

City Council

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



City Manager

Larry McLaughlin
lmclaughlin@Cityofsebastopol.org
Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, MMC
Mary Gourley
mgourley@Cityofsebastopol.org

City of Sebastopol

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MINUTES FOR Meeting of November 2, 2021

As Approved by the City Council at their regular meeting of November 16, 2021.

The City Council special and regular meeting was held via teleconference pursuant to AB 361.

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.

***5:00 pm Convene City Council Meeting - Special Meeting Start Time (ZOOM VIRTUAL FORMAT)**

Topic: City Council Regular Meeting

Time: Nov 2, 2021 05:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88968764047?pwd=b0FXdENBR0tBYnJKRTFYM2N6Vm1kUT09>

Meeting ID: 889 6876 4047

Passcode: 548340

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,88968764047# US (San Jose)

+13462487799,,88968764047# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 889 6876 4047

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88968764047>

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Glass called the regular meeting to order at 5:09 pm.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: None

Staff: City Manager/City Attorney Larry McLaughlin
Assistant City Manager/City Clerk Mary Gourley
Administrative Services Director Ana Kwong
Police Chief Kevin Kilgore

SALUTE TO THE FLAG: Mayor Glass led the salute to the flag.
Mayor Glass read the protocols for the meeting.

PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS:

The following was presented:

Proclamation - Recognizing Ives Pool on 80 Years

Proclamation – Support for Local Businesses

Reference Order Number: 2021-273

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Linda Berg commented as follows:

- I would just love to be able to shop locally or anywhere, but because of the intent on microwave radiation throughout town, especially at City Hall, that one cell tower stuck like a dagger in the heart of the City or use the library or anywhere in town
- I would love to be able to do that if it weren't for putting myself at risk for radiation poisoning from people's cell phones and all the other sources of microwave radiation, which is deadly and was used until 1984 as a weapon by the military until they unleashed it and gave it to the bad boys for convenient communication.
- This 5g it is even worse. It's used for crowd control.
- That's what will be coming up out of our sidewalks in due time, which it will be used to collect data wirelessly and cooking ourselves even worse.
- An example of this is in McAllen, Texas, where I have a good friend who, like myself, lives in a 7 by 9 foot shed. She's a lawyer.
- That was the first school district in the nation to have wireless communication in the school district.
- Here several years later it didn't take long. They have a thriving pediatric cancer center there.
- It's good for business, but bad for life and the kids.
- Anyway, also I'd like to say that this is coming up, this whole issue about the health and safety and the standards is coming up before the U.S. Supreme Court this month.
- Santa Fe Alliance versus the City of Santa Fe after 25 years has reached the U.S. Supreme Court about the Constitutionality of section 704 of the 1996 telecommunications act, which addresses the health and environmental safety standards of wireless technology.
- I am asking you to postpone that wrong-headed, stupid finding to put in the wireless water meters and the whole package, which, by the way, I understand was not put out by your rules.
- Anything over \$30,000, as I understand it, is supposed to be put out for bid. \$2 million is certainly over \$30,000.
- I ask you to reject it or at least put a hold on it subject to the finding of the U. S. Supreme Court.

Arthur George commented as follows:

- Responding to comments that have been submitted in writing to the Council opposing the proposed RV village for unhoused persons.
- There is a concern that the village will be a magnet for new unhoused to fill in the space. That is not correct.
- The village will clear Morris by offering safe parking to approximately 19 RVs, the approximate number at present is opening for other business, cultural, and recreational uses.
- What is likely is that the RVs will be given the opportunity to move into the village after which Morris will be cleared, hosted with limited parking, no overnight parking
- For those who sincerely want to clear Morris Street, this RV village offers the best opportunity, indeed, the only constructive plan that has been brought forward by anyone.

- If people do not choose the village or break the regulations there and are evicted, they will be back on the street but likely subject to vigorous enforcement of 72-hour limitation on street parking.
- Those individuals then would have worn out the patience and welcome of Sebastopol.
- Sebastopol will have done what it can, a compassionate sweep of the Laguna alternate housing and now an RV village. Then they will have to move on.
- Separately permit parking to limit RVs has been suggested.
- That is unnecessary and would be an additional cost to issue permits, administer the program and then pay for enforcement.
- Street parking in excess of 72 hours is already state law.
- It was relaxed under directive to not disrupt encampments during COVID.
- One significant objection is from the Sonoma County Juvenile Justice Commission which operates a special needs group home near the proposed village.
- In fact, several properties separate Council homes from the proposed village.
- Further, this vulnerable population is presently already subject to the perceived neighboring problem on Morris Street.
- The RV village restricts those problems with fencing, monitoring, and safeguards to this vulnerable population.
- SAVS which proposes the village are not opportunists.
- They are service providers, the same as Chevron, Safeway, Copperfield's books to provide necessary public service at a fee.
- Morris Street has presented its problems for years.
- While there is greater attention and awareness to the problem now, there is no new crisis.
- In fact, with the management of sanitation as directed by the City and outreach from contract providers and citizen volunteers, Morris Street is better than it has been in many years.
- To compare go to Santa Rosa, take a look at Berkeley, Oakland, and San Francisco.
- West County Homeless Advocates urges the Council's support for the RV village proposal submitted by SAVS and citizens understanding of its necessity.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I just want to mention that there is an agenda item that is sort of tangentially related to this.
- There will be a report from the unhoused committee.
- The agenda item isn't specifically about the SAVS parking spot.
- But people that are wanting to comment on this at this time may want to consider whether they want to hold their comment until we have the unhoused report.

Kate Haug commented as follows:

- This is in response to Mr. George's comment
- I have some basic information that I'd like to circulate.
- We have a solution that is cost-effective, does not involve giving away our City land and community assets; will clear Morris Street and prevent future encampments around Ives Park, Covert Lane, and all neighborhoods within City limits; and it will ease the burden on our Public Works, Fire and Police Departments.
- It's called RV permit parking, and it is used by countless cities across California.
- The only reason we don't have it and it wasn't implemented last December at the conversion of the Sebastopol Inn is because Council refuses to implement it.
- Boise court case only requires that alternative shelter is offered.

- All people dwelling on Morris Street have been offered alternative shelter.
- We do not need safe parking because there are rooms available at the Sebastopol Inn and plenty of other shelter beds available across Sonoma county.
- Transients can and do refuse shelter.
- We saw this during the Laguna encampment.
- We've seen it documented countless times across Sonoma County.
- There's absolutely zero guarantee that Sebastopol's illegal RV campers will move where there are rules if Council pushes through the SAVS proposal.
- Sebastopol already has RV parking and safe parking at Park Village and in the Community Church on Gravenstein Highway.
- Last September Sebastopol gave up its only hotel, the Sebastopol Inn and all of the revenue it brought to the City because the County converted it to a 31-room hotel for homeless housing.
- Sebastopol has more transient housing than Rohnert Park
- If Council says we need more transient housing, it's because they want more transients.
- We actually had more transient housing programs than cities that are six times our size.
- Sebastopol's a town of 7,500 with a budget less than \$10 million with failing roads and sidewalks and severely underfunded infrastructure.
- Public Works can't keep up with the transient population we currently have.
- Recently transients cut the main water line at the Community Center.
- The repairs for that will come out of City budget.
- We not only lost revenue but increased cost for transients including a \$72,000 per year outreach coordinator and encampment sweep of the Laguna and services on Morris Street.
- Sonoma Applied Villages is a transient advocacy group and nonprofit.
- Their mission and purpose is to advocate for and get resources for transients.
- They lobby government for money, space, and resources for their constituents.
- They're doing a great job. They got a contract for \$300,000.
- They're in talks with the City of Sebastopol and are poised to have free access to prime piece of land next to Laguna, Cultural Center, Youth Park, bike lanes, park trails, right in downtown Sebastopol.

Oliver Marks commented as follows:

- A year later from the County confiscating the Sebastopol Inn, I think this is a good time to revisit where we were this time last year, which is fairly surreal in my opinion.
- We currently have 27 people living in a hotel that was bought for the homeless for \$10 million approximately.
- \$55,000 a month is being spent on security of people wearing bulletproof vests and with guns on their hips to protect those 27 people.
- Meanwhile, we have more and more transient people in Sonoma County, as we all know, whether they're living in RVs or in their cars or in the park or wherever, which is a human tragedy.
- There's a lot of very kind-hearted people, particularly in Sebastopol that only want the best for those people including myself.
- I put up Sonoma County Homeless.Com last summer to point out all of the places in America where there are very positive things happening like loaves and fishes in Austin, Texas, who have tiny home villages which triage the substance abuse people and the mentally ill, indigents.
- I think it's a political fashion of buying hotels and cramming homeless people into them.
- That's what happened to Sebastopol last year.
- So a year later we have to look at this and say it's an absolutely colossal failure.

- 27 people, colossal amounts of money.
- We lost all of the bed revenue from that hotel. Tourists can't stay here.
- If there's a massive fire, which fortunately we didn't have this year, there is nowhere for people to come and stay now except for the Marriott outside of downtown.
- We have to really take stock of what is working and what isn't working here because we have more and more graffiti, we have a colossal drug problem all over California.
- We seem to have this sort of fantasy world from all of these nonprofits.
- Most of these nonprofits are very, very lucrative businesses, as one of the previous speakers said like Copperfield Books.
- Their mission is to get as much money from the state -- rich people to basically accentuate the problem.
- So, I'll clearly get into this later with this latest disaster of the idea for an RV park.
- I just want to make this point that this has been working very, very badly on so many levels with the Sebastopol Inn.
- I think we really have to call a halt to this at this point.

Renee Kramer commented as follows:

- I am a court appointed special advocate.
- That's for youth at risk, like youth that are at Green Acre homes.
- There's a small group home there.
- So the Casa office is out at Los Guilicos where the homeless had moved, where they had moved some of the encampment from the trail at one point.
- They have not had any problems out there with people using the bathrooms or with people coming into their buildings, which are part of that same property on the county buildings.
- They don't report having had any problems with the personnel there.
- I've lived in Sebastopol 40 years, and I walk around Laguna all the time and have walked and walked down Morris Street since the RVs have been there.
- I don't find debris on the trail, and I don't find there to be anything offensive that would make me feel uncomfortable walking on the trail.
- That's just from my personal experience.
- I know that they do have a fence around that property where the group home is in the offices of Green Acre homes and school.
- There would be a fence around the SAVS property.
- So I'm at Casa but I've also been now getting involved with trying to help find homes for homeless because I was so opposed to the project next door to me, which wouldn't help the homeless anyway.
- But I decided that there is a big need to get people off the street.
- It just seemed like a good location, but it is a problem that there's so much opposition.

Kris White commented as follows:

- I run a homeless ministry at Sebastopol Christian Church.
- We offer showers twice a week, 160 to 200 lunches a week that we hand out.
- I wasn't for the hotel because not one of Sebastopol's homeless lives there.
- I don't know if any of you are aware of that. They're from other areas.
- I think this parking down on Morris would be, since it is security and all that, it would be a good thing.
- Like Art said, it would clear up Morris Street and 72-hour or whatever parking signs would be put there.
- These people need a place.
- Literally we can give them RV parking permits and all that.

- But it's not going to solve the problem.
- We can chase them to another City, they're going to be back.
- They need a helping hand like Renee said.
- We're trying to implement getting them into whether it's a gospel mission for their alcohol, meth or whatever abuse they have, and helping them. We all need to help them.
- Picture your own son or daughter living in their car or on the street.
- Where would you want them to be? In a safe parking program? Or on Morris Street with all the other stuff going on there?
- I'm just going to leave it at that.
- I think Morris Street, the safe parking structure thing would be a great idea.
- I don't think it would cost what they're saying.

Cynthia Poten commented as follows:

- I live on DuFranc Avenue and I'm also a member of the SAVS board of directors.
- Morris Street and camp residents are themselves a vulnerable population in need of help and protection.
- SAVS outreach workers and homeless action volunteers maintain a daily presence on Morris Street.
- We're very familiar with their needs, we're very familiar with their problems.
- I really think that the Sebastopol City Council and the Sebastopol Police have maintained a commendable balance in addressing their needs as well the conflicting needs, opinions, and perceptions of nearby residents, business owners, and community organizations.
- The SAVS proposed safe parking site has been designed to reduce potential neighborhood problems in two key ways.
- First, the safe parking site will be fenced and gated.
- It will also be managed on a 24-hour basis, a resident manager and a staff manager will be trained to detect behavior issues that require immediate attention well before they spill over into surrounding neighborhoods.
- The second way that the site will pose minimal threats to the neighborhood and the Green Acre children is that it includes an enforced code of conduct and weekly residential meetings that encourage self-governance and emphasize respect and care for the neighboring community.
- I really believe that the neighbors of the proposed parking site will be far better served by our managed encampment than by the current situation.

Jill commented as follows:

- I just wanted to comment that since the Sebastopol Inn was converted to homeless shelter, I have not seen a decrease in the amount of unhoused in our community.
- I sat through every meeting that the County has hosted with citizens in Sebastopol and listened to how they were going to help clear our streets and that those in the inn would be people from Sebastopol.
- As the one gentleman said, that is not happening.
- I am at Gravenstein Station every day. I am faced with Morris Street. I am at Gravenstein Station
- My existence is basically surrounded by the unhoused on the daily basis.
- This is not the City that I thought it was seven years ago when I purchased a home here.
- It's disappointing.
- I just think it's ridiculous to hear people say we don't need an RV permit process and that we should believe that the 72-hour parking laws that are already in effect are going to be enforced.
- Are we to believe that they're actually going to be enforced after this magical spot is created with a fence around it?

- The police don't enforce parking rules right now.
- I can call day after day after day and I hear, well, all they have to do is roll their tires a few feet and they can stay another 72 hours.
- So what's to prevent people from parking on Morris Street if nothing changes except that we create this magical area with a fence around it for 20 RVs? To me it sounds like magical thinking.
- And to talk about suddenly a community is going to be created.
- These people are living on the street and they are trashing the area.
- They are not showing respect for the Laguna, for the people that live here, for the tourists that come in.
- We all need to commit to making this City better.
- And right now I don't see that happening, and I keep hearing about how wonderful everything's going to be once we have these 20 spaces.
- I just don't believe it because what we see right now, the police tell us every day they can't enforce anything
- I just find it to be ridiculous to hear people talk about this so much about that it's going to be so wonderful.
- I don't feel that way, and I don't see it that way.
- To be honest with you, it's just maddening to listen to this.

Holly commented as follows:

- I echo what Jill has just eloquently said.
- I really want to be compassionate for those who are homeless.
- However, I find it appalling to think that the people who are living in Morris Street now who need more help than just a parking lot are going to be able to govern themselves and treat the area any better than they currently are.
- Our Police Department has already seen an increase of arrests and crime on McKinley and Morris, and it's not getting any better.
- So, I think we all need to put our thinking caps on, and I have to really question the Council people and the Mayor here who are even entertaining this when it is so close to a Community Center that is used by children, by adults.
- There is a ballpark next door. There is a skate park next door.
- There has to be other places if this is the route you choose to go to find some place for these people in need.
- I'd be interested to know, are we increasing the police force at this time?
- It doesn't appear to be so. I think we're losing some of them.
- In addition, how much more money are we going to be spending to house them?
- What do we lose as a community?
- These people are choosing to be homeless.
- Discussed the police. You call them, as Jill had said, they can't do anything, their hands are tied.
- They're moving their wheels.
- Yet, a vast majority, 90% of them don't even have the right to drive that vehicle or have actually even tags for their vehicles.
- So, if these people need a drug program, it's not going to happen in an RV park.
- I urge you to look at other communities in Oakland, look at Venice, California.
- The crime and the promises that the Council people made never could be delivered because they didn't plan for all the crime and the uptick needed by the community.
- So I urge you to really rethink this location and rethink the process.

Adrienne Lauby, SAVS, commented as follows:

- I was planning to speak after the ad hoc report, but since this is the conversation, I want to just let you know a little bit more now.
- I'm the president of the board of SAVS, and we're hoping to manage this proposed RV park.
- Thank you to the ad hoc committee.
- We've been working with you, and it's been a very good and solid process not without bumps because there's a lot of decisions that have to be made.
- I love the collaboration and the kindness that is generally here in Sebastopol.
- I wanted to bring your attention to this resolution that was passed January 26th of this year from the Human Rights Commission of Sonoma County supporting the continuing need to respect the human rights of people in Sonoma County who are experiencing homelessness.
- Read parts of the Resolution
- When we talk about homeless people, we often worry about their effect on us, and we very seldom talk about our effect on them.
- The kinds of stereotypes and the kinds of assumptions that we hear tonight, and we hear constantly, and homeless people hear them all the time are very damaging.
- One of the reasons people have trouble getting out of homelessness.
- But specifically about the village, the plan is for 20 large vehicles no more than 35 people.
- This is the maximum number we can handle on the lot. It will not increase.
- The lot will be fenced with a gate.
- Residents will agree to basic rules and we'll set up community standards.
- The rules and standards will be enforced on a daily basis by the residents with support from paid staff.
- There will be a community advisory committee of housed and other stakeholders who are in the neighborhood which will have regular meetings, and that will begin in a few weeks and continue after the safe parking lot is opened.
- The village and the community environment we're going to build are going to help people stabilize.
- And the staff is going to work with people one on one to help them take the steps to stabilize their lives and get into permanent housing.
- That's our goal.
- We really regret that the Juvenile Justice Commission has opposed this project without reaching out to us for more information.
- We believe that we can satisfy the needs of the Green Acre youth facility that is nearby.
- We're very familiar with the Los Guilicos homeless village which has more than a hundred homeless people and is across the valley of the moon.
- Both of these institutions report no routine problems due to the proximity of the two.
- It's true what some people are saying here, this is not going to solve every problem with homeless people.
- The fact is that homelessness in the U.S. is a problem all across the U.S.
- It's not a simple thing to take care of people who are so vulnerable, so poor, and have been stripped of everything, including a lot of their human dignity.
- But this is a really simple thing basically that Sebastopol can do, and it will make a big difference for some of the poorest people in the City.
- We are going to have two stakeholder meetings. One is tomorrow, and many of you who are talking have been invited to that.
- We will continue to meet with the community. We will continue to address people's concerns.

- One of the things that's going to happen that has not been able to happen at Morris Street is when you have a problem, you have somebody's phone number who is paid and is responsible to take care of things.
- I look forward to this. I think it's going to be a very interesting and exciting project.
- I expect to see a lot of Sebastopolians helping out at the village.

Tomas Phillips commented as follows:

- I've lived in Sebastopol for 25 years.
- I lived in Santa Rosa before that and Sonoma before that and Rohnert Park before that.
- I came back to Sebastopol because it's a really beautiful town.
- The thing that makes it the most beautiful is the people.
- I think this is a really compassionate response to a problem that exists everywhere in our county, in our country.
- I applaud Mayor Glass and the City Council who supports this.
- Occasionally there are some good things that happen. Occasionally there's some kindness.
- This is an act of kindness.
- I really support it.

Courtney commented as follows:

- I am representing myself as a resident of Sonoma County on my own time.
- I work in Sebastopol serving the public.
- I work with unsheltered folks pretty much on a daily basis.
- I support the SAVS safe parking proposal behind Wischemann Hall.
- I cannot think of a better proposal that aims to serve the most vulnerable population, people enduring chronic homelessness, while doing its very best to respect the residents, business owners and taxpayers.
- I have heard many voices express ill will towards attempts to mitigate homelessness in Sebastopol.
- I've heard the argument I want us to help the homeless but I don't want it near our schools or coffee shops.
- Social workers and homeless advocates who are the people who interact and problem solve with and for this population the most understand that chronically unsheltered people need access to social services like meals, restrooms, showers, libraries, and transportation.
- According to the 2020 Sonoma County homeless census and survey, 23% of homeless persons have a physical disability, 40% have psychiatric and emotional conditions, 23% have chronic health problems, and 10% have a traumatic brain injury.
- Forcing homeless neighbors to live in inaccessible places is not only cruel, but also ineffective.
- This project has done its best to find a location that is in walking distance to critical resources while being as discreet as possible in a tucked-away corner of what could be argued is in the industrial region of Sebastopol.
- I have also heard the argument, I pay so much to live here, I should not have to live by homeless people.
- Does that mean that people with less assets deserve to live by homeless people?
- The City of Sebastopol is a privileged community.
- It is a majorly white and wealthy place.
- Investing in gentrification solely instead of housing and social services is intentional or not a loud example of systemic racism.
- Because if privileged communities do not also do their part, then we push it onto poorer communities.

- According to the 2019 survey of consumer finances, the typical white family has eight times the wealth of a typical black family, and five times the wealth of the typical Hispanic family.
- Poorer communities have to work more.
- They don't have the time to go to City Council meetings and to get through all this bureaucracy and have the time to voice.
- Let's try to walk away from the stigma.
- These are people that have a lot of trauma that probably took root in infancy, compounded, and climaxed into the horrors of homelessness.

Matt Trivan commented as follows:

- So I just had a question on actually, tax purposes
- I'm a Sebastopol citizen.
- I live in town.
- I pay my taxes.
- I shop locally, I hang out locally.
- I just wanted to know, like, where would my taxes be going toward this RV parking

Sunny Galbraith commented as follows:

- I'm here to speak for students, but I want to give my full support and deep appreciation for Councilmembers for looking into this, finding solutions.
- I'm super proud that our City is doing so much.
- I'm shocked that someone would be angry that our City was doing more than its part.
- That's a beautiful thing that our City is stepping up and doing this, and I'm really proud of the Council for putting in the time and for researching and for working with county services, and I really echo Courtney's comments and her well-researched reasons to support this.
- My comment is short, but thank you so much for your compassionate work on this really important issue.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I just have a point of information.
- I'm not sure exactly what to call this, but we do have agenda item 7 coming up.
- That is the report out for the Committee for the Unhoused which we'll be talking about all these items and more that the committee is taking on in the next month.
- Will people who are not speaking now be able to speak then?
- Will the people who have spoken now about the RV parking also be allowed to speak then?
- Just as a matter of time management particularly of fairness on this issue.
- What would you be intending to do?

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I would say that this is like one minor, minor part of the Committee for the Unhoused presentation.
- So if individuals do want to say something that is not related specifically to the safe parking issue, they may speak.
- But they cannot speak again about addressing this proposed safe parking for RVs and the Morris Street issue.
- In the report that we're talking about a lot of issues apart from the safe parking issue.
- So everyone can be on notice, if you've already made comment regarding the SAVS parking location, then please do not speak again in item number 7.

- Then I also wanted to also make a comment that there was an individual who asked a question, and they wanted to know something about where their taxes are going towards this, and just very briefly, this particular project comes with well over \$300,000 in funding which is one of the reasons why the City can afford to do it.
- It's coming with funding from the County Continuum of Care, which is a department of the County's Community Development Commission.
- What the City is contributing is actually the property and some site preparation, et cetera, but the bulk of the managing the site, would be coming from a grant that SAVS as being promised from the Continuum of Care which is a part of the CDC.
- Then the other thing was saying why don't people want to go to the Sebastopol hotel if it's full.
- I don't check on it constantly. When I checked on it last, it was full.
- It has rooms and sometimes people relocate to permanent housing and another room opens up.
- I know that our social services contractor was working with Elderberry Commons and potentially moving a resident of Morris Street to Elderberry Commons in the next couple weeks.
- Some things you hear may be an Elderberry myth.
- I have met people in Sebastopol who have moved into Elderberry Commons.
- Sometimes you hear things that are not correct.
- I know in my meetings with DIMA, which is the organization that was running it, when people were placed in Elderberry Commons, they were giving preference to people from West County, but not necessarily Sebastopol.
- But I have definitely met people that were living there that were from Sebastopol.
- Potentially some new people moving in.
- People can shake their head, but people have said that to my face.
- So maybe somebody is not telling me the truth, but that's certainly what I've been told.
- So just know that sometimes you have to go directly to an institution to find out accurate information, and sometimes the rumors aren't always true.

STATEMENTS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

Mayor Glass asked to hear Item Number 6 first. The Council was in consensus to hear item number 6 first.

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.)*

6. Presentation Regarding Requested Revisions to polystyrene ordinance. Committee presentation (high school member) (Requestor: Zero Waste Committee)

Sunny Galbraith, Zero Waste Committee, presented the agenda item and recommended the Council receive the report and introduced the students presenting the item.

The following students made a presentation:

Arthur Brent

Abby

Joel

Mayor Glass asked for questions of presenters.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- Thank you to the students for an excellent presentation.
- I just wanted to mention that we have Toni Bertolero on the call if the Council has any technical questions.
- Toni is from the City's engineering firm and ultimately responsible for bringing the actual ordinance changes back to the Council.
- Unfortunately, because of some Council scheduling, this one will not return to the Council until January, so this might be when you give staff general direction for how you would like the ordinance to be framed, current suggestions or making other suggestions.
- You can do that this evening or you'll have an additional opportunity when it returns to the Council in mid-January.
- If the Council has any questions this evening, Toni is here to answer them or I can answer them or you'll see this again in January.

Councilmember Rich commented I would just like to know that the students will continue to share this information and educate our public.

Sunny Galbraith commented as follows:

- We have fabulous presenters, as you saw, and willing students.
- We are giving a separate presentation on SB-1383, the composting law to community groups now, but we should add in a couple slides about this.

Mayor Glass opened for public comment.

Linda Berg commented as follows:

- I am out of the loop because many of you know I am a cell-phone free, TV-free, largely electricity-free living in a shielded apartment with a lot of shielded clothing on to reduce my exposure to wireless radiation.
- The point is I don't know what's going on and don't have in front of me the details of the agenda.
- What I'm wondering about is if the Zero Waste Committee is considering other items other than polystyrene, like the smart meters that have been hoisted on us, they are pieces of junk that have to be replaced every five to seven years.
- This is a good thing to look at when we're looking at zero waste.
- So compared to the analog mechanical meters, the good old safer analog meters that don't start fires, are grounded and have surge protection which last 40 to 70 years.
- I'm just bringing this up as another example of something that needs to be looked at if you're really serious about reducing our waste.

- That goes for the prospective wireless water meters, too, that are not durable and are dangerous and have to replace the lithium batteries in the waterless meters and cannot be replaced until it requires a whole unit replacement.
- So we're looking at another \$2 million of replacement of it, wireless water meters, in the not too distant future compared to durable, safer mechanical meters that we now have.
- I'm just saying there are other things that seem to be legitimate items to look at when you're attempting to get to zero waste.
- The landfills in the air and in the water, the garbage patch, 5 to 7 garbage patches we have throughout the world oceans.
- Thank you very much for what you do.

Council Discussion and/or Deliberations:

Sunny Galbraith commented that the committee had not considered the smart meters as part of the zero waste committee purview.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- That's what I was going to say just so that Linda knew, acknowledging her suggestion, first of all.
- I know the committee hasn't gone on to that. It's a group of volunteer citizens and businesspeople led by sunny.
- We've worked hard to incorporate students in the group.
- We meet once a month excepting one holiday month, and we have limited band width because we are volunteers
- This has been a priority of our original meetings and returning with revision, so I think we are doing all we can, Linda. Thank you for your suggestion.
- I wanted to say briefly as a member of the Zero Waste Committee, I was one of the people who voted unanimously in favor of these changes.
- I'm very grateful that Santa Rosa followed our lead, and I'm grateful that they have added some improvements to our inspiring ordinance, and I would recommend that our Council adopt those rather simply and directly as this comes back in January.

Sunny Galbraith commented as follows:

- Just in closing, we are a small town, but when we are willing to be first to do things, we have a very big impact.
- I'll just tell everyone or remind everyone that we were the first in the County to pass this model food ware ordinance and now almost every other City has passed it, including the County.
- So they were able to say, hey, we're not the first, which is a big deal.
- So we were willing to be first and I'm super proud of us and proud of the Council for taking that step and being the first.
- Then Santa Rosa went and took it a step further and now we get to look at their good ideas and say, hey, that's even better.
- Then even the State law, some of these State laws that were recently passed, those things are possible when small communities like us are willing to be the first and bravely take new steps.
- This goes for all sorts of issues, like addressing homelessness, for instance.
- I'm really proud of our community for being on the forefront of many things that then other communities can say, hey, we're not the first, someone else has done this before.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Thank you so much for the youth that you got out to our meeting and for their presentation because I just think that's really awesome to have the youth in our community making presentations like this and participating in our local government.
- It's really wonderful and it's a great educational lesson.
- It's great educationally for them to understand how to participate in government.
- I think what we want to do is give direction to staff to incorporate these items that were brought up by our zero waste committee and propose them to the City Council for possible adoption in January.

The Council was in consensus to incorporate these items that were brought up by our zero waste committee and propose them to the City Council for possible adoption in January.

City Council Action: The Council was in consensus to incorporate these items that were brought up by our zero waste committee and propose them to the City Council for possible adoption in January.

Minute Order Number: 2021-279

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

1. Discussion of City Budget Process (Responsible Department: City Administration/Administrative Services Director)

Administrative Services Director Kwong presented the agenda item recommending the City Council receive the report and provide any comments or direction on the City Budget Process.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- I was going to offer a little more perspective on the history of the budget process in my time with the City and also reiterate how the current budget process could go forward as a standing committee utilizing a closed session where appropriate.
- The full City Council will go through the budget basically from page 1.
- Before that the City Manager would be responsible with the Finance Director to prepare the budget.
- The City Manager and Finance Director would meet with the department heads and pass out each individual departmental budget.
- When it came to the Council, the Council would basically, as I said, start at page 1 and go through the entire budget.
- That was very time-consuming, and the Council desired to kind of streamline that service, that process.
- So they determined to follow the process the Administrative Services Director just outlined in committee form.
- We've done that for a number of years, as you know.
- Two Councilmembers generally on a rotating basis formed the committee along with several staff members.
- The committee does the hard work of meeting with departmental heads individually, reviewing the details of each of their budgets and then goes to the Council with a recommendation, which does tend to streamline the process and cut down on the amount of time that the Council has to spend with the budget.
- That necessitated meetings where personnel issues were being discussed.
- As this is a standing committee, we did meet and consult with outside counsel who determined that we're appropriate if we keep following the City process as we've been doing, the committee could meet with department heads in closed sessions just like the Council does meet in closed sessions where appropriate to get that information, then the remainder of the committee meetings would be open to the public.

- Either one of those both have their pros and cons.
- I just thought it might be helpful to give a little history of why the Council did elect to go to the committee process.
- It was very, very time consuming for the Council.
- I think as it is currently situated as a standing committee, much the way the budget process used to go with the committee could still be reiterated and done in the future using the closed session.

Mayor Glass asked for questions of staff.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- As we look at how this would be handled as a standing committee, as our City Manager has just described, I'd like to know from our Administrative Services Director and City Manager whether it would be workable to look at the same calendar that has just been presented with the change being that those meetings that were shown gray as subcommittee meetings could also be public meetings.
- Could we just convert all of the committee meetings to, I think in the color coding it's red, but basically to public meetings with the condition that closed session would be used when necessary for HR personnel issues.
- So as just a proposal with that work, and also I would suggest that we look at setting that goal-setting meeting at the beginning of the year as we move forward, so I would hope that would be workable.
- Those are my questions.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- We would have the budget committee meeting in open session where a problem arose.
- A question about a departmental budget required the use of a closed session that could be legally justified.
- We would explain why it's legally justified and figure out how to expeditiously move into a closed session, either trailing those questions for one closed session to occur a bit later where appropriate.
- We would suggest a process so to speak on the run for this.
- I think it might depend how many members of the public were there, what type of question it was.
- We would have to kind of develop that process as it went forward to see what's most workable.
- I think we would start off with the idea it is an open meeting as we handle Councilmember meetings the same way.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- As the City Manager described the history, he stated the City Manager was involved with the department heads in writing the budgets.
- It looks like in this new process that our City Manager would follow.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- The City Manager is included in the planning process and prepares the budget with the Finance Director, meets with the department heads, presents the best defensible budget, you might say, on their behalf, and then the committee goes through it page by page, item by item.
- That's the only difference between that and the prior Council.
- In that situation the Council went through the budget item by item.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- Thank you for that clarification, because I was a little worried you cut the City Manager out of the action as the budgets were being drafted and considered.
- Would it be possible in your experience to have the City Manager answer questions as to each department without involving multiple department head meetings?
- Which is more practical, bring in each department head for a meeting or have the City Manager cover it all?

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- In some ways that's determined by the committee and what level of detail they feel are necessary to adequately assess the budget.
- We've had budget committees which relied a lot on staff.
- I would say it's variable.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I think one of the problems we've had with the budget process is that sometimes in the middle of the year or at the end of the year or at random times during the year, the Council comes up with ideas for new initiatives, new things to do, a new program, a new something that we haven't done in the past, and that's in the past because it hasn't been done before.
- I'm thinking the first three months of the year, the Council should be very much focusing on any new ideas and requests for new initiatives that need to be taken such as are we going to enact a new ordinance to do something or other, are we going to create a new program, et cetera, so that the department heads have the chance to respond to that and monetize the idea so that it gets included in the budget process?
- So does that seem like a viable thing to do, to try and pack our first two or three months of the year?
- Not like we always are going to be able to do that, because sometimes something comes up that is unexpected.
- But that does seem like if we did try to get our new initiatives in at the beginning of the year, then we would do a better job of budgeting.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- If that's a question to me, I'm 100% in support of everything you just said, because that all goes along with the idea of goal setting taking place early in the year when you're doing your basic budget preparation.
- That's the time to learn of new initiatives or understand that you've got to develop a budget item that you might not have done before.
- It is much more difficult to do that in the middle of the budget process, but still possible, and then it's difficult afterwards.
- It has to be done with the budget committee.

Mayor Glass commented if there is a way to include that concept in the graphic that we have about the budget process, if we're going to refer to that in the future that maybe we should consider putting that somehow in the graphic of the budget calendar cycle that we have initiatives and department requests, et cetera, that maybe we might consider putting that into that graphic.

Director Kwong commented are you proposing that in January the Council would get together and propose or talk about initiatives and goals, and the department head will be working with the City Manager to draft the budget, and then bring that result to the budget committee for review?

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I'm thinking that if the department heads don't know what the Council are asking for us to move forward with, for example, new playground equipment, how are they going to know to put it in the budget?
- So we need to put those goals out there so it gets transmitted to you so that you're overseeing the budget and so it gets transmitted to the City Manager so that he can be making sure that our department heads are thinking about the impact of those new initiatives on the budget process.

Director Kwong questioned if staff would wait to see what we're building into it before doing the City budget?

Mayor Glass commented perhaps the Council needs to be focusing on putting as many of its new initiatives and ideas out there as possible at the very beginning of the year so that gets transmitted to you and to Larry and department heads so that those things are monetized so we do a better job with the budget process.

Mayor Glass opened for public comment.

Kyle Falbo commented as follows:

- Discussed the money removed from the City's coffers that is still undeclared with the City.
- I would like to remind this Council that at the time of the July meeting in which the City Manager/Attorney gave an update on the \$1.2 million that was fraudulently removed from us.
- The mid-year review would be an excellent time to update us on the possibilities of being reimbursed through our insurance companies for the fraudulently taken away \$1.2 million from our City's coffers.
- It is my hope that that could be penciled in here in your discussion to make sure the City Manager returns to update us about the possibilities of seeing our \$1.2 million returned to us.

Linda Berg commented as follows:

- On the budget thing and extending money to this wonderful town, we want to use our resources wisely, and as the year winds down, you know, I'm thinking of what can be done towards our resources.
- Again, I'm going back to there's this thing that it was my understanding, because of the last City Council meeting, that any projects more than \$30,000 has to be put out for bid.
- The Department Head did a bogus survey that did not reflect the true feelings of a lot of people like myself who were excluded
- I had no idea, I didn't even know about that wireless water meter thing before it was too late for me to have any effective input.
- Anyway, I am saying that thing needs to be put on hold and looked at again, and I'm saying that was an abusive authority by the department head who did not have the support of not only me but also his next in line who had to move away from a cell tower because his wife, like me, was electric sensitive, so he knew how dangerous these wireless devices are, but also he went ahead despite more informed consent not knowing how these things worked.
- Clearly he doesn't know how they work.
- So I am, again, requesting that you put that on hold, reverse it and take another look at it and give us, the public, time to give you more information so that you can make informed decisions and perhaps get bids, competitive bids which, as I understand it, are required by you anyhow.

Arthur George commented as follows:

- A separate comment that I had made this evening, in reviewing the budget, I did note that expenditures that had been earmarked for sanitation purposes, public toilets, portable toilets, handwashing stations

which had been separate items, add-in items and wish list items seemed to have been folded into the budget at large.

- I'm going to see that as a recognition and acceptance by the City of an ongoing deed, and I express my appreciation for that.

Oliver Marks commented as follows:

- I just wanted to follow up on this comment just now. I wasn't quite clear on that.
- It would be great to get some explanation of that because I was holding my thoughts about the proposed RV village for later about agenda item number 7, but it's interesting what the budget actually is for homeless expenditure.
- My understanding was that there was a bit of money put to one side for people to wash their hands and have some Port-A-Potties on Morris Street, which I think is what was being talked about by the previous person, and also \$72,000 put in for some homeless coordinator type person.
- It would be great if we could hear something from the Mayor or one of the Councilmembers with more detail on that as we have more transient people moving into Sebastopol, how you're going to fund that.
- My understanding is the funding for that is going to end.
- What is the plan for the transients and how you're going to put that in as a budget item in the coming year.

Mayor Glass responded to public comments as follows:

- First of all, there was a comment about an update regarding our missing \$1.5 million that was stolen from the City, and actually, our City Manager has made more than one update to us about the status of that.
- We have received some money from various insurers to, at least at this point, partially reimburse us.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- I can dig out my file and update the Council again.
- It would be the same update as last time, but you did summarize that we have received a considerable amount of reimbursement from one of the counties, two insurance carriers.
- There insurance carriers have not yet made a determination and we anticipate more funding and I'll be happy to prepare a further update in the subsequent Council meeting.

Mayor Glass reported as follows:

- So we have had updates on that as time has gone on.
- And stay tuned, we will get a new update sometime in the very near future.
- We did produce and we will be addressing those issues in a later agenda item and talk about the work in the contract
- There are a number of volunteers helping us to mitigate the issues of the unhoused.
- The question regarding Elderberry Commons, which is technically now an item of County property in the middle of the City, and that has nothing to do with the City of Sebastopol's budget.
- The County did provide us with \$385,000 to mitigate the loss of T.O.T. Funding that occurred when the County received T.O.T. Funding.
- We received approximately \$385,000 to make up for that loss for a few years.
- Meanwhile, as far as operating it, that is not anything to do with the City of Sebastopol.

Council Discussion and/or Deliberations:

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- I appreciate that the budget process is being looked at, and having sat on the budget committee a number of times over the years, I hear a tacit acknowledgment from my colleagues that the budget process is long and detailed and it takes countless hours to work through.
- I'm not sure there is any streamlining that will have a measurable effect on shortening that amount of time.
- I think the goal is a more clear, more transparent process for our public that do respect the values and therefore the community values.
- I like where this is going.
- I think that the changes are positive and the suggestions that were made about closed session being used judiciously were needed in the process, and I think that that's a clever allow the committee to function that way.
- Thanks for bringing this up and let's do it.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I think Vice Mayor Gurney brought it up as the City Manager being a big part of the process.
- I always think the recommendations, having served on budget committee the last three years, should be coming from the City Manager first before department heads pitch for their wish list separately.
- Obviously there is wish lists and we can't always have anything we want.
- As was pointed out, we have a small budget.
- Also having sat on it for the last three years, because tends to go where the priorities are, I know a lot of other counties don't do a budget process like we do with two Councilmembers and the Mayor, then they bring that to the full Council.
- I think it would always be helpful to have one of the budget subcommittee members always be the Mayor.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- The staff has heard us about the process and they can move forward starting in January with the process, and they have heard our input regarding this.
- Thank you, Director Kwong and City Manager McLaughlin and staff for putting together this graphic and bringing up this process next year.

City Council Action: No formal vote taken. Accepted the budget process.

Minute Order Number: 2021-274

Mayor Glass called for a break at 7:05 pm and reconvened the meeting at 7:15 pm.

2. Discussion of No response to RFP For Services for Municipal Financial Services Consultant and proposed Amended Scope of Work (Responsible Department: Administrative Services)

Administrative Services Director Kwong presented the agenda item recommending the City Council receive the report and approved the proposed amended scope of work for the RFP For Services for Municipal Financial Services Consultant.

Mayor Glass asked for questions of staff.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- The municipal group, they were contacted and asked first, I think, because we worked with them on something else before.

- The report states that they had taken on work since the last time we asked about this.
- I'm looking for more clarity on that, because if it's possible that they are interested and they are qualified, then I would like to know if there is six months out, a year out or, sometime in the future we'll get to us, don't call us, we'll call you.

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- During the budget process, the committee and staff were discussing a program where the City doesn't have a fleet program and that we need some sort of study.
- Enterprise Fleet came in and did a presentation to the committee, and because the City was not ready, not convinced that this program that enterprise was proposing is going to be beneficial to the City, and the committee asked for a broader study to bring in a Citywide capital study because we really don't have a fleet program, and the replacement schedule is not quite comprehensive, so at that point I was reaching out to the municipal resources group and kind of discussed what that scope would look like, and they were on board with that.
- Then we ran into issues, as you can imagine, with the cybersecurity problem the City has, so the budget was delayed and kept delaying.
- When Council adopted the budget in July, I circled back to the resources group and said now this scope of work for the study of the capital has been expanded to include the financial advisor revenue enhancement which is not in their purview to do such things.
- Then I told them that it's not going to be the sole tight situation.
- It will have to go out to an RFP and other firms have to bid on that. The RFP was so broad, they didn't know what to do with it.
- By that time we get around to it, which is September, now they have taken on to another agency and made their commitment, so they can't commit to a project that they're not going to have a deliverable to the City Council.
- That's where we are right now is that we have no response, and when you have an RFP that is so broad, and if one consultant is good at revenue enhancement strategy, they usually don't care to work with another consultant and collaborate because it's a different study when you're talking about capital asset as far as Citywide capital asset.
- They don't seem to go together. So that's how this thing kind of came about.
- For lack of a better word, the RFP feels like there's too many drivers on the bus and there's no direction as to where the bus is going so that we have a bit of a confusion as to what is it that the City would like to do.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- Thank you to our Administrative Services Director for providing this detail.
- Does Director Kwong have any advice on which item would be a priority if we were to choose between the two items that she's suggesting we consider focusing on.
- One was the capital replacement assets study, or the other option was financial advisor, revenue enhanced study.
- Which ones does the Administrative Services Director feel is a priority at the moment?

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- Asked if she could pick the third one. I would recommend that the Council postpone the study.
- The reason I'm saying that is right now the firm that can do the capital asset, they don't have the capacity to take on the City.
- They cannot deliver that project, so they're not going to take it on.

- I don't see a point going back out for just the capital asset replacement.
- I think that we should postpone this and put it in 2022-'23 budget cycle.
- It would be in the best interest of the City to address the expenditure side of the house first.
- On the next agenda, there is an item there that is supposed to discuss the overall expenditure control and how we can mitigate expenditures going forward.
- I know that the enhancement for revenue and how we go about to increase revenue so that we can close the gap between how much expenses have grown outpaces the revenues in the City, and I think it would be a better strategy to address the expenditures first
- The biggest expenditure in the City is the pension, and that is the big elephant in the room in every single year when we talk about the budget.
- Then we can talk about bringing someone in, and through that process, we can bring in a financial advisor to see what the City can do to enhance the revenue in the City that closes the gap between how much revenue the City brings in and the expenditure that is obviously outpaces the revenue performance.
- That would be my recommendation, to put this on hold.
- It doesn't make sense to do this now when we don't have the consultant that I thought was on board with us, but then they took other projects, and the scope of work is so broad.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- One of the arenas that was examined by a government financial firm for a public agency I was on the board of, one of the things they reviewed was how to properly balance and effectively balance their reserve categories.
- So I told them how much they should be putting in their pension reserve versus their vehicle reserve versus their new equipment reserve versus their roads, et cetera, reserve.
- It actually resulted in a very interesting shifting of resources, so we actually still have a fairly consistent reserve as a City.
- It's not a \$50 million question, the \$6 million question is, is the demand of that reserve more weighted towards pension, and I think we probably know the answer to that, versus how big a reserve did we need to significantly rebalance how much money they were budgeting for in their reserve because they were overbudgeting for some things.
- Then they were able to put more money into their pension reserve.
- So I wonder if that's an area that you think might benefit us, because they did an analysis of how much they were spending over a 20-year period on new equipment per year and then figured out what an appropriate reserve would be.
- So I'm wondering that now may not be a good time to do it because honestly do have a lot of projects going on right now and maybe we need to delay until 2022 sometime.
- But I'm just wondering what you think about that.
- It would rebalance our reserve and then it changes how we budget for the reserves.

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- I think we need to simultaneously address the expenditure, and at the same time, when we roll into the new budget process, we can reach back out to the municipal resource group and see if they can take on this study that we already discussed with them as far as Citywide capital study and see how those two tracks could, at some point, will merge together.
- I think we can still do that.
- As you know, in every budget cycle it's very hard to balance the budget when you have a huge expenses that you have to address which is the pension, which is a moving target as well.
- It also outpaced the revenue we can bring in.

- In order to at least somewhat bring the gap closer and address that first, and then doing the budget process, we can circle back
- I totally think we can do both but not right now, and once you discuss the pension, then you have more room and you have more information about how much it is changing and how much leaves the City on an annual basis and how staff is supposed to mitigate the soft liability for hard liability and perhaps it will free up money or it will free up funds to allow the City with the flexibility to address any deficit.
- Not completely all the deficit, but at least it's some, we can address some.
- Then we can look at the revenue and see what can we do on the revenue side if there is any room on the revenue side, and I know one thing we can do on the revenue is that the UUT is going to expire in a couple years, and as a City we would need to go back out, and that could be a whole new discussion whether the percentage of UUT could be increased and some of that increase could be earmarked for something else, and that's a different discussion.
- But that's one of the revenue enhancements that we can think about.
- But before we can even get there, we need to close that gap so that we have the flexibility to know which are the soft costs and which are the hard costs, hard liability versus soft liability.
- We need to get there first.

Mayor Glass opened for public comment.

Kyle Falbo commented as follows:

- I appreciate the blunt honesty of the Administrative Services Director when stating, yes, it is clearly important to look at how to increase revenue.
- But this pales in comparison to the need at how the City can reduce expenditures.
- The Mayor's approach to the City hitting its reserve targets, instead of recognizing the need to regularly balance the budget, specifically noting the expenditures outpacing revenue in the last three budget cycles that have nearly depleted the general reserves.
- I have some specific questions related to the request for proposal process.
- One, is having a 30-day window an appropriate amount of time?
- The Administrative Services Director made reference to this year's budget cycle going so late that many firms were unable to commit within that September window.
- Could this be expanded?
- Second, I see the RFP was sent to specifically six firms, none of which reside in Sonoma County.
- Is this typical for the City to have a firm outside the City or county?
- It just seems like we might be reaching out to the community that knows us best.

Steve Pierce commented as follows:

- I would like to talk about the revenue side.
- I certainly agree that we need to seriously look at the expenditures, but on the revenue side, I would ask do we really need a revenue consultant.
- What are the major levers for revenue that the City really can't control?
- There is a sales tax, the utility users' tax that was mentioned earlier and the transfer occupancy tax.
- Have we hired consultants in the past to assess these different revenues, or has the Council and staff figured this out on their own?
- I've been helping out the Climate Action Subcommittee on funding, and we have been looking at the utility users' tax as a means to fund local climate action.
- Quite honestly, we've been a bit blocked.
- We've been waiting on this consultant to be hired, to figure out what we'll move with in the future.

- We've did some examination ourselves
- If we increased just the energy part of the UUT from 3.75 to 4.75, we could have maybe \$80,000 a year in revenue for climate action.
- There are other things that the UUT gets taxed on like cell phones and whatnot.
- We also looked at other more equitable ways of funding action, like increasing the transfer tax.
- But, unfortunately, these things don't really raise much revenue for the amount of work that's involved.
- For instance, you have to become a charter City to increase the transfer tax.
- When I look across all of our departments in the City, I see kind of a common need.
- That common need exists for both City staff and the community.
- What we really need is a grant writer that's hired by the City.
- I would hope in our midyear budget review, we can look at examining that.
- For instance, hopefully they will hopefully pass the RV village. That grant is only for a year.
- We need resources to move on our multiple needs for the community.
- For instance, the City of San Bruno just a few weeks ago issued an RFP for \$60,000 for a contract for grant writing.
- I'm sure there are other cities that have done it. I've looked over their RFP.
- It's worth examining and ways we can leverage money that is out there because we are going to be hard pressed raising the revenue locally with our limited staff time. We need outside help.

Linda Berg commented as follows:

- Could somebody tell me what UUT stands for?
- I thought that was an interesting and kind of an enlightened idea that somebody mentioned there about delaying some projects.
- I think that is a fine idea, and of course the one that comes to mind is the one you all passed a couple weeks ago, because we've got 1.2 million reasons why we don't want to continue going forward with that kind of a wireless technology.
- It's easy to control, take over control. So I'm talking about the wireless water meters.
- It's just a bad idea on so many levels, not the least of which it's plastic, unlike the smart meters that contain a circuit board made out of plastic and, again, requires replacement every five to seven years as compared to the safer, more durable analog meter, which is made out of metal, again, which lasts 40 to 70 years and is safer.
- Anyway, we do not want to continue to go down the road of killing ourselves with a wireless technology
- You saw the other day gas stations got taken over, got hacked, and they had no way to obtain gas for the cars.
- My attention also came to the pensions. I would love to know what some of the pensions are.
- For instance, our previous planning director, who was also pro-business and everything, it turns out I filed a grand jury complaint against the vector control and learned he retired with a \$155,000 pension, more than his income was because it was all smoke and mirrors when the board decided what to pay him, and the only reason that I found that out was because I'm the one who filed the grand jury complaint
- I'm suggesting that project with the water meters be delayed and put on hold.
- Also, just to let you know that that is a cheap way to find out about the pensions and I'm going to have a grand jury do an investigation.

Courtney commented as follows:

- I just like what the member of the climate subcommittee was saying.
- I love the idea of having a grant writer on the City Council if that's possible to look for other sources of revenue.

- While I believe in a lot of socially liberal things, I also think it's important to be fiscally frugal, so I just wanted to support what he was saying.

Council Discussion and/or Deliberations:

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I just want to correct something that keeps getting said over and over again, which is that we keep paying down our reserve and the City is incredibly irresponsible.
- In fact, when ten years ago or so, when I was first on the Council, our reserve was down to practically zero, and it has gone up to over 60%.
- We have been drilling down on that reserve which seems kind of appropriate in a pandemic.
- Our reserve is still at over \$6 million, which is a significant amount of money.
- So I just want to correct the assertion that the City doesn't have any reserve.
- We do have a reserve, and we were saving for a rainy day, and it kind of seems like the pandemic is pretty rainy.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- I was going to sort of state the same thing, that we have not spent our reserves down.
- We have adequate and appropriate general reserves as well as specific reserves. So that is a fact.
- And so opinion on this and where I think we should go is I hear what the Administrative Services Director is saying about the ability to find qualified consultants for this work.
- I think it was too broad.
- A consultant who may have expertise in helping us determine reserve for the City may also have tertiary knowledge about fleet and capital replacement on certain items, but I think they are separate and distinct.
- So for me important for me is the financial advisor and with that the revenue enhancement, and to look at the UUT
- I think we're probably in the same window that we were when we were when we went to the voters and we asked the voters if they would support it, and the voters said we support this, and the City has spent the money the way it was going to be spent.
- I don't think there is any question about that. I think that our record is firm on that.
- Financial planning is for me the biggest component of this.
- So if we need to delay and resubmit this out into the consultant land, then I would be in favor of that.
- If we are going to try again sooner, item 2b would be my choice.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I think having served on the budget committee where this original thought came from, it was after, as Director Kwong stated, we basically pitched a leasing fleet program and we said, back up the horses there, we don't think that that's our priority today. We think we need a longer range.
- I agree with Councilmember Slayter, I think it's too broad.
- We need to break it down and we need to look at financial planning, and I know that there was some talk and we had a presentation about a City bond as well.
- So to me that goes in what's the best way to line up for the future, and then after that, maybe we have a second consultant come in and tell us cost savings on spending, but I think we need to go out to twice.
- We don't want to start spending money until we know how we should spend the money, and we're moving into the holidays, so I would say to Director Kwong we should revisit this in January and that should get more response at that time.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I'm another Councilmember who supports 2b, and that is the notion that we redefine the scope of work and separate out the financial advisor and revenue enhancement strategies part of this RFP.
- I think it's the more urgent of the two, and I do think it's a pretty high priority for now, not in fiscal year '22-'23. I just don't see how we can wait.
- I also appreciate Steve Pierce's suggestion that we put a grant writer on the wish list as we look at goals and objectives, whether that's in early January or whatever time that moves on to the Council agendas, I'd like us to consider that notion, too.
- I think if we separate the parts we put together that are incompatible, we're going to be successful getting the help that we need.
- And it seems to me that we've got to look at our revenue situation.
- The needs continue and the initiatives of the Council continue to grow, our staffing needs are great to do all the work that we want to do, so I think our revenue is really a high priority for us now.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I agree on 2b also.
- What I think we need is longer range financial planning from the big picture.
- I think that another City in our area has just recently done a bond measure to rearrange their pension liability and to take care of that issue, and according to them, they saved a great deal of money by rearranging their pension liability over the long run through doing this bond measure.
- So I want answers to questions like that from some long-range kind of financial planner.
- I do think we need to look at are we investing in the right reserves, and I do think the revenue enhancement is an area that we need to look at.
- I do believe we're heading into the holidays, we can't really possibly move forward with this at this particular point.
- But I think that we should take a look at putting an RFP out there maybe with a longer time frame earlier next year.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I'm listening to the suggestions from my colleagues here, and I an additional question
- That question is, if we, in January, put out an RFP and we prioritize in that RFP the financial advisor revenue enhanced strategy study, 2b in the list, I actually have two questions.
- One, how much money would we need to set aside?
- Would we need the \$40,000 that's currently set aside, in her opinion, and secondly, how would we then approach the capital assets replacement program study given staff commitments and multiple projects?
- What would be the timing when we, as a City Council, could reasonably conclude the staff could look at that second part of the report?

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- To answer your first question how much money we've set aside, currently we have \$40,000.
- Until we issue that RFP and have a specific scope of work, we would not know whether that is adequate or not.
- We have to wait for that to come back and see what the proposal and the deliverable and the work that would go into this RFP, how much it's going to cost.
- I think the \$40,000 in the budget right now is a place holder, and if this goes out to an RFP in January, and typically 30 days is a time frame for an RFP.
- But if the City is desired to have longer, then we can certainly do that.

- But we would not know how much to be part of the midyear budget discussion.
- Once it comes back, in the event that it is more, the staff report can go back out to the City Council for an exception of whatever the consultant firm we eventually hire and ask for a budget adjustment at that time.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- The other part of my question, if I could, is what would be the strategy moving forward for addressing the capital assets replacement program study, assuming the City Council would want to do it?
- What would be the proposed time frame?
- So I'm looking at, are we looking at a year later just in terms of workload?
- What's your gut reaction?

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- I would say that we should look at it during the '22-'23 for the capital budget enhancement.
- We don't have a vehicle at City Hall, so it's hard for me to say as far as Citywide.
- I would have to talk to the other department heads like public works and the police department where they have sort of like a fleet that they manage, and maybe we could work collaboratively during the '22-'23 budget cycle to see how we can put our heads together and figure out what that study would look like.
- I would probably approach the municipal resources group again and see if their project has freed up and if they're willing to bid on an RFP if we do put out an RFP specifically for capital replacement program.

Councilmember Rich commented in light of comments that I've heard here from my colleagues and reassurance that these items will all get done, and the focus on kind of the bigger vision, I would be in support of prioritizing the item 2b, which is the financial advisor revenue enhanced strategy study and suggesting that it be put out for RFP in January as others have suggested.

The Council was in consensus to support prioritizing Item 2b.

Mayor Glass commented what UUT stood for – Utility Users' Tax.

City Council Action: The Council was in consensus to support prioritizing Item 2b.

Minute Order Number: 2021-275

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS:

3. City Manager-Attorney/City Clerk Reports:

- a. After Action Report of Laguna Encampment Mitigation Measures of September 21, 2021 (Written Report)

City Manager McLaughlin presented the City Manager Report.

Mayor Glass asked for questions of staff.

Vice Mayor Gurney questioned what the initials ACS stood for.

The response was Alternative Care Site.

Mayor Glass opened for public comment.

Oliver Marks commented as follows:

- There was a sweep in the Laguna which was a good idea and I hope those people got somewhere safe.
- That's probably a job well done.
- Why is that not happening on the streets of Sebastopol
- Why are we not conducting a similar sweep?
- I know the Council are very downstream from the county who have much more power, but I'm a little bit confused as to why that has happened very efficiently but we have this huge problem we seem unable to resolve which we'll be discussing later.
- I would love to get the answer to that question.
- When I asked about transients, I wasn't exactly talking about the Sebastopol Inn, I was talking about budget actions in the coming years when the funding runs out for that project.
- It was a very short-term project of the county buying that, but there was no clear understanding of who was going to pick up the tab after 2021, if memory serves.
- I would just like to primarily have an answer to that question about why we're not having sweeps in Sebastopol where we have 80,000 people paying toward this tax initiative.

Arthur George commented as follows:

- I just want to ratify Mr. McLaughlin's comments and express gratitude, appreciation, but this was a remarkable effort that happened seamlessly, compassionately.
- There was buy-in by almost everybody, including the unhoused campers themselves.
- This problem was driven by the perceived need this summer on the fire hazard. The homeless individuals understood that.
- They understood this was being undertaken certainly to clear the Laguna but also for their welfare as well.
- Usually when we read about these events, they are flash points.
- There is rebelliousness, there is borderline combat. None of that happened here.
- It's really a remarkable accomplishment.
- Again, I think everyone involved and ratified approve and congratulate everything Mr. McLaughlin referred to.

Courtney commented as follows:

- I also want to second what City Manager McLaughlin and Arthur George were saying just now.
- I think it was so successful because there were multiple parties involved to make the Laguna mitigation happen.
- That's like the reason why I love Sebastopol so much, is because there's all these different groups working together, collaborating to try to alleviate suffering.

Adriene Lauby commented as follows:

- So I was present at the start of the sweep and I also felt a lot of colleague camaraderie and the planning was well done.
- People were given a fair amount of advance notice.
- I am, I guess, unfamiliar with the Sebastopol process because I have not been able to find a report, and I'm really interested in knowing how many people did what, what came out of the sweep.
- I did hear some reports from people who were involved in it that said at certain points in the day, various groups that were involved became overeager, and instead of taking out campsites pushed some trees aside and did some other things that were not the best for the environment and certainly not for people.

- The other thing I observed very clearly is that a lot of people are until their trailers now.
- When they came off the Laguna, the people were in their trailers and RVs and those people took them in.
- The crowding in the RVs is pretty intense.
- I guess I just want to tell you a funny story because often when I'm out doing my homeless thing and standing in front of homeless people, someone will yell at me, like, if you love them so much, why don't you take them to your house?
- In this case that's exactly what happened. People took people to their house. And their houses are not big.
- So, you know, kudos to the folks on Morris Street who are doing that, and it's something we need to look at more carefully if we're going to be doing any other sweeps in the future.

Jill commented as follows:

- I, too, didn't read the report.
- But I think it would be very good for all of us to understand how many people actually accepted services that were offered to them and wondering if that could be a foreshadowing of how many might actually accept services should this magical space of 20 spaces be provided for RVs.
- I think it's good for us to understand the mindset of the folks and whether or not they actually did accept the help.
- We did hear about people bunking up in the RVs and just for the record, when all of that was discussed, I think two City Council meetings ago, one of the gentlemen who said he was homeless and had an RV on Morris Street actually admitted to living in his own apartment and now hiring a manager to rent out his RV on Moore street.
- I never heard anyone actually address that. I'm not even certain that that is legal.
- His name, everything, was right there on zoom, and I'm just wondering if that was ever addressed.
- Because certainly if I started renting out a place, we manage everything, Airbnb's, we have laws for everything, but if it's okay for people to start renting out RVs for folks, I'm just wondering about that.

Suzanne commented as follows:

- Mainly what Adrienne said about people bunking in vehicles, it's done as an extended family
- Nobody is just left out in the rain with nowhere to be, or at least nobody that I could see.
- Sometimes I can hardly believe in the worst of the rains how many spaces are found for people to sleep or have some time.
- It's very much a village
- It's not exactly a family, but there's very much connection, and I admire that.
- I believe that the gentleman who has shared his vehicle with the Morris Street resident doesn't charge rent or anything.
- But I believe he's going to speak also, and I have respect for him and the person living in the vehicle that he's allowing.

Rick commented as follows:

- Mayor Glass and Councilmembers, I want to thank you again.
- You're pretty strong, tough people to last so long over these issues, and I don't know if you get remuneration, but I believe you should and someday will.
- And I, Jill, am the man who is not renting the RV which I had to use for a little while, it's a gift to somebody who is in need, who is very smart, and who was once making a huge salary, and due to circumstances, injury, she's unable to do that now.
- And there are so many people in the encampments like that.

- And I, too, was there when the sweep was going on, and I was really impressed with how everyone behaved.
- And I thought, this is kind Sebastopol.
- This is the kind of City we live in and that I want to keep that spirit going.
- You know, Mr. Oliver, I agree with you that the homeless, houseless, transient, multi-problem encampment and throughout the City is a blight.
- We're in process. We don't know where this is going to end. But I see that it's going to end well.
- And to the City staff, I want to make the point that the cooking fire thing was very real.
- Those were cooking fires. They weren't clay fires. They weren't sit around and cook weenie fires. They were fires to cook food.
- This is just another problem to solve for the time being.
- Because ultimately we're going to come up with a world class solution to people who don't have homes.
- I suspect that that number is going to increase given Supreme Court, given all the factors, coming inflation, blah, blah, blah.
- So thank you very much for listening and I commend you all and to all of the people who are attending, it's this kind of community involvement that makes Sebastopol a wonderful place to live.

Mayor Glass responded to public comment as follows:

- I'm going to answer a couple questions here.
- Once again I was asked what's going to happen with the County building, the Elderberry Commons once the funding runs out, and it's currently being run using COVID emergency money.
- As I said, this is not our building. It is the County's building.
- I expect that the County will put out an RFP once the current funding runs out for that for a non-profit to run it as permanent supportive housing.
- That was my understanding was their intention with that from the very beginning, was that it turn into permanent supportive housing
- At the current time, it is my understanding that's the plan by the CDC to continue funding management of that once the current funding runs out.
- But it is not in the purview of the City, it is not in the City, actually, right now.
- Why we don't do sweeps on Sebastopol, it's not illegal to be homeless, so we're not doing sweeps in Sebastopol because we can't sweep people.
- But the Boise decision does require that we provide an area for homeless people to be and for vehicles to park, and the recommendation in the past has been that place being an industrial area within a City.
- That is why the encampment has ended up on Morris Street, and in order to legally mitigate that issue, we need to provide an alternative site and that is what the City Council has been working on.

Council Discussion and/or Deliberations:

No further comments.

City Council Action: No action taken. Council received the report.

Minute Order Number: 2021-276

4. 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)
 - a. Report out of Status of Budget Items from FY 21 22 Approved Budget (Mayor Glass) (Written Report)

Mayor Glass presented the report.

Mayor Glass asked for questions of staff.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I think we have another success that didn't make it to this list.
- At the end of July we were talking about obtaining a civic sparks fellow.
- This was a program through the climate action committee at \$29,000, and that person has been accepted through the application process.
- They're on board and working with Carrie and Tanya and Phoebe Golden.
- She's connecting with a lot of people doing outreach in the community and is on the job.
- That's another one we can say, check. We did it.
- I was worried it was an omission so I wanted to make sure we have credit for the work our staff is doing to help us with all our initiatives.

Mayor Glass opened for public comment.

Linda Berg commented as follows:

- I'm computer free, so I don't know what's going on. What you said, you've got a climate consultant.
- The only thing that I would like to mention is not wanting to rain on your parade and stuff, but what that person and everybody else needs to look at, they need to look up and recognize the role that engineering has been looking at Harvard graduate school for many, many years and is openly acknowledged by China and Russia as, you know, manipulating the weather.
- So I hope that your climate consultant or whoever it is, is hip on this, and you need to decide, too, do you have enough curiosity to wonder what those things are coming out of jets that clearly aren't clouds, what it's composed of and what effect it has on the Earth and the weather.
- You can find out the answers easily enough. Let your fingers do the walking.
- Dan Wiggington has devoted his life to educating the public about this subject.

Oliver Marks commented as follows:

- I just really would like to break out spending on homeless activities in the budget.
- I was a bit disturbed by what I heard earlier by the gentleman from some local non-profit that all of the funding for the hand-washing stations and the Port-A-Potties and other stuff has been folded into the budget.
- That would be helpful as we continue discuss spending on these activities by the City of Sebastopol as opposed to the county, exactly what those items are.

Rick commented I would like to steal the essence of a quote from Winston Churchill, and I am so impressed that this Council is doing so much with so little.

Council Discussion and/or Deliberations:

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I think this is real evidence of a power of commitment to goals and putting our heads together, uniting our efforts, pulling our community in, working with our community and really being able to mover the needle in the direction our community would like to go.
- I think we would like to keep this approach up through the next year.

Mayor Glass discussed the \$36,000 grant for porta potties on Morris Street.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I think this was a really successful part of the budget this year.
- That we identified projects and then we figured out how to budget and track them separately.
- This is the first time we've done it this way.
- I find it really helpful.
- I really like the follow up to let the public know where we are pacing on it for the year.
- So thanks for staff for putting it together and we should do this each year.
- I really like the process

City Council Action: No action taken. Council received the report.

Minute Order Number: 2021-277

CONSENT CALENDAR:

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

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

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

Mayor Glass read the consent calendar.

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

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

There was no request for removal of an item.

5. Approval of Minutes of the City Council Meeting of October 19, 2021 (Responsible Department: City Administration)

Mayor Glass called for a motion.

MOTION:

Councilmember Hinton moved and Councilmember Rich seconded the motion to approve Consent Calendar Item(s) Number(s) 5.

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

VOTE:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

City Council Action: Approved Minutes of the City Council Meeting of October 19, 2021
Minute Order Number: 2021-278

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.)*

6. Presentation Regarding Requested Revisions to polystyrene ordinance. Committee presentation (high school member) (Requestor: Zero Waste Committee)

This item was heard earlier in the agenda

PUBLIC HEARING(s): None

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

7. Discussion and Consideration of Recommendations from the Committee for Unhoused (Requestor: Mayor Glass/Councilmember Rich)

Mayor Glass and Councilmember Rich presented the agenda item recommending the City Council discuss and consider recommendations from the Committee.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- So the Committee for the Unhoused is Councilmember Rich and I and as you heard earlier we've been pretty busy.
- But I'm going to sum up what's in this report which is our agenda item number seven and then I'm going to pass it on to Councilmember Rich who has just been doing an incredible amount of work on this.
- I do have to say, we were out there in the rain on a Sunday, when we were having our atmospheric river, we were getting completely and thoroughly soaked. But we prevailed, we stayed out there and figured out how to move forward.
- So, this is the Committee for the Unhoused which is a temporary ad hoc committee and the City Council tasked us with a number of items.
- I'm just going to go through them really quick.
- First was to assess the needs and the impact of Sebastopol's unhoused.
- The second which is very important was to provide support and guidance and also I would say being an interfacing communications platform for West County Community Services as they launched their contract to provide homeless outreach services through the City.
- Third was to develop a preliminary proposal addressing any needs not within their contract, within the WCCS contract for stakeholder outreach to meet with WCCS and other stakeholders to collect input and to inform the committee.
- Five was to identify liaison opportunities that will provide the City with ongoing information relevant to addressing these issues.
- Six was provide monthly reports to the Council.
- So, that's what we're doing right now. Presenting our first monthly report.
- Seven is to coordinate a townhall to be held sometime during the lifetime of this temporary ad hoc committee.
- And eight was determine the continuing need for the committee or does there need to be multiple committees?

- How are we going to address the plethora of issues regarding the unhoused issues and basically housing and caring for people in what is an increasingly difficult situation in our county and actually regionally and probably actually throughout the whole country.
- So, as a priority the ad hoc committee was asked to focus on identifying a viable alternative location for the RV dwellers on Morris Street.
- That is the SAVS proposal that we put forward last week at the emergency City Council meeting.
- That we had a special, very short-term meet being that issue because of very short-term funding opportunities.
- SAVS has been offered 360,000-some odd thousand dollars to fund for one year this initiative.
- A decision had to be made to pursue looking at this viability of this alternative.
- That's why we had that emergency meeting.
- We have been meeting with the various stakeholders, meeting with SAVS, meeting with staff, in order to determine whether this is a viable thing to do and to determine how we could support making this a successful project.
- So, we are in the process of doing that now.
- We have been very busy in working with stakeholders.
- SAVS is gathering the stakeholders together to get input from the people who would be impacted and whose lives would be changed by this project.
- So that includes the community center, local neighbors, the businesses in the area, residents in the area, and of course the people being effected.
- SAVS is starting that process actually tomorrow.
- So we've been very busy coming up with lists of all of the issues that would have to be addressed.
- Issues such as health and safety, energy, sanitation, water, permits.
- But the committee and SAVS that have been working on these issues along with our staff who have been absolutely essential to this process.
- We've had less than a month to work on these assigned tasks.
- So given how many tasks we have, I think we've actually done a lot, and come up with a lot of research and already come up with some potential solutions that Council can be evaluating and we're looking at how to make them work.
- We have had ongoing and quite a number of meetings with West County Community Services staff we've been urging them to have regular very frequent meetings with our City staff including department heads to make sure that there is bidirectional communication between them as our contractor that doing outreach to our unhoused population, and making sure that the needs of our City departments are being heard, that the needs, any issues that come up are being addressed and mitigated and that there is communication going on between all the parties.
- One of their overall goals at WCCS is to coordinate Citywide efforts including faith-based non-profit business governmental and individuals as well as provide hands on services to people without homes in greater Sebastopol.
- So what we're working and why the City spent the money on WCCS doing this project is to leverage the incredible work of all of the volunteers that we have in this town, the churches, the non-profits, the individuals who are working to address our homeless crisis to help people back on the right path and mitigate the problems we're having.
- We feel that we can really leverage and spend money wisely by having an organization with a professional social worker to coordinate the outreach efforts of so many volunteers that are doing an amazing job.
- There are some of them sitting right here, out there in the public, listening to this meeting and to those people I say thank you, thank you, thank you so much for all the work you're doing.

- We have been working with WCCS to ensure that all of those projects and that work is continuing, and that there is communication happening.
- Then we did as everybody knows, we came up with this preliminary proposal for a potential location.
- I and in particular Councilmember Rich spent a huge amount of time looking at various sites where we could actually have a parking for the RV's that are currently on Morris Street, it's very, very hard to find a piece of property that's big enough and in a strategically good location to address this situation.
- I'm going to ask Councilmember Rich to talk about this in just a minute because she's been on the ground, looking at property, meeting with property owners, and looking for solutions to location that we're seeking.
- And as you all know we have been meeting with SAVS. Thank you so much to SAVS and the great program that they are working on putting together to provide coordinated, managed location for RVs to park with wraparound services to ensure that it works for the people live there and it works for our City and it works for the people who live in the City of Sebastopol.
- We have also been doing stakeholder outreach to other people that are being affected by this potential project.
- So we have spoken with people such as the Community Center, the Wischemann Hall board, Green Acre homes, Laguna de Santa Rosa foundation, and Morris Street business interest and more.
- So we've been working on letting those people know what's going on and SAVS is going to be continuing that dialogue.
- We're thinking that the townhall we'd like to have on this issue will take place likely late January, not good to start this at the beginning of the holidays
- Then our final task was to determine the continuing need for our committee and maybe we need multiple committees to address the discrete issues with all the problems we're coming across researching this issue.
- So we're working on that. We've only been at it a month but I think we've made quite a bit of progress.
- I also just have to say staff has been just so great and wonderful. We are just kind of asking an awful lot of them. Like, we need more information about this. We need to know whether this say viable idea or not a viable idea. We are being really tremendously demanding of staff in terms of trying to figure out what we are doing and whether we can move forward with this project.
- Given that we basically have one month to figure it out or else we'll lose the funding. SAVS will lose the funding.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I wanted to initially thank everyone who is here and who has e-mailed us and who is sharing their heartfelt concerns about this situation and the proposed location.
- It's a challenging situation for everyone involved.
- I want to give a message to everyone that the sense of compassion that I personally and you think the rest of the City Council is feeling is a sense of compassion for everyone in the community.
- We tend to talk about the difficult living environment for the RV's and other lived-in vehicles on Morris, and those are important, valid challenges and a situation that requires compassion.
- But I think it's important for all of us to understand that this situation also requires compassion for all of us the community too, we're being effected too, the businesses, the people who try to walk on Morris Street, the bicyclists, everyone. It effects all of us.
- So that's our goal to try to find a solution, not a solution, because admittedly as many have pointed out there isn't a perfect solution, but to find an option that can hopefully have with it in its true compassion for all those interested and although won't be a perfect outcome we're hopefully make the situation better for everyone involved.

- That was the attraction of this particular proposal from SAVS, a recognized and reputable organization, non-profit, that knows what they're talking about with this particular group of people, that includes people who actually live in our community.
- It presented that option, a humane option for everyone involved. Much more humane for those on RV and lived-in vehicles. And much more humane, I personally feel and I think others on the City Council agree than the situation we'll face now.
- So I do want to back up a little and let you know in terms of these monthly reports, the ideas for the Committee for the Unhoused report monthly, do we unhoused report monthly coming up December 7, January 18, February 15 and March 15.
- I also want to alert everyone that with the deadline for signing a contract to take advantage of the \$368,000 that SAVS is offering to benefit our community, that deadline is December 8th.
- So you can expect there will be a City Council meeting that will be planned between now and that December 8th deadline to talk about a possible contract.
- I'd also like to point out for everyone here that this is a process.
- The City Council approved a letter of intent and now we're going through all of our process steps in order to address the needs and the concerns that are coming from various people in the community.
- Mayor Glass spoke very effectively and eloquently about those efforts, that is an open-ended effort, nothing's been signed, nothing is final at this point.
- These are discussions and we're all going to try to make it work.
- You will see in the future reports that the monthly reports, the format is to kind of follow what this committee was tasked with doing.
- So that's why you see it laid out in that way.
- The townhall and the liaison options will be reporting out on at the next meeting.
- In terms of the other plans going on, we are continuing to assess what are the needs and impacts and we'll continue to build on that list that you see in the report.
- In terms of West County Community Services, I'd like to point out for those who didn't have a chance to take a look at it, the safe overnight parking project and discussions are moving forward.
- That has been prioritized by West County Community Services, Tim Miller, and he's already initiated an effort to bring the key players together, I think we have a couple churches in town who are open to a discussion about adding safe overnight parking.
- That's part of the overall effort here that this committee has been tasked with tackling.
- In terms of the specific location we're looking at, we outlined the variables that were a consideration and tried to find an appropriate location.
- I will tell you that the timing is December 8th right around the corner, but it was a challenge to try to figure out what other location might meet the parameters that were necessary for this effort.
- We needed it to be close to services, we needed it to be a half-acre to an acre. Water needed to be available. Electricity also. We are looking at port a potties and shower building so sewer could be dealt with, it needed to be fencible. It needed to be not immediately adjacent to many residential, private homes, and it needed it not be in active use by the public at this time. It needed to accommodate this number of RVs, lived-in vehicles in a turnaround access sort of format.
- I will tell you that we are continuing to keep our eyes open and investigate, explore other options.
- We are hopeful this location will pan out and that the needs of the community will be met by it. But we are not stopping there.
- We do have our efforts going on to try to make sure that we are positioned to consider other options if it becomes essential.

- The one piece that I think has been really wonderful actually a lot of pieces but one of the key pieces for us is to see people in the community come out and express their concerns and be forthright about them and be honest and blunt about them.
- I know that may feel painful for some but it's democracy and democracy is messy as many people have said to me. So, please, continue to share your thoughts.
- One issue that has come up that I'd like to put before the City Council for direction, a specific issue is a letter that we received from the Sonoma County Juvenile Justice Commission.
- The message was specifically from judge Arnold Rosenfield who is the Chair of that Commission.
- That Commission is responsible for overseeing children who are in the care of the county.
- We have a wonderful facility here in town which I'm quite familiar with as having been the Executive Director of the Community Center, which is Green Acre homes, an incredible organization.
- They do have residing there a lot of young men who have been removed from their homes for a variety of reasons.
- We have the County and Timothy Dimick who are understandably concerned about making sure this particular RV village, no matter how temporary is arranged in a way that meets and protects the needs of those children.
- We live in this County where this particular Commission became aware of the situation and was proactive about researching out to us so we need to respond. Mayor Glass and I have talked about it.
- What we'd like to do is request that this City Council direct us as the Committee for the Unhoused to reach out directly to the Sonoma County Juvenile Justice Commission through their Chair Judge Rosenfield in order to set up a meeting and make sure that we are certain about their concerns and that we explore their concerns and do our best to address them so we can reassure them about safety of the children at Green Acre homes, I concern we all share.
- We all share that, as a community and as a City Council, so that would be a specific request, Mayor Glass and I would urge us to make to this City Council.
- So that as we move through all the stakeholder meetings we can have the benefit of that conversation.
- Thanks for sharing and thanks for being forthright and thank you for being blunt, everyone who is participating in this admittedly challenging process.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Councilmember Rich and I are hoping that we can get agreement from and direction from the rest of you on the Council that we go ahead and meet with the Judge and set up a discussion between our committee to discuss what their concerns are as we move forward with SAVS also engaging with other stakeholders such as the Community Center and the Laguna Foundation and others to talk about how to make this a successful project and how to deal with the issues that people have.
- Sharing their concerns and hopefully arriving at solutions to mitigating what people's concerns are.
- When we get to the end of this agenda item I hope that we can ask for direction and see if we can get a thumb's up on that.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- Is the intent then to have a special meeting before the December 8th deadline a meeting of the Council that would deal with the SAVS proposal or contracts or are we thinking we'll do that the night of December 7th, just to alert the public.
- Are you anticipating we'll schedule a special meeting?

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Given the short time frame, just having the final meeting the night before the due date sounds a little sketchy so I think we may well have to support a special meeting to hammer out the contract.
- We will need to get everybody's input.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I have some questions about the homeless contract we have with our new outreach coordinator with West County Community Services
- I'm wondering if there are certain days that that person is in our City doing outreach and then if we have - for example, I got a report from a neighbor that sent me somebody that was camping -- is there a way to report these locations and incidents to that coordinator so they could go out and knock on their tent or something, turn it in.
- Because for me, I'm interested in information.
- Similar to how we participated in the count, the homeless count, the point in time count.
- You actually know where people are.
- So is there certain days of the week or certain hours and how do we report in information?

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I have been reporting reports that kind of information to Danielle who to our outreach coordinator's boss.
- That was the plan. Unfortunately she's on vacation right now.
- That information needs to go to Danielle so she's keeping track of it along with her outreach coordinators.
- I also think I need to ask staff if they would rather that we send it to somebody on our staff who then forwards it to WCCS.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- If the item is something similar to where I had a report of an unhoused person camping somewhere and someone wanted our outreach coordinator to make contact with that person.
- I don't want to speak for Tim Miller but basically I will have to mention that West County directs her activities, directs Jennifer's activities, she's actually their employee so work assignments to Jennifer have to flow from WCCS. We do not direct her activity.
- When we're talking about getting information, the question as for example, the photograph of an encampment on the bike trail, often times we would forward that to our police department to address the particular location and if it were something where Jennifer's duties encompass that where she would provide some assistance and we'd go to West county and ask that she be directed to address that particular situation.
- Again, the situation is we do not direct Jennifer. She is directed by West County.
- As we stated earlier Danielle is Jennifer's boss, unfortunately on vacation in recent days, but she'd be directing Jennifer's Day-to-Day activities.
- I do not believe Jennifer has a set schedule.
- She basically takes her direction, as I said, from West County and has been doing her services regularly every day, same type of service on Morris Street.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I would like Danielle's information since I don't have it, maybe that could be sent out to the entire City Council and if this is a system we're using, it would be great that we all know it.
- Part of the staff report tonight we saw was recap about the sweep that happened September 22nd, I would like to see data points and what's actually going on with the position including tracking

- Mayor Glass brought it up a Council meeting ago of where are these people from, are they new arrivals because of sweeps happening throughout the region.
- So I'd like to see that reporting on a regular basis.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- We do have an ad hoc committee
- I think we need to determine not just internally for our City Council but also for the public what the protocol and process is going to be for reporting concerns regarding the unhoused, encampments whatever you find out there.
- I would suggest that Mayor Glass, and I put that at the top of our list and that we focus on and get some information distributed to the City Council and a recommendation and I'm sure we can do that through our City Manager and Assistant City Manager long before the next City Council meeting rather than, because, we do need to coordinate with Tim Miller.
- We need to get a process in place that's going to work for people.
- Nice suggestion that we just you and I own that, do something about it and get it back out to the City Council and then ultimately report out to the public about how they should report those sorts of concerns.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I'm wondering if we know if other City properties might be used for overnight safe parking.
- This is the program for instance that's going at the churches. You mentioned WCCS a pursuing that with the churches.
- I'm wondering if there's an opportunity to also evaluate different municipal lot that's the City holds, municipal parking lots to see if they would be appropriate for instance, Courtney Klein at our last meeting suggested safe parking overnight five places at the library lot.
- What do we know about that and how do we kind of make sure that inquiry is happening?

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Councilmember Rich and I have discussed this.
- What we determined there are some impediments to doing this.
- Basically what we need is to have a responsible party for any kind of safe parking and there's a lot of details that go into making it work.
- So doing it on City property without having a 501 c 3 or some sort of non-profit available that can do the regular drive-byes, that can do all of the arrangements, et cetera, is just not viable unless we can find department to do it with.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- The only thing I'd say is that certainly the library parking location is part of the discussion with West County Community Services.
- But the foundational pieces to make a safe parking location work involve making sure that there is a process for bedding the safe parkers, there's someone to whom they can call if they have problems, that there is bathroom facilities that are accessible; that there is regular monitoring of the site.
- Also involved is the collaboration with any adjoining prompts or property interests.
- A lot of those pieces have already been vetted to a certain degree with the two churches that are interested so what Mayor Glass and I thought about doing was taking the successful template from our local community church and making the initial stage being a discussion to expand it to the other two churches that have expressed interest and then the next step might be in partnership with SAVS for

instance of volunteer group, might be to expand it then to the library parking lot as Courtney Klein has suggested or maybe even beyond to other City lots.

- I will say on behalf of SAVS, one of their board members said to me that down the line could get some volunteer mentors organized that would take on that responsibility.
- I agree with Mayor Glass that at the moment that's just too much to add on to our process at this point but it's not off the table.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- It's good for Tuesday nights meeting to have that update.
- We can only do so much and the impediment is right there, might not want to devote your energies to that when there are other things right in front of this committee.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I think we have to go for where we can get the most impact and the shortest amount of time.
- That's what we're really working on doing at this point.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- I just wanted to recognize Councilmember Hinton's questions and say that they're on my list.
- The reporting process for concerns regarding unhoused, who should be contacted, and also your question and suggestion about data points on inventory about the flow of people and how long they've been in place.
- Thank you for those. I did note them.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- Our City Manager said sometimes we would call Danielle and sometimes we'd call the police department.
- I understand this position was to assist our police department with these kind of issues because this was their expertise.
- So I just want to clarify, are we tracking on both organizations?
- Or is this position assisting our police department in which case it would involve both organizations

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- I was responding to the text or e-mail over the weekend asking about a particular encampment, where was it located
- Who has jurisdictions over it.
- Those kind of technical questions, especially if it involved potential enforcement, which is how I read the question. We'd normally ask our police that.
- If it's an outreach situation or we need a contact to be made, somebody needs assistance or we want to find out if they need assistance then obviously we'd go through West County's employee for which her boss is Danielle.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- We are in the middle of a process and it's an important process.
- I'm very results-oriented as anyone who knows me recognizes, but the process is also important.
- I just want to encourage everyone to keep participating and keep expressing your concerns and keep coming with things that's the best way to have an outcome that will be the most productive and compassionate for everyone involved here.
- So thank you, everyone for doing that.

Mayor Glass opened for public comment.

Oliver Marks commented as follows:

- I was just saying when that person very rudely interrupted is this is supposedly a committee by two Councilmembers, appears to be extremely enthusiastic about this and appears to be working closely with the sales rep from SAVS, whoever she is, which I think is very concerning, this is not representative of the citizens of Sebastopol particularly in the business community, I just feel that's very, very peculiar like we're on "soft compassionate down him run to this thing happening.
- Which is kind of bizarre, number one.
- Getting back to the actual SAVS proposal.
- There's no guarantees at all that anything is going to change on Morris Street, at all, I drove down it yesterday every single space is basically occupied by RVs, so on, so fourth, in the pouring lane.
- Parking is a no brainer, permits. Is a no brainer.
- If you attempt to move people to RV idea there's nothing to stop Morris Street to fill up with RV's the following day. Nothing at all.
- Generally where it seems to be in this kind of very unrealistic world of who these people are, the unhoused as people call it.
- I lost a relative to overdose on opioids year ago, young relative, I'm very, very familiar what goes on in the street around the homeless.
- I found two needles in the gutter this morning actually just walking to meet some people downtown.
- This is a very, very peculiar situation like last year where this has been rushed through, we've been told we've only got until December 8th, no time at all.
- There's a slightly surreal atmosphere around this that this will be wonderful next year, there's going to be meetings, so forth, I'm not seeing any logic to this at all and would like to see a lot more detail how this will play out in the context of clearing the streets of Sebastopol of campers and how we'll address some of the increasingly serious problems we have as people have mentioned, vandalism of the community center and so on.
- As I said in the written public comment -- this is an area with a lot of very impressionable children.
- I said at lunch time that some of the people in the business buildings, excuse me, at the top of Morris Street regularly see the homeless people selling drugs to the teenagers from the skateboard park.
- There's a complete lack of reality what's actually going on here.
- So presumably we'll have a couple more opportunities to sort of discuss this and there will be a Council meeting this will be voted through and Kumbaya again and congratulations for great job.
- I find troubling, next year I think you will see significant changes from the Council, as we'll be very, very fed up with this.

Amee commented as follows:

- I wanted to thank the Council and everyone who has worked so hard on this.
- I do believe that it's coming from a good place and I do share some of Oliver's concerns.
- I'm a realtor here in town and so I am a business person at the Barlow and I had mentioned on, the real estate brokers in town have a Wednesday meeting, it's normally a very active, political group in town and I had mentioned this meeting was coming up and not one person from that large and very active group of people knew about this. Which was concerning to me, alarming almost.
- I'm not the most political person but that no one in that group of people knew that this was happening right now in town, did seem alarming, and it does seem like we are kind of rushing it through, we have

this limited amount of time; this limited amount of time, seems like, wow, if this very larger and active political group in town doesn't know about it -- then that's interesting to me.

- I share the concern that we're just kind of expanding what we have on Morris.
- When the hotel came into play, a lot of us said wow this would alleviate some of the need but it didn't seem to alleviate the need it almost seemed to expand the need
- Being a parent of young children in town I've heard from several other parents that the skate park is a kind of unsafe place where particularly in two cases their children were getting drugs and it caused a problem in their family.
- I thought wow, the skate park is definitely not a place I want to send my kids if other kids are getting drugs there. It's concerning.
- I'd like to see a plan if we are going to make space for the homeless that the homeless that we already have in town are being helped there.
- And that we're not creating more ourselves to be a magnet for more homeless to come
- I heard earlier that it's not illegal to be homeless and we're not going to sweep the people on Morris Street. Okay. I understand that.
- But we're just going to expand then the services and there's still going to be homeless or houseless people parking on Morris?
- I'd like to see a plan to alleviate that and so that we wouldn't continue to have that or grow what we said and create ourselves to be a magnet.

Linda commented as follows:

- I would just like to mention something that absolutely needs to be factored in here, Laguna is just ideal habitat for ticks
- We do not want those people to become infected with Lyme disease or any other number of pathogens that can be transmitted in one bite, up to five of them, and medical care is not available by design, if your dog is infected it will get better care from the vet than you will.
- Trust me on this. Preventative thing is knowledge.
- There's a treasure trove of information available for free from, well, the state.
- If you can put a little pressure on vector control, they can pop up a pile of information collecting dust there and have it distributed to the residents there, the people around the Laguna and then they have a pretty good little green envelope, it's a tick kit, that everybody ought to have easy access to and ought to have in fact.
- So I've already spent a couple hours and loaned out some DVDs to Anna, the head of the Laguna Foundation so you might want to bring her in on the subject too, she has more information than before.
- That needs to be done.
- Also a survey could be done, simple, cheap and easy survey and ask people if they've ever been bitten by a tick.
- I asked the first person on Morris Street I asked and sure enough she had had Lyme disease and got it effectively treated in Maine four or five years ago. So that was like, one out of one.
- Also there needs to be more prominent effective post-its about ticks at the beginning of the trail head.

Courtney commented as follows:

- Thank you so much to Mayor Glass and Councilmember Diana Rich for your discussion about the considerations that went into that issue and I won't speak any more on that because I can't.
- Thank you also to all the City Council members to listening to the proposal I made about safe parking at the library just five spots so it wouldn't be a really big nuisance for everyone else.
- So I really appreciate you taking the time to really consider it and talk about it.

- The last thing I want to say when it comes to the homelessness issue that we're kind of addressing is a very specific sub-section of the homeless community which is the chronically unsheltered.
- It's not the people who are couch surfing. It's not the people you don't see. It's not people who are precariously housed. This is a specific group.
- So I know that there are a lot of concerns that if we create this then they're all going to come.
- I don't think that that's accurate.
- I don't want us to have this notion that if we build it they will come, so let's not build it.
- I also don't think we should have that perspective, like, well, Sebastopol, shouldn't be the ones to do all of it.
- I don't think Sebastopol should be the one to do all of it. I think Sebastopol should just do their share.
- The neighboring cities also need to step up and take responsibility for this social issue.
- That affects the entire community.
- I'm someone who is a homeless advocate and the reason is because just like as another person stated earlier I'm no stranger to this kind of thing.
- My former spouse was someone who fell prey to opioid addiction
- I am very familiar with substance abuse, chemical dependency and what that does to the individual as well as the family and the people who love them.
- Thank you for listening. Thank you, everyone, for participating in the Democratic process as well.

Arthur commented as follows:

- I understand the restriction and much of what I had to say about SAVS village I said earlier this evening
- A couple other points to be helpful, Councilmember Hinton acquired as to the data points of who was placed how many people were placed.
- I believe all of that was contained in a report submitted to Danielle West County Community Services, that's probably within the report that the City Manager described earlier in general terms.
- I would just suggest at this data is easily retrieved in that source.
- I want to clarify, Sebastopol Inn was always a county project. It was number a Sebastopol project. It was simply located here.
- I don't know that people really ever understood that.
- There was a pipeline really of County residents of some kind who were elderly and COVID-susceptible.
- That was the population that would then be placed in Sebastopol.
- It was never a situation where a Sebastopol resident could walk in and ask is there an empty room, can I stay here tonight.
- There was always that protocol from the County.
- So Sebastopol Inn never really addressed homelessness in Sebastopol. That's a fact.
- To address Amy's comments about are we expanding? No, we are if anything funneling into the village.
- I don't want to go into any greater detail on the village.
- I mentioned earlier how in effect Morris will be cleared.
- But it should be understood as a funneling process not as expanding the population here.

Loretta commented as follows:

- I want to make a couple quick observations.
- I heard Mayor Glass say twice at two different meetings about her neighbor on her street and how upset she would be if she allowed parking of RVs on her street and my question is well, aren't we all her neighbors in Sebastopol. Aren't our businesses her neighbors.

- Thank you to Councilmember Rich, you are the first person that has said shouldn't we also have compassion for business owners and members of our community. Thank you.
- We feel as if for five years we have been hitting our head against the wall and it's only gotten worse.
- Some of the complaints that we call weekly illegal dumping into the Laguna, drug dealing that goes on at 4:30 in the morning, there's a black sedan that you can easily find on Morris Street and you can buy whatever you choose, septic waste, blocked lanes, fires from the illegal camps, and I know it's not illegal to be homeless.
- But they are doing illegal things on our street, which makes it unsafe for the entire community.
- I would favor this project only if we could have parking restrictions in the whole City of Sebastopol.
- That it doesn't become just an extension now, something else we've added. Because it just keeps getting worse.
- Those of us who have businesses on Morris we have horror stories we can tell you. It's not fun.
- After the pandemic we're all struggling to survive in our business world and they only make it worse for us.

Jill commented as follows:

- I just wanted to quickly just rebut what Arthur George said regarding the Inn and those who would be placed in the inn.
- I've attended every meeting regarding the Inn, I apologize I'm not trying to challenge you, but I don't recall seeing you at all to those meetings and it was told to many of us that it would help clear the Sebastopol streets and that many of the homeless in Sebastopol would be in that Inn.
- I attended every meeting, I spent countless hours attending these.
- I just feel that the accuracy is important, and if you haven't attended every meeting you don't really know what was said at every meeting and that is what was told to a lot of us that attended these meetings.

Robert commented as follows:

- I'd like to certainly second what Loretta said.
- Because I'm well-aware of how many hundreds of people in Sebastopol go to Coach's Corner, and how once the pandemic truly allows them to come back in full numbers how impossible it will be for them if that street is used just as it will be impactful to all the other Community Centers and other functions in town.
- I have to second that whole idea that there should be no deal here.
- I would like to find out if the Council people who are working on making this deal work in terms of how it works for the people on that facility, if they're putting at least an equal amount of effort into showing us in advance of the deadline, this do or die deadline, what the changes will be in terms of the parking regulations, so that you would find a lot of people supportive of a plan if that plan were to include specifics up front, starting, like, in a few days.
- At least a generalized consensus of what we're aiming for.
- That changes what could happen. Not only on Morris Street but in the whole City.
- It can certainly work to the advantage of people who want to park on an RV on their street when their kids come to town for Thanksgiving whatever, there should be no problem getting that sort of thing easily done.
- But not allowing people to move in from Maine because it's a nice place to get away from the winter and park on Morris Street which we've seen happen in the last couple weeks.
- There's things going on aside from the drugs and everything else that we see, we see people just using it because it's a convenient place to hang out.
- It's a lovely town.

- I agree, it's a great place to park for free and have services provided by us.
- The City, by the way, won't fix the hole in the fence that allows the drugs and kids to come from the skate park that we worked so hard to get built in the first place, to come from there to the back of my building where it is regularly report that they do the drugs that they acquire in the skate park, or vice versa.
- City said we won't fix the fence because soon as they fix it they'll cut it again, we don't have money to fix something they'll break right away. We don't have cameras set up.
- We don't have any way too monitor what's going on, nor can I get the police to shut down the generators that are operating loudly and illegally and polluting and driving tenants and people away from that area, just grinds on and on and on and makes this awful noise all day long.
- That shouldn't be allowed either.
- And it wouldn't be allowed in a properly managed RV park but is allowed on our City streets for reasons I don't understand.

Suzanne commented as follows:

- There's so many people's comments I want to add on to, but it goes back to what Ameer said.
- I believe that we have happening with the RV village or whatever it's called is really also beneficial to the businesses on Morris Street and to others of us from previous City Council meetings.
- I believe I heard that the plan, once the vehicles, cars, the RV's and busses and whatever moved that it would all Be three-hour Parking limit at most. No overnight. That would be a big change.
- Well, one thing with the village, that we're looking at, and already actually on Morris Street what we're trying for is to really involve the residents more.
- I am a volunteer who is out there many days per week and I try to change it instead of me doing something for people I try to get them involved too.
- It takes more work to do that sometimes then me just doing it myself for them.
- What we're looking for with the SAVS village, whatever we're calling it, we're looking for progress towards permanent housing, you know.
- Maybe somebody needs some help with some basics of getting a job or things to get their lives moving in the direction you or I would want our family members to move to.
- The other thing, that one of the most important things I've learned from other volunteers and SAVS workers and our social worker and others is people want to be listened to.
- Sometimes if I just ask somebody, just let them talk about their lives, that helps too.
- Anyway, we're all as a community in it together and I do have full feelings for the people who have businesses and want to walk there and ride their bikes there, and whatever, you will see me a lot because I've been a community member for a long time.

Monique commented as follows:

- I want to be compassionate and I have to say I am appreciating hearing many points of views this evening.
- I'm concerned though that this project is just there's some momentum here and it's just going to go forward and even though we're hearing opposition as well as positive -- positive thoughts, I'm just concerned that opposition is not going to give us until.
- I am a stakeholder. I live on Johnson street. I'm right down the street from this site. I have not been approached by anyone. I've heard that several times this evening that many stakeholders have been approached.
- No one has asked me how you feel. How I feel on my block, in my community.
- I have to say that there's no street in Sebastopol that I'm afraid or hesitant to walk on except Morris Street.
- I'm actually afraid to ride my bike down Morris Street.

- It's not comfortable. I have some concerns.
- I notice that it's no longer just Morris Street.
- We've got about six or seven campers now on Laguna parkway that weren't there two weeks ago.
- So it's already starting to grow.
- The other thing is the skate park.
- You know, that was built for young people, young teens, and now we're seeing adults at the skate park.
- It's not the right atmosphere any more.
- I was approached by someone from the camper community who came upon me while I was working on my yard who was loaded, who had a dog, on a rope, not a leash, a rope. A pit bull.
- It was really very frightening to me.
- I've come from San Francisco. I have never been scared in San Francisco like I was that day.
- I want to be compassionate. But I have to voice that I have fear.
- I'm not comfortable on my block or on Morris Street any more.

Barbara Lee commented as follows:

- First of all thank you to the City Council for giving all this time and attention to the severity of our homeless and mental health problems, specifically on Morris Street.
- Thank you to all those who spoke before me in support of the SAVS project, outlining the important details and clarifying the data that validate and support the project which in turn supports our citizens and businesses of Sebastopol.
- I see this as first and foremost a humanitarian effort to eliminate suffering.
- It's taken us 50 years to create the huge gaping holes in our social safety net and we see it playing out all over Sebastopol, not just on Morris Street.
- I don't understand why anyone would want to obstruct the help required to provide safety and opportunity to those in need.
- We're basically talking about tonight in Sebastopol a two-block area on the outer edges of the City which has become, in quotes, home to approximately 20 plus trailers and some on Laguna that have been there a long time too, and maybe 30 people that continue to call this home.
- I think there's a bit of a severe overreaction to the impact they're having on the community.
- They're really segregated into a small area.
- People who live there are vets' guys health issues who have fallen through the cracks, there are people with job-related disabilities who can't work anymore
- There are people with mental disabilities.
- They all deserve what they're being offered, a safe, sound place to stay.
- So, my suggestion is let's be the Sebastopol we know. The peace town of compassion.
- Because we have the wherewithal and we have the intent to help those who ready most vulnerable.

Rick commented as follows:

- I am so impressed with everyone's candor.
- This is a really tough issue.
- We're all suffering. Businesses suffering. The people on Morris Street are suffering.
- There are people there who are also terrified over some of the other people who live on Morris Street.
- It makes me happy to think that we're all coming together, business, City Council, people on Morris Street, churches, everybody.
- Because what we're looking at is the underbelly of our whole society, all of America, all of North America.
- We have casualties, folks.

- Those casualties are growing.
- People are coming out of the woodwork as they can't afford their rent. Even though there was \$5 billion in Federal Money for rent supplement unspent.
- So it behooves us all to work together and to stop this schism politics thing.
- You do this, you're wrong, you're wrong, hey, folks, we got a problem.
- This is called an emergency. This is called a crisis, you know.
- There are people, I've seen, people selling drugs and even using drugs in a lot of the restaurants in Sebastopol, including restaurants in the Barlow and Coach's Corner
- And these were not like homeless people. But these were like, upstanding citizens.
- Let's open our eyes and it's hard to open our eyes.
- I think that we can all work together.
- I talked to some real estate agent friends of mine and said hey can you do something here.
- Is there any land that can be purchased or donated or rented that isn't a blight.
- Because what's happening on Morris Street is a blight.
- It's an ugly place.
- I go down there every Wednesday.
- I started waving at people who are driving past.
- Some people look straight ahead.
- Some people are looking and they don't want to look.
- But most people wave back because this is Sebastopol.
- So thank you for listening.
- I would love to meet with all of you because I think we have to work together.
- This isn't going to go away, this is going to get bigger.

Barbara commented as follows:

- Rick, thank you very much for almost wrapping this up with your description.
- I've been thinking that wave during the last three hours and I really appreciate your synthesizing it for us.
- And I'm going to address that in a minute but I do want to thank the City Council of Sebastopol for stepping up.
- Because this say problem that's not going to go away.
- It has to have attention.
- They're beginning that process.
- They're doing it as fair will you and I believe as compassionately as possible.
- I'm proud to be here.
- I've been here 49 years last week.
- It's really very encouraging to watch this happen.
- So thank you.
- My kids are 36 and 38 years old and they were offered drugs at the high school when they went there.
- So there's been drugs in Sebastopol for a long time.
- That skateboard park has been a haven for drug use and drug dealing for a very long time.
- I'm sure that the police department could verify that for us.
- That's a terrible problem.
- I can't even imagine what that must feel like for a young person to be approached by a drug dealer, it's a scary, horrible thing to have happen.
- It should not happen. It's illegal. They should be put in jail.

- I have great sympathy and empathy for people who have businesses who are witnessing things that should never be happening.
- SAVS has a huge backlog of different places, villages in different cities in the country, including Hawaii, where villages have worked for people.
- It's taken a number of years. It's taken resources, but it exists
- We are on the forefront hopefully of having that happen in our community but believe me, there are models of good living for unhoused people to help them move through whatever dilemmas and difficulties their life is challenging them with right now to get into housing, to get into employment, to get mental health and an addiction services, those placed and resources exist.
- It's a matter of where do we put our money, what do we prioritize.
- Are developers willing to take a hit in housing projects that are required to house people with less income.
- These problems have solutions.
- We are unfortunately witnessing what happens when we don't solve them, it is ugly, it's a terrible dilemma, it's a horrible blight and message from us to the rest of our community that we're not taking care of business.
- I encourage all of us to head's up this Morris Street is an indication of what it's like out there.
- I mean, this stuff exists. Unfortunately. And unfortunately we have to witness it.
- But boy, it is in our faces just screaming at us to do something about it and it isn't going to go away.
- So if we don't take care of business and if we don't find the solutions that do exist and we don't hire people and elect people that understand the importance of housing people and getting them jobs and giving them integrity and self-determination and giving them mental health services.

Council Discussion and/or Deliberations:

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I just have some questions for our committee members and perhaps SAVS and would be good to have some clarification for everybody to know this.
- Is the proposal to eliminate the parking on the east side of Morris Street first restricting it to three hours in the daytime and then posting it as no overnight?
- Also, I'm wondering if generators will be allowed in the proposed RV park or if there's some regulation about time of use or noise level.
- I'm also wondering about the location for these RV people to go in the situation where an evacuation is necessary because of flooding.
- If those questions are premature tonight because this is going to be discussed more in committee and come back to the Council before December 8th, please let me know that.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- I just wanted to address the Morris Street plans are still under consideration.
- We are discussing this with outside counsel and as a staff what to do on Morris Street specifically with the parking and so those plans come to the Council at a later date.
- I'm not addressing the present proposal just the Morris Street.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

- First of all, I am keeping track of all of the comments, all the concerns, I'd like to reiterate to everyone here, I have a spreadsheet that already has a lot of items on it.
- I'm down to 30 before this meeting and a lot of the concerns are echoing other people's concerns which I think is an important thing to recognize.

- Those concerns are going to be considered and we are trying to address them through our committee work and report back to this City Council on how we can best meet the needs and concern that's are being expressed here.
- That's the first piece. Then I'd like to if I could address a few specific items.
- I hear a lot of requests for more outreach? So Mayor Glass and I will be talking about how to implement that in this world of COVID. But we will do that.
- On the point of outreach. I'd like to make sure that a couple of people who spoke tonight are aware that they've been invited to a meeting by SAVS tomorrow. So please, check your e-mail.
- One of those people is Oliver marks and the other is Jill.
- So please come and get your questions answered.
- SAVS is taking a proactive approach to this and is trying to get everyone in the room to be in those discussions.
- I have to call out a phrasing I found offensive.
- I always felt it is important to be genuine and call out offense if statements when presented in a public setting rather than letting them sit there.
- We are not dealing with sales representatives from SAVS.
- I'm aware of no factual basis for describing the SAVS individuals that group of good-hearted people as sales representatives. They received a grant.
- They came to us with their mission clear, their non-profit mission and we've done our best to try to take advantage of what is really an incredible partnership opportunity.
- So that's important to me to make that clear.
- We need to recognize that all the concerns we're hearing about Morris Street are really echoing we don't want it to be transferred somewhere else.
- We don't want to just see what we have on Morris Street which has been described as a health and safety risk, a blight, a public nuisance we don't that transferred elsewhere.
- I think everyone is in agreement with that.
- In closing, I want everyone to remember that the assignment to this ad hoc committee was to find an alternate location for the RV's on Morris Street.
- It was not to expand the RV situation on Morris Street.
- So thank you, everyone for your participation and your comments and keep it coming.

Adrienne Lauby commented as follows:

- I just wanted to respond to Vice Mayor Gurney's question, we're trying to figure out the health and safety questions about RV power, if we can do solar we'll be doing as much solar as we can.
- We have a real concern about pollution and noise of the generators. That's a question in progress.
- We're really happy to have suggestion and advise about it but we're still in the very early stages of what's possible.
- We do have a pretty solid evacuation plan. We think we can get people out of there before they're flooded, their vehicles as well. I think that's in the proposal.
- Parking on Morris is not in our purview that's for you all to figure out.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I've been making notes too, with some thoughts.
- One, I'm definitely in favor of this project with the considerations that the committee is still looking at, as discussed, the generators for example.
- To me it's an expanded Park Village which I've always felt like was very successful for us.

- While it feels rushed it feels the more I know about government the more I know when the money is there you kind of got to take it.
- But I wanted to also say -- to address one of the speakers -- I was in this very meeting when local preference was promised to us in the Sebastopol Inn.
- I did understand that it was people filtered through another program that got placed at the Sebastopol Inn, however, there was talk about that of course homeless individuals should be placed in their home communities, right. And they would have a preference for Sebastopol. And I'm not positive one way or another if that was followed through.
- In this project it's very important to me, in fact, it's the only way I will vote for it is if we have local preference.
- That means, even if not all RV slots were filled on day one, we would not fill them with somebody from another community.
- We would leave that open until we targeted through our homeless outreach coordinator or somebody in our community to move into that homeless spot or the RV spot.
- That's how important I feel like we have to use our City assets, our City property to how's our homeless -
- I need data points which I asked for from our homeless coordinator so we know where our homeless are so that if for example Morris Street 100% of people park that don't want to move into our park we have targeted other people in our community that do so that we can fill it up.
- I know Morris Street is a priority and that brings me to I don't think I can vote for this project without passing some parking restrictions on Morris Street.
- That seems to be a priority.
- City attorney said we're looking into it tonight so that needs to be solved. I think we need to move quick.
- I think that's fair to the community, that's what they're asking for.
- My last point and I heard a lot of people talking about permits and we did talk about permits couple years ago at the City Council level.
- It's kind of interesting to me because I as some people know have a Airbnb within my own home and to do that I had to get a permit. I had to register with the City and get a permit.
- They know where my Airbnb is located and I have to renew that every year.
- I'm starting to feel like if people want to park on our streets for more than 30 days that maybe we need to look seriously at knowing who these people are and getting, even if it's free, a permit system that could easily be administered out of our police department.

Councilmember Slayter commented as follows:

- I will go in reverse order, the most recent thing about parking permits, to me that sounds like a solution looking for a problem here in our community.
- The state law is already in place about 72 hours and maybe there are ways to avoid yet more paperwork or work on the part of our staff administering parking permits.
- I would need to know a lot more before I could get on board with parking permits.
- The environmental impacts. They are very real to me.
- Where, the possibility of some of the environmental degradation that's going on due to the unsupported housing that is happening largely on Morris Street, to be able to have containment around that I think is really important.
- The sensitive location adjacent to the Laguna is quite important to me.
- At our previous meeting where we were presented with the rudimentary but very accurately-drawn site plans and aerial views of where things were, the location of the proposal is, I don't think there's anybody here that says this is an I'd ail situation ideal situation. Proponent or opponent.
- There's no perfect solution.

- In this location, yes, it's sensitive.
- I echo Vice Mayor Gurney's comments about needing to know about evacuation plans.
- I know that was in our original proposal we talked about a week ago in the special meeting, or it was in the packet, and the details of that I think need to be flushed out and we have the potential for evacuees from Park Village and now potentially from this safe parking site.
- The number of people and number of pieces of rolling stock that will need to be handled, that's more than just a few at this point if both facilities are operational in a way that is intended or proposed.
- So knowing that we have on high ground a place for this number of trailers and vehicles for a week or two weeks that needs to be well-detailed.
- So that's a request for the subcommittee and SAVS to look at.
- I just don't know necessarily how much electrical equipment is needed for modest to up to I guess a large fifth-wheel style RV.
- I might have some ideas about that. So I'll leave that in that place.
- Finally some ideas about greater good or where we are as a society and the idea that we can turn our backs on these human beings, it's not who I think this community is. That's a really important part of it for me. I've been pretty comfortable, maybe it's time for a little discomfort on my part because I'm sure the folks living in their vehicles on Morris Street experience discomfort as well. Maybe in different ways.
- But it's sort of fair is fair kind of situation.
- So I'm curious to see where this goes and I'm keeping an open mind.
- I also hear the business owners. Loretta and Chip and other property owners up and down Morris. Friends with a business owner down there. And the impacts are very real.
- The waste, the damage, the blight that seems to exist at certain times.
- That's a real concern and we need to honor those people's investment in our community but we also need it do it in a way that is appropriate.
- So I'm interested to know more about this and I hope that the next time we talk about this it does not completely consume an entire meeting because we still have several items on our agenda and it is 10:15.
- So, my hope is that we can do some of this work, community members who are interested, let us know, let the subcommittee members know and staff know that you're interested and want to be invited to those stakeholders meeting because I will guarantee our two committee members are interested in having you there and doing some of this hard work.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I know I've made some people angry, I know that there are people in this meeting who are not happy with that the City has not dealt with this issue in a way that they would have liked over the past several years.
- I do have sympathy for the business owners as well as the people living on Morris Street, as well as the people living in the neighborhoods, as well as just about anybody in our community.
- The situation we have been in over the past several years as many speakers have said this situation is getting worse and worse. But if you think it's worse and worse here that's nothing compared to go to Berkeley. Go to the City.
- Our situation here is fairly tame compared to many other locations.
- The situation that I feel our City has been dealing with over several years now has finally gotten to a point actually where we may be able to do more about it.
- What the City did do during COVID was invest in Park Village, which I think has been a really successful program and thank you to WCCS.
- Thank you to the group of advocates that donated trailers and resources to make that happen.
- That had us have one the lowest low-income properties of just about anywhere.

- We moved on to having the Sebastopol Inn project, that was a life or death situation. We were in COVID.
- We had basically 30 days for that thing to happen. There are 30 people in that facility that would have been out on the street that were ill.
- Everybody that went in there had health issues and if they had been on the street with COVID could have very well died. So a decision-maker, to me, that wasn't hard to figure out.
- Not that I was the decision-maker, because it was a county project. But I still feel it was at right thing to do at the time.
- What I think really needs to be done which is creating these tiny villages, tiny homes, safe parking, parking for RV's, et cetera. We finally over the past few years as the situation has escalated and gotten worse, now there is actually some funding.
- That's why we're jumping on this and when funding happens, when you work with government you make it -- you say yes, because it's so hard to come by, it's so hard to make something happen and that's what we're doing here, we're actually addressing this issue and I know it may appear to some people that we have not been addressing it for a number of years but we have been gradually doing things that we're helping with the problem and mitigating the problem and now we're finally at a position where there's actually additional funding where we can actually do something about this problem.
- I don't think there's a perfect solution.
- We're at the end of 50 years of bad public policy where there's been less and less and less of a safety net.
- When you do that and you have more and more problems it causes people to be more and more angry and more and more reactionary and you get the situation where everyone's mad at each other so hopefully we're all coming together now to figure out doing something and doing something positive.
- It's not going to be perfect but we're making some really progress here.
- So I encourage everybody to hang in there, keep being part of this process.
- Keep being part of talking about what your issues are, et cetera, and we'll do the best we can to come up with a not absolutely perfect solution but hopefully the best solution with the resources we have to really take everybody in our community into consideration.
- Thank everybody for all their input and their thoughts and thanks to Councilmember Rich for all the incredible work she's put into this, thank our staff, thank WCCS, thank everybody, particularly thank SAVS for all the work and thought they've put into making a proposal that I hope is going to be a successful project for our City.

City Council Action: Received a report out from the Committee

Minute Order Number: 2021-280

8. Consider of Appointment/Reappointment to the By-Laws Subcommittee of the Sonoma County Mayors and Councilmembers Association (Responsible Department: Mayor/City Administration)

Mayor Glass presented the agenda item recommending the City Council Consider Appointment/Reappointment to the By-Laws Subcommittee of the Sonoma County Mayors and Councilmembers Association.

Mayor Glass asked for questions of staff.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- Are we trying to reaffirm the original committee because some members are not available
- Is this a new committee that every Councilmember who is interested in may be speaking up at their City trying to get their name put in the hat and then the group of mayors will select.
- I'm really confused about the process intended here.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I thought the process in the first place was kind of a train wreck and it was really unclear.
- It had gone from two years ago up until now.
- So the way that it worked originally was that the mayors had agreed to have a four-person subcommittee that was appointed from the mayors and there were going to be two representatives from small cities and two representatives from large cities.
- That committee was drawn from basically the board of directors of Mayors and Councilmembers
- Now two years later, we have different mayors so there was suggestion by the Chair of Mayors and Councilmember that we appoint the same people that originally were mayors.
- It just seemed we should come back and reaffirm that first of all that my Council says yes we should move forward with this idea, a four-person subcommittee with and two small city representatives and two large city representatives and that the appointment can be a non-Mayor. Because that's what originally it was all mayors.
- Otherwise, it seems like procedurally we're kind of not following what was the procedure in the first place.
- Our City attorney had talked to me about this issue before the meeting and had said this procedure doesn't seem like it's really quite on track.
- This appointment needs to be redone and there needs to be a new motion to reconvene the committee and make appointments.
- So that was the advice that our City attorney gave me. And I have to say I thought he was right.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- The idea is two from small cities and there's more than two small cities than maybe more than one person from every small City wants an appointment.
- Are we going to see a list of potential candidates and then go back to our cities and vote again?
- How will we end up with four people if it goes back to nine Councils and more than one person might be interested.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- It does speak to the procedure that it didn't make a heck of a lot of sense.
- The implication was that the chair could appoint the committee.
- So the chair is the Mayor of Cloverdale right now. My understanding was that under the bylaws the chair can appoint the committee.
- I just wanted to bring it back to our City Council because it seemed like the whole procedure has really procedural problems.
- I think Councilmember Hinton has already put some work into this.
- I just think the functioning of Mayor and Councilmembers and how this is proceeding doesn't really adhere to any procedures I understand.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- My understanding of it was that we started a process we spent four hours on it and then it was side lined by COVID.
- So, having sat through Mayor and Councilmembers and listened to the discussion I don't think anybody was trying to usurp the rules or whatever but there was talk that the four people ideally or at least some of the four would be able to continue because it was an ad hoc committee charged with coming up with bylaws.

- City Manager from Cotati did some outreach of the four original members everybody but Theresa Barrett said could not continue, and that's where it went, it's four people to follow Brown act rules, Mayors and Councilmember couldn't have more than four so we agreed to two big two small cities so people are represented.
- That's the history on it. It was sidelined and in the middle of doing committee work.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented is the understanding that the appointment, a does not have to be a Mayor and be that the appointment was made by the chair.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- My understanding was that the appointment did not have to be a Mayor because two former Mayors who were going to continue are not mayors and that it could be a chair according to the bylaw.
- That was reviewed.
- When I first heard about it did speak with the City Manager because he spoke with Mayor Glass said I'm sure our Council would want to agendize the item and weigh in and at the Council's pleasure I'd be happy to continue or not.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- Under the current bylaws, the chair can make the appointment. The appointment does not need to be a Mayor.
- However was felt by couple cities, us and I believe Rohnert park, I forget who else that's it should to back to the City Council to confirm that because previously it was the person appointed was in fact at that time the Mayor on that board.
- This appointment could be a person not the Mayor who is not on the board.
- I think it's returning to the Council here tonight just to confirm Councilmember Hinton is a choice that this Council is okay with.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- In my opinion she's already put work into this. I think that's fine, with her proceeding.
- I would actually urge her however to what are the procedures, who is appointing, it's a whole different Council two years later we discussed ad hoc versus standing committee appoint two years ago by different Councils and different mayors.
- One of the things we should advise or ask Councilmember Hinton to pursue is making sure we have these kinds of issues more clear in the bylaws.
- It should follow the rules of some other organizations, Roberts rules or something.
- The procedure just seemed very unclear to me.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I was present for the discussion.
- I do feel like Marta Cruz who was chairing was a little unfamiliar.
- As we know our City Manager can attest there's no legal City person to fall back on.
- I think in a lot of ways we're lucky at this Council because we ask our City Attorney some questions in advance sometimes
- It did go back to what the bylaw said and then it was clarified. I think then Marta kind of back steps.
- That was one of the goals, our bylaws weren't really legit.
- We did have no mission statement. That's why this ad hoc was considered to actually create that.
- Then we got sidelined because of COVID.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

- I'm trying to understand what the assignment is to this committee.
- It's call and ad hoc I assume we understand it needs a deadline and expiration date.
- What is it's purpose, is the assumption we have old bylaw that's need to be review and that group will come back for recommendations of updates or are there substantive changes that this committee will write to satisfy the board's interest.
- Which way is this going?

Mayor Glass questioned if it is being asked if there's a hidden agenda.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented the assignment should be really clear.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- The assignment was clear. This organization has no mission statement.
- There was one proposed in our first meeting and that the bylaws were written years ago and were not accurate any more and so it was really the tasks of the subcommittee members
- Former City Manager from Sonoma did a lot of the work and provided three sample bylaws and we were saying our organization likes this not that, there was a lot of discussion and all of the work would be brought back to all of the cities to be voted on just like normal procedures.
- It was created because we had not clear rules that sometimes impacted, for example, the MTC things that should have been buttoned up.
- That's why the committee was created.
- We have old bylaws that are out of date and messy and need to be cleaned up.

Vice Mayor Gurney commented what's the process for ratifying them.

Mayor Glass commented it would go to the cities and general membership so it's a subcommittee making recommendations to the nine cities to vote on for general membership.

Councilmember Hinton commented it would be, my understanding that it would happen just like every other appointment happens at Mayors and Councilmembers, would go on our agenda, we vote to support or not, it would go to executive committee, it would be ratified at the general meeting

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented my recommendation it will come back to City Council and then voted on by mayors at general meeting.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I actually have another issue that I would like to ask if Councilmember Hinton is going to serve on this committee to get some clarification about the legal parameters.
- Mayors and Councilmember is not an organization that has an MOU, that I know.
- It's not a JPA -- that stands for joint powers authority.
- What is its legal structure? What authorizes it to do things. What is the limit and the extent of its power?
- Because I think that is unclear.
- As a City that is sometimes, if not often, but sometimes in the minority.
- Are we bound by the vote of it as a legislative body? Is a legislative body?
- I think there's a lot of lack of clarity about the extent of the structure, the power, and what the organization can actually do.

- So, hope you find out about that I ask you report out to us when you find out.
- I don't think any of us really know for sure.
- Do we just need to do a thumb's up and say we would support our Councilmember to be on that subcommittee?

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented the only thing I was going to add was the recommendation, the Mayor and Councilmember hire an attorney.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- As part of the discussion they're talking about hiring a clerk instead of having it rotate.
- That was a lot of the discussion and what the cities would contribute to that and whether bigger cities would contribute more versus smaller cities.
- These were some of the discussion points in the ad hoc committee.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- They never did discuss having an attorney.
- An attorney would be a lot more costly.
- I recognize may not actually happen.
- But I think the question you're asking, Mayor, need some kind of independent legal review.

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I think you're absolutely right
- That's why I was bringing up.
- I thought Councilmember Hinton would bring it up and somebody would say we need an attorney

Mayor Glass opened for public comment. There was no public comment on this item.

Council Discussion and/or Deliberations:

There was no further discussion.

MOTION:

Vice Mayor Gurney moved and Councilmember Rich seconded the motion to recommend appointment of Councilmember Hinton to the Mayors and Councilmembers By Laws Ad Hoc Committee.

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

VOTE:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

City Council Action: Approved Direction to Mayor to recommend appointment of Councilmember Hinton to the Mayors and Councilmembers By Laws Ad Hoc Committee.

Minute Order Number: 2021-281

9. Discussion of City Council Retreat (Requestor: Agenda Review Committee)

City Council Action: Item Continued to next City Council Meeting.

Minute Order Number: 2021-282

The Council re-opened Item Number 7 for direction to the committee to contact Judge Rosenfield.
The Council was in consensus to have the committee contact Judge Rosenfield.

ADJOURNMENT OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 2, 2021 City Council Meeting will be adjourned to the City Council Special Meeting of November 3, 2021 at 9:30 am CLOSED SESSION.

November 3, 2021 City Council Closed Session Special Meeting will be adjourned to the City Council Special Meeting of November 10, 2021 at 9:30 am CLOSED SESSION.

November 10, 2021 City Council Special Meeting will be adjourned to the City Council Regular Meeting of November 16, 2021 at 6:00 pm (ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING FORMAT).

Mayor Glass adjourned the regular City Council Meeting at 10:48 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:



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