pandemic, the long, enduring time of the pandemic.

- I'm thinking this is a really important time for people with those feelings to exchange that negative feeling for a sense of belonging again and having people they attach to.
- In other words, there is a potential pool of volunteers outside of the service clubs or the sort of usual followers of the non-profits and I'm wondering what you might be doing to market the summit to those potential volunteers.
- Time on their hands, they need to do something purposeful, they need to connect with people in a safe way.
- Get out of their house, out of their worries, give to somebody, think of somebody else, that kind of volunteer.

Mr. Litwin commented as follows:

- The way that we're reaching out, let me start with this.
- The event is inclusive.
- We want everyone to participate.
- It will be recorded so everyone can watch about their favorite non-profits or group after the fact, if they're interested in joining a service club to lend a hand, they can learn about that as well.
- There will also be other opportunities, for example, service clubs will be presenting on what it means to be in a service club.
- There will be a roundtable for folks to offer what they want to do.
- We're working really hard to make sure everybody is included as best as possible.
- With that, we're inviting every resident in Sebastopol to observe who wishes to.
- From there, they can find out to plug in, where their heart calls them to act.
- What is the best way to plug in, to help the whole?

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- Thank you, that's a really significant answer.
- Because that is where we are right now, and that is the work we need CoMission to do.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I think about all the work you're doing, Mr. Litwin, and the service organizations group, the role that you're taking on, the ideas and the push is so huge within this group.
- You've helped to inspire that.
- Clearly, I'm seeing the group is taking their own, they're owning it themselves, which is fabulous.
- My question is in regard to the amount that you've specified.
- I just want to confirm that that \$20,000 is in fact going to cover, that that would be the maximum that would be needed to cover for the remaining work for this fiscal year, because it's important for us, given the investment that has been made already, to be comfortable that that's what we're looking at for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Mr. Litwin commented as follows:

- Yes, that is the maximum.
- I will not be coming back for funding for this fiscal year.
- Any balance or overage, I will put towards seeing the project through.
- I don't put sitting through tonight's meeting on my timesheet, for example.
- I'm a member of the community, so I'm also called to action, I'm compelled to act.
- I will make sure we stick to the budget and see it through personally.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- Question for our Administrative Services Director, I suppose it's budgetary semantics.
- I'm looking at page 28 of our adopted budget.
- The account that this proposal is to be adjusted is account 124-1101-4210.
- There are two components in that account, it's the community outreach coordinator position, as well as the community vitality position, noted here as economic vitality.
- I'm just curious, why are these two related but distinct operations coming out of one account?
- I don't think it matters much.
- I'm really curious about how that happened.

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- That account is just contracted services.
- When it's laid out like that in the budget, it's just for transparency purposes.
- All the charges would go, when you pull the financial statement together, it's contracted services.
- Just for the Council and the public to see, as line item by line item, what the budget entails.
- That's why they were breaking it out in that format.
- They are contracted services overall.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- That is, what are you doing to try to work to implement a nexus between the amount of money being spent and the amount of money that we hope to generate, because I'm thinking that we need very concrete results, because if we're looking at this amount of money, it just happens to be the amount of money that a non-profit organization just said they needed in order to keep kids swimming.
- What we really want to do is make sure that the work that is being done here is going to result in public support specifically for our non-profits and partially also through our service organizations.
- We need some real results here.
- I'm asking what about the summit is going to result in concrete outcomes?

Mr. Litwin commented as follows:

- That's a great question, a lot of time can be spent to draw a nexus.
- Burning up the contract hours.
- On the other hand, we must understand the impact of what we're doing and realize our return on investment.
- I would start by saying the businesses that we helped keep alive from going under is a good first marker of that return on investment.
- The way that people are participating and collaborating is also another value add.
- When I look at the non-profits, I was on the full item for the fireworks and watching that.
- My heart was moved listening to these non-profits.
- I work with many of the people who are presenting tonight.
- That's one small group of people who need the funding.
- The funding requests are so vast, there are so many, there's so much need, that the best thing we were able to come up with is starting by taking an inventory and presenting, this is the full amount of what has to be raised.
- Then from there, the nexus that we could draw is by looking at that number and the success over the next three, four, five, six months of each of those non-profits filling those coffers up.

- It will take time and money as well but creating an outline of what is needed by each group, those old-fashioned bubbles where you fill it in when you raise another \$10,000.
- That's the best I can come up with now.
- I am more than happy to talk to the city manager and see through some analysis with the finance department and figure out some places where we can dig into that some more.
- That would be a good first step at showing that nexus just for non-profits.
- But again, you're looking at the businesses for vitality.
- Then there's that difficult to kind of put into numerical numbers, but the feeling of belonging that the residents yearn for, to be back in the community, to be supporting, to be helping.
- How do you really calculate that value?
- I'm very happy to look at ways that we can share that it's successful.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- That really kind of what my question was more aimed at was, I, as you put together this summit, now I'm drifting into comment land, away from question land, but as you put together this summit, that you work to have specific agenda items and specific questions or issues that are tackled by the organizations in the summit.
- Where they will come out with some specific action items that are going to result or that can result in us having funding to mitigate what we're talking about doing with this fireworks situation.
- As you go through this, the challenge to this panel and to the facilitators, let's figure out how to solve this problem first.
- Because this is immediate.
- This is an immediate problem.
- How can we come up with some really actionable items in the short run that are going to solve this immediate problem?
- That's what I'm challenging you with, we can't just get the big ideas in this summit, what we need to get out of the summit is some specific short-term actions that can be taken to mitigate a crisis that these non-profits are in, specifically that has something to do with the fireworks situation.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I wanted to give an additional answer to your question.
- The idea behind the summit is to establish an infrastructure, it's not a one-shot deal.
- The idea is, it's not just \$20,000 spent on getting people together and processing.
- The expectation is that this will be a platform, a structure that will allow collaboration for future years.
- That's one piece in terms of the investment.
- That is developing already.
- The fact that all these people are working hard to get the summit done speaks to that.
- The second piece is, it's very clear in discussions within the service organizations group that fundraising, because remember, we have the lions club, and we have the veterans as part of that club.
- Fundraising is one of the big key goals.
- That issue and how the fundraising is going to happen is going to have to be addressed within this group.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I totally get the concept.
- I just wanted to put it out there, how critical this is at this particular time.
- I'm sure that Mr. Litwin is mindful of this, as are the service clubs, et cetera.
- But I just wanted to say, it would make everybody oh, so happy if the result of this would be some specific actions that are going to be taken in the short length.
- Even though we're building long term infrastructure, we have a critical situation right now, and maybe we can take a little slice of the time to putting our minds to solving this issue that needs to be dealt with in the short run.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- That makes sense to me, because the city is spending money on CoMission to get the sort of bigger picture put together so we have the short-term action plans that then roll out for short-term to forever.
- And we get to build funding capacity.
- I mean, fundraising is everybody's issue, it seems.
- Hopefully there will be that nexus that you're looking for
- There's one concrete measure from the work that CoMission has done that I'm not aware of yet.
- Mr. Litwin, you went into this to work on the loan program and get people to apply for the business loans.
- How many of the people who received loans are still in business, I'm wondering.
- If we have 100% there, we have a great metric for success.
- What wouldn't be success?
- I don't know.
- Are there any statistic on that now that you feel comfortable revealing?
- If not, maybe we can talk about it offline.

Mr. Litwin commented he is happy to supply something like that once I can run it by the City Manager.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I don't think we need names, necessarily, if that's a confidential part of it.
- It would be good to know if we had nine loans.
- Seven of them are still intact, and they're doing well.
- Whatever the statistics are.
- Show us that nexus, and it will help us feel like we're going in the right direction here.
- I do think we need to think of how we can show, the question being, how do we show more of that nexus.
- We have a fellow on the Climate Action Committee who is always into the metrics, so you're on track.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- When I think of the summit, and how it's kind of organically come from all the different groups working together, the City's investment, collaborative discussion, and consensus building, it feels like Street Smart Sebastopol, the inventory we took before launching the municipal solar programs.
- It feels like the different things we've done over the years to create community vision.
- Everyone is for this.

- I don't know of anyone who would think, how could you work for a non-profit, putting an inventory together, and help raise more money with your community.
- It's a very positive story.
- You are right, people are yearning for that.
- To me, the inventory is the first step.
- Now we have an awareness of need articulated comprehensively.
- I understand from Councilmember Rich's comments on the work you're doing, we're setting up this infrastructure for a community foundation of our own.
- That's something the Council has talked about for years.
- That mechanism that gets the money, gets the grant applicants, and makes it all happen.

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

Council Deliberations:

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- My one suggestion, and here I am doing exactly what I just asked everybody not to do, on the summit, I would suggest going back and revisiting the actions we took for our housing summit a couple of years ago.
- That the Mayor and I put together as the housing subcommittee.
- The format of that was very well received.
- I realize that was an in-person event, and we were able to have tables with information for people and all that.
- A lot of the lessons that were learned about how to publicize an event like that may be in some way applicable.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I just want to make sure that since the comment about getting information, metrics, assessing results came up, it raises the question of equity.
- I want to make sure that we retain that equity lens, it's important in our prior discussions, and I know that the plan within the summit outreach is to actually not just do computers, not just do tech.
- Maybe do door-to-door.
- We're really talking about adjusting the approach and the outreach.
- We have reached out to churches that do Spanish speaking sermons.
- We need to make sure that we retain that equity lens when we look at our outreach and inclusiveness.
- Want to leave that there.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- We've talked a lot about the summit, which is an extra \$2,000 per month, Mr. Litwin.
- What about up to \$8,000 per month?
- City Manager McLaughlin mentioned you might explain how you get from 0 to \$8,000 with the committees you're running, and work with City Manager McLaughlin, that sort of thing.
- Do you have any more specifics on that?

Mr. Litwin commented as follows:

- The long and the short of it is that around \$6,000, about \$2,000 per community council, is our average budget per month.
- That leaves a couple thousand per month to do inquiries.
- We're constantly getting for a little project, a webinar that the business council may be doing, or somebody that calls up, and we need to point them in the right direction.
- That is for that kind of variability that is consistent, if you will.
- Then the balance being for the summit.
- We do have one of the community councils is the service clubs itself.
- We will be able to put a little extra into the summit to make sure that it does well.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- Well, I feel very strongly that we need to continue supporting CoMission, because the work is happening.
- The demand and press of the work is just developing and in pretty exciting and potentially enriching ways for the community.
- I would favor the budget request.
- I look forward to a discussion about next fiscal year, because we may have a number of ways, we might direct CoMission in addition to where they're thinking of going.

MOTION:

Vice Mayor Gurney moved and Councilmember Rich seconded the motion to Adopt Resolution to approve Funding for CoMission Through June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.

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

VOTE:

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

City Council Action: Approved Adoption of Resolution For Approval of Funding for CoMission Through June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$20,000

Minute Order Number: 2021-069
Resolution Number: 6338-2021

11. Discussion and Consideration of Creation of Ad Hoc Committee for Review of Financial Policies Such as Community Benefit Grants; Sponsorships/Grants (Requestor: Councilmember Slayter)

Councilmember Slayter presented the agenda item recommending the City Council Approve Creation of Ad Hoc Committee for Review of Financial Policies Such as Community Benefit Grants; Sponsorships/Grants and made the following comments:

- A couple of weeks ago, the discussion of sponsorships isn't covered by the Community Benefit Grant.
- Every time we have a sponsorship come to us, we struggle with it, and say why isn't this in the Community Benefit Grant Program when this is not the way the Benefit Grant Program policy reads?
- We're in a position where we have the need to develop a standardized policy.

- They give us structure, they allow us to treat organizations and individuals equally with certain requests.
- A non-profit organization using volunteers to do service work is different than a local 70-year-old festival.
- They're both equally important to our community but they're not the same.
- We need to treat them appropriately.
- This is a request for an ad hoc committee to research, do some development of a draft policy that the full Council would then be able to take a look at.
- I anticipate that the ad hoc would like some staff support, and my hunch is that the Assistant City Manager/City Clerk and the Administrative Services Director would probably be the appropriate staff people.
- I would ask staff to let us know who they think would be best.

Mayor Glass opened for questions.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented would this include; we're going through our existing grants policy and figuring out where the split is between the Community Benefit Grants versus sponsorship?

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- I had a note about that and didn't scroll down far enough to see that.
- Thank you for reminding me about that.
- The need to revisit potentially the Community Benefit Grant policy is probably likely.
- Certainly the ad hoc would want to take a look at that existing policy for basic background information, to understand what it does, and what we need the other one to do.
- There's probably a pretty good likelihood it would require revision.
- That's something that would be a good thing to empower an ad hoc to take a look at as well.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I'm just wondering, what is in your mind, Councilmember Slayter, about the timeline for this work?
- When we're realizing that CoMission is going to come back and be putting in a budget request.
- The budget subcommittee is putting a budget forward in late May or June.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- where we are with it for the fiscal year, for the new budget, is somewhat problematic.
- I don't think it would be possible to get it developed and in place and have applicants ahead of the new budget taking effect.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I think your answer was, the ad hoc would draft a policy in place for fiscal year '22/'23, and some interim policy for a bridge year.
- I think it would be possible to have a one-year interim policy, if you will, where maybe there's a way that we can bridge and have some structure to the sponsorship requests and allow the council to have a way to evaluate them, kind of on the fly for that first, well, it wouldn't be a full year.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- It would be less than a full year.
- But figure out a way to make it work.
- Also maybe the policy will come back after all of the work is done and the draft might say, well, it just needs to be a lump sum put in the budget every year, and this is what it needs to be.
- I've considered different ways it could be approached, of course.
- But maybe that's the most appropriate way to do it anyway.
- That's what the ad hoc is for, to get into it and see what other communities do, and what we've done historically.
- The sponsorship of events is really important to us.
- We get a lot of value, community-wide, from, you know, the apple blossom festival, or a couple of weeks ago, the Apple Fair.
- Or the bike to work day, or whatever.
- These things happen with regularity.
- I don't know what it could be.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I am hoping that given the nature of our prior discussion about the three groups that will not be benefiting from fireworks profits, could be considered as being looped in within the plans for the kind of revamped Community Benefit policy?

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- Stated that would depend upon the nature of the request.
- What I'm thinking here is that this is for sponsorships of events.
- Not necessarily organizations.
- Maybe that's too broad, too distinct.
- I'm not sure.
- The three firework resellers I know, I'm not sure the VFW actually is a 501, which would fall under the Community Benefit Grants program if they are.
- I'm not sure what that would be.
- That would be a good thing for an ad hoc to toss around.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I just need to understand a bit more about the nature, the breadth of the ad hoc you're proposing.
- I was approaching this with the assumption that the ad hoc would actually assess not just what to do about event sponsorships, but what to do about, if anything, about the Community Benefit Grants process and whether in fact they should be two different processes, part of one.
- I was thinking it would be kind of an umbrella, you know, about that.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- That that is probably true.
- You might be muddling the budget committee with the policy development committee.
- I'm not saying that the ad hoc should be looking at individual requests and how to make those in tonight's relevance, the discussion about those three specific organizations.
- That's not the purpose of the ad hoc.

Councilmember Rich commented the policy that you would be looking at, the committee would be looking at, I would hope, would include not just how to address events, but also how to address the Community Benefit Grants. Is that part of the ad hoc as you see it?

Councilmember Slayter stated that is the intent.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I sort of feel like the cause of this problem, and it's not just from the last meeting, but it's happened, and Councilmember Slayter you may be the one person who remembers this evolution.
- It's happened from years and years of budget requests spontaneously wherever in the world of the council, any month.
- I want money for my deal we should support.
- That happened so often, particularly by me, that the budget process got revamped to focus on department budgets and department work rather than on Council projects and Council favorite projects and on that sort of favorite requests.
- It was a real change in our direction and planning.
- From that shift, we created this budget account called Council initiatives.
- That's my quick and maybe not accurate historical rendition of what happened.
- Each councilmember was given \$500 to dedicate to something.
- Over the years, that felt like, okay, I have some money and one of us could say, I have some money, I want it to benefit this group or that group.
- For instance, the years that the swallow nests were mistakenly removed, I dedicated my money to the bird recovery place outside of town.
- That didn't really solve the problem.
The problem was the Council wanted money to dedicate to projects and work of our own interests, not department work, or not our work that was just forced onto departments.
- We have to look at that kind of tension when the ad hoc comes up.
- Is this Council initiatives money addressing the shortfall for community benefit grants?
- There's money here that we're using to support non-profits and support events.
- We need to put together a policy that optimizes the disbursement of that money, where each councilmember feels we're sending the money to benefit our community in that optimal way.
- Where do we have these guidelines?
- What is the purpose behind this money?
- Not just my individual purpose, but really what will our community get out of this expenditure?
- This is the discussion the Council could benefit from, if the ad hoc would try to have that.
- Do we want to identify with this event? Why?
- Because it's local agriculture, small businesses, fun outdoors, animals, what is it about?

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- When the Community Benefit Grant policy was formalized, we had fairly lengthy discussions at the time that the policy was put together.
- It was the budget committee who brought that policy to the full Council.
- The budget committee at that point was the Mayor and me.
- We talked quite a bit about categories and how they benefit the community.
- That was an important component of that.
- It helps to organize the Community Benefit Grant program.

- It's easier to define what the benefit to our community is, from the grants.
- Another little bit of historical perspective, or historical view, one Councilmember suggested \$5,000 per Councilmember per year.
- You want to sponsor something, there's the money.
- That's what his thinking was.
- I don't think I agreed with that.
- It was an interesting perspective to take.
- It was a first stab at this, in a lot of ways.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Just to add something to this, when Councilmember Slayter and I were the budget subcommittee and we came up with this notion, first of all, every year, it turned into this big brouhaha about how much are we going to spend on the Community Benefit Grants?
- It was somewhere between \$50,000 and \$180,000.
- We came up with kind of a policy, so it didn't have to be so, I guess, acrimonious every year.
- Feeling very difficult about How are we going to spend this money.
- We came up with the 1% policy.
- The other part that seemed in the application process, it used to be even more unclear, significantly more unclear than it is now.
- You look at this, apply for a Community Benefit Grant.
- There were no guidelines.
- It was difficult to decipher what the City was looking for.
- We had policy 1.0, maybe we're on 1.1 or something.
- Maybe we need to move to 2.0.
- We've defined what the categories are.
- It's clear to me that there are some things we really missed.
- Some of those things are a community benefit grant is usually more like a grant.
- It's for specific kinds of things that an organization is going to deliver.
- Specific either services or, I don't know, some kind of more deliverable kind of thing.
- Whereas a sponsorship is, I tend to think, a little bit more about oftentimes economic development and things that are related to the economic well-being of our community to promote specific events, et cetera.
- Where the public can tie our City's name with that particular thing.
- People aren't going to tie our City's name with something, a major promotion over \$5,000 that was given to a non-profit that has something to do with ongoing children's services.
- This whole sponsorship is potentially something that is promoting our city as well as promoting that event or some other kind of initiative.
- Anyway, it's clearly kind of missed this chunk of things.
- I'm thinking of this more as being partly creating not just kind of a framework and some policies.
- It's become evident to me that some non-profits are unclear about what it is they should be applying to because they read the guidelines and think that they don't quite fit.
- I'm not a C-3, I'm a C-6.
- Or, this isn't specifically about that.
- We need to create another venue for people to apply.

- We need to set up some policies, just not incredibly restrictive, but something where the organizations can have some guidance and information about where to direct them, where to direct their ask.
- That's kind of been a problem recently.
- Tighten up the policy, the original concept that Councilmember Slayter and I worked on, plus expand to something else that is a different, a somewhat less restrictive concept, which is called a sponsorship.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- I like your comment about thinking of it also as an economic vitality tool.
- That's a really important component to it.
- Because, you know, the film festival.
- People would come to town for that.
- Go out to eat.
- We all know the economic benefits to it.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- It's those kinds of events, there are so many of them that we have here in town.
- If we have a sponsorship program, then maybe we would get more of those kinds of events, which will stimulate economic vitality in our town.
- That is what we're looking for, creating some policies and a process to enable us to better facilitate having sponsorships, and clarify, tighten up our non-profit community grants process.

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

Council Deliberations:

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I just want to make sure I understand how earlier, when we were talking about people not getting the fireworks boost this year, there was a suggestion, I thought, that this subcommittee that was being discussed might be able to look at, consider some sort of branch, looking at whether there was a way to provide some funding or monetary support for the three groups this year.
- I think it was Vice Mayor Gurney who had suggested that.
- I am wondering if there is the opportunity within this subcommittee for that to be part of the subcommittee's tasks.
- What do you think?

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- It's my understanding from Councilmember Slayter that this was more of a policy thing.
- We can add things to the budget committee can add things to the budget.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I worry about two different committees doing the same kind of work.
- Basically developing the budget.
- I think that the budget subcommittee may take a look at this issue as it goes through this specific problem that we're talking about this evening.
- I think about whether we need to make some modifications to the budget.
- But I think the ad hoc will be policy and process oriented.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I did talk about the rescue money, since we created a problem for these groups that are now, I don't know, left in the lurch or something.
- We did mention last time that there was a fund that had some money in it.
- I think it's called Community Benefit. I think that's the name of the line item.
- There was bus fare subsidy in there, about \$17,000, then it went up to \$31,000 or \$37,000.
- There is some potential discussion to talk about rescue money if somebody was interested in that conversation.
- That is more like something the budget subcommittee would do.
- You're analyzing, where are we, which accounts are over, which are under?
- How do we roll into this next fiscal year?
- I'm just a little worried that our budget subcommittee is not as generous as I would be in wanting this to be rescue money.
- But that seems like budget subcommittee work, whereas Councilmember Slayter you're looking at creating an ad hoc that is driving policy.
- Making it clear, what is grant money, and what is sponsorship money?
- What are the respective benefits to the community to those two funds, and what would be the indicia of success for an applicant, what do they need to meet to have a good application?
- That's all I have to say about it.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- My reason for raising this was to make sure that -- so I would request as a councilmember here that the budget subcommittee take a close look at whether there might be an opportunity to provide some interim support for these three organizations.
- I understand that there is a lot going on there.
- That would be a formal request that I would make to the budget subcommittee.

Mayor Glass, Vice Mayor Gurney and Councilmember Slayter volunteered to be on the ad hoc committee. After discussion the council consensus was to have the committee comprised of Vice Mayor Gurney, Councilmember Slayter and city staff.

MOTION:

Councilmember Slayter moved and Vice Mayor Gurney seconded the motion to Approve Creation of Ad Hoc Committee for Review of Financial Policies Such as Community Benefit Grants; Sponsorships/Grants and appointed the following to the committee:

Vice Mayor Gurney, Councilmember Slayter and city staff.

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

VOTE:

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

**City Council Action: Approved creation and composition of committee as follows:
Vice Mayor Gurney, Councilmember Slayter and city staff.**

Minute Order Number: 2021-070

12. Consideration and Direction to Mayor or his/her Designated Representative for Voting for Various Boards and Committee Vacancies at the April 2021 City Selection Committee and Sonoma County Mayors and Councilmembers Association Meeting (City Administration)

City Selection Committee Appointments:

- **Local Agency Formation Commission** - One Alternate Position, to fill term (May 2022) of Mark Landman, Cotati (Mr. Landman has been made a full member therefore his Alternate Position has become open.) (Two-year term)
- **Measure O Oversight Committee** - Two positions, to fill two newly created Committee positions (Three-year terms)
- **Remote Access Network (RAN) Board** - Replace Tom Schwedhelm, Santa Rosa (there is no specific term, but it must be filled by a Mayor)
- **Sonoma County Oversight Board Committee** - one position (Alternate), to fill a vacated term of David Cook, Sonoma. (Unspecified term.)

Board of Directors Appointments:

- **North Bay Division, League of California Cities**, one position (primary/alternate), currently being filled by alternate John Sawyer (February 2021) (Santa Rosa), due to resignation of Rachel Hundley, Sonoma. Term expires two years from appointment. Councilmember Sawyer (current alternate) could be officially designated the primary and an alternate would need to be designated, depending on letters of interest received. For letters of interest submitted, please indicate if you are interested in serving as a primary, alternate or either.

Mayor Glass presented the agenda item recommending the City Council provide direction to Mayor or his/her Designated Representative for Voting for Various Boards and Committee Vacancies at the April 2021 City Selection Committee and Sonoma County Mayors and Councilmembers Association Meeting.

Mayor Glass opened for questions. There were none.

Mayor Glass opened for public comment. There were none.

Council Deliberations:

The Council discussed the following appointments and made recommendations as listed in red below:

CITY SELECTION COMMITTEE

Appointments to Consider:

Measure O Oversight Committee, two positions, to fill newly created positions. Three-year terms.

Two Letters Received:

- **Kevin McDonnell (Petaluma)**
- **Ben Ford (Cotati)**

Local Agency Formation Commission, one alternate position, to fill term (May 2022) of Mark Landman (Cotati) – Mr. Landman has been made a full member therefore his alternate position has become open.

Two-year term. *One letter received:* • **Patrick Slayter (Sebastopol)**

Remote Access Network (RAN) Board, replace Tom Schwedhelm, Santa Rosa (there is no specific term, but it must be filled by a Mayor).

No letters were received for this specific opening.

Sonoma County Oversight Board Committee, one position (Alternate), to fill a vacated term of David Cook (Sonoma). Unspecified Term.

No letters were received for this specific opening.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Appointments to Consider:

North Bay Division, League of California Cities, one position (primary/alternate), currently being filled by alternate John Sawyer (February 2021) (Santa Rosa), due to resignation of Rachel Hundley, Sonoma. Term expires two years from appointment. Councilmember Sawyer (current alternate) could be officially designated the primary and an alternate would be designated, depending on the letters of interest received.

No letters were received for this specific opening.

MOTION:

Councilmember Rich moved and Vice Mayor Gurney seconded the motion to Approve the following direction to Mayor or his/her Designated Representative for Voting for Various Boards and Committee Vacancies at the April 2021 City Selection Committee and Sonoma County Mayors and Councilmembers Association Meeting and authorized that if late nominations are received that the City Council authorize the Mayor or Designated Voting Representative the authority to vote on these late nominations or recommendations at the Meetings

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

VOTE:

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

Noes: None

Absent: Councilmember Hinton

Abstain: None

City Council Action: Approved direction to Mayor or his/her Designated Representative for Voting for Various Boards and Committee Vacancies at the April 2021 City Selection Committee and Sonoma County Mayors and Councilmembers Association Meeting and authorized that if late nominations are received that the City Council authorize the Mayor or Designated Voting Representative the authority to vote on these late nominations or recommendations at the Meetings

Minute Order Number: 2021-071

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS:

13. City Manager-Attorney/City Clerk Reports:

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin reported as follows:

- First of all, I don't think there's very many, if any, members of the public left on this call.
- As a reminder, our new Police Chief is participating in a meet and greet this Thursday.
- It will conflict with your meeting.
- He has set that up.
- It will be by Zoom.

- If any members of the public were here, I would suggest they do this.
- For the Council's information, the Zoom particulars and details about this meet and greet event are on the Police Department's Facebook page as well as on the City's website, along with the Zoom information and everything.
- We hope to have a good turnout for that.
- We appreciate our new chief doing that.
- The other thing I wanted to mention is the subject of reopening.
- The reopening of City Hall, city offices, and potentially taking another look at how City Council meetings and other meetings operate is on the to do list.
- In most of the cities around the county, the City Managers are tracking what everyone is thinking of doing or may be doing in terms of reopening their offices.
- It's all over the map right now between cities that have just begun to take a tentative look at these subjects.
- Other cities are quite far along in making some tentative decisions at least about what they're going to be doing.
- We're not obviously trying to tackle or make any suggestions right now with respect to the question of public meetings or council meetings.
- Our city staff tomorrow will be bringing up and starting the discussion to try to develop a consensus around what we will be doing in terms of reoccupying, reopening the city offices and what schedule that might look like.
- Whether it will be a hybrid approach initially, where some department heads and some employees may be still telecommuting from their homes part of the week and in the office other parts of the week.
- Some method to find out what the public expectation is right now.
- Because the public has also had to find ways of adapting and changing the way they do business with the City, especially in terms of dealing with the Finance Department.
- Paying water bills and similar things like that.
- They've had to change the way they do business with the City over the year.
- To try and find out what the expectation is.
- Some of you may have seen in the news reports that the Governor announced his intent that if everything remains positive, keeps moving in the right direction, to have a general reopening of the state around June 15th.
- One of the elements that he noted was reopening of non-essential offices.
- I guess we're going to be seeing some major corporations, what they think about what the office work of the future will look like.
- We've always been an essential service in Sebastopol, so we've always had our offices already occupied, in Finance as well as the Police Department and Public Works employees are operating largely as normal.
- City staff will start discussing that tomorrow, and as we develop some ideas, we'll bring it back to the City Council for a check-in once we arrive at some concrete suggestions.
- It's a complicated subject, has to do with people who are vaccinated, who is not vaccinated.
- These kinds of topics are still under discussion in the media.
- It is a complicated subject.
- We'll bring it back to the council and check in with you all.
- You may be thinking about your colleagues in other cities, you may be thinking about how you visualize Council meetings and other public meetings in the future.

- I know we've already had a minor rebellion where we've already got some public, in-person meetings being scheduled.
- I soon discovered that it involves driving all the way to Sacramento.
- It loses some of its appeal.
- You will hear more from your colleagues about it, so we'll talk about it at staff tomorrow.
- That's my report.

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

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- Really quick summary, you've already heard about the work with CoMission, building up to the summit that has been very involved and productive, impressive number of otherwise fairly separate entities coming together in order to make that happen.
- You're going to see a real long term sort of relationship and collaborative effort develop from that.
- That has been very interesting.
- On the Zero Waste general topic, this would be Zero Waste Sonoma, regional group and committee, all of those groups have been meeting and I've been involved with discussions relating to SB-1333, and it's impressive.
- The regional group is doing the big policy model letters, all of that, and the Zero Waste committee which is really moving forward to do the community engagement and handouts to restaurants, and get students involved and doing presentations and support distribution of these cute little compost buckets.
- A lot happening in a broad array of areas.
- The library advisory board, I can't remember if I mentioned Daniel, who along with the librarian submitted a grant application.
- He's just finishing up high school.
- Rotary granted about \$5,000 to support insulation of a Wi-Fi, a wireless network that will allow people within the parking lot next to the library to have free access to the internet, which is a huge, huge piece.
- This young man worked so hard.
- That was a really wonderful effort.
- Also collaborative, the experience that a librarian really working with this young man, separate but equal sort of approach.
- I have had a number of conversations that are kind of, I call them a category of churches who are supporting safe parking.
- Conestoga, conversations including the North Coast Builder's Exchange that wants to do their two-week building camp.
- Those conversations are going forward.
- I don't know where that will go, but it's been an interesting process.
- The CRV kiosk was approved, and Community Church will own that, and it will go into place in their parking lot.
- Mosquito vector, very exciting.
- They have drones, airboats.

- The one guy from Marin, he's a drone fanatic.
- Anyway, I'm going to take an airboat trip out there on the Laguna in about a week.
- They've reached out to the Santa Rosa Foundation, and we'll be getting them out there.
- That connection has been made.
- I just want to report out that Joe and his students and others from the community are getting that floor done in front of the Sunshine Café and Retrograde Roasters.
- The Climate Action Committee is now building their identity, and very serious.
- You'll be hearing a lot more from them down the line.

Councilmember Slayter reported as follows:

- GSA meeting is scheduled for this Thursday.
- I'm going to report on that.
- The power meeting was last Thursday, and very quick summary, the big topic of discussion has been biomass.
- It keeps coming up in different agenda items.
- The board took a proactive policy, we know that biomass is a problem.
- Staff was directed at every opportunity in discussions with state folks, with industry folks, with other CCA folks, to stay open to the options, the good parts of biomass.
- To not go forward with woody biomass, which causes all manner of forest difficulties, that are not fully understood by science.
- But the data tends to lead towards that being a problem.
- That's kind of the one big thing.
- The store front in downtown is very close to opening.
- Being in the orange tier will really help that.
- The other thing is, bike to work, the bike coalition has a program going on that is destination within two miles.
- Join the challenge.
- You can sign up and I have my signature here, I've already done it online to pledge to bicycle to destinations within two miles of my home or office which are very close in proximity.
- I encourage everybody to do that if they're inclined.
- It's not just elected officials, it can be spouses, too.

Vice Mayor Gurney reported as follows:

- I have a number of meetings that have come up.
- It's great to come after Councilmember Rich in this order because she reports on Zero Waste and Climate Action for me as well as her.
- I just want to underscore some information about our grant application, number 3 and 4 on our agenda tonight.
- I want to share the information I have as to how much staff is working to cure the perceived defects in our application that the SDTA staff saw.
- That's really important.
- We're working on our relationship with staff hopefully to gain more of their support.
- The application is going to MTC staff for their recommendations April 23rd.
- SCTA submitted March 30th, MTC staff is recommending April 23rd, and then the board will consider the recommendations in May and decide by June 23rd whether or not we get that grant.

- Despite being below the line, second tier, and we'll just figure out how to lobby MTC and see what we can do to get them to believe we're capable of these projects.
- If not, these projects with this funding, then I'm assured over and over again, there are other opportunities coming up in the future, into the fall for us to get money.
- Work hard on this one, and if they dare to disappoint us, it will be accepted for a second something or other.
- I appreciate the work very much that Tony is doing, and Joel is doing to shine this up for us.

Mayor Glass reported as follows:

- The budget subcommittee met; we did the Community Grants process which was lengthy and interesting.
- It's always a really nice kind of community event, seeing all of the non-profits there, and everybody talking about their program and why they're asking for funding.
- Also, it's just really nice to see everybody that is participating in the non-profit community.
- The budget subcommittee did that.
- I went through a couple of mayor's meetings, and also the ad hoc committee on homeless issues that is from the various cities.
- What came out of that ad hoc committee and the mayor's meeting was a discussion regarding appointment for a replacement for Barbie Robinson.
- The ad hoc committee and the mayors, everybody was in agreement that there needed to be, they were hoping for an interim appointment and some specific names were put forward of not saying this had to be who got nominated or who the county would appoint as a replacement, but they have the kind of qualities that were being looked for.
- Four names were suggested that mostly in a spirit of, these are the kinds of collaborative, professional, competent people with a lot of integrity that we were looking for in this position.
- It's a feeling of the leaders and these two committees that what is needed is somebody that will be very proactive and be very interactive with the studies.
- Because there has been a feeling that communication from the CDC has not been robust enough.
- Many of the cities have felt they were not communicated with.
- We feel that it's extremely critical to solving the homeless issue to have the cities in the loop.
- Because there are more homeless people in cities than in the rural areas.
- The cities need to be part of the loop, and they've been left out, and the county deals with things as though they're an island unto themselves.
- I delivered this letter to Linda and had a discussion with her about the matter.
- Each of the cities contacted their individual supervisors.
- Hopefully, there is some movement, and we have an interim person somewhere in the near future.

15. Council Communications Received

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

CLOSED SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Meeting will be adjourned to the City Council Regular Meeting Scheduled for April 20, 2021 at 6:00 pm (VIRTUAL ZOOM PLATFORM)

Mayor Glass adjourned the Regular City Council Meeting at 10:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:



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