

City Council Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2021

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

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

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

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

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

Councilmember Slayter returned to the meeting.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

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

Councilmember Hinton stated that is correct.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

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

Councilmember Hinton stated that is correct.

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

Staff stated that is correct.

Councilmember Rich commented as follows:

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

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

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

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

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

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

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

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

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

Vice Mayor Gurney commented as follows:

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

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

Mayor Glass commented as follows:

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

Mayor Glass re-opened for public comment.

Kyle Falbo commented as follows:

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

Mayor Glass closed public comment.

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

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

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

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

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

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS:

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

Mayor Gurney reported as follows:

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

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

Councilmember Rich reported as follows:

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

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

Councilmember Slayter reported as follows:

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

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

Mayor Glass reported as follows:

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

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

CLOSED SESSION ITEMS: NONE

ADJOURNMENT OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

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

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

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ADJOURNMENT OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Glass adjourned the meeting at 10:24 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

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