

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR Meeting of July 7, 2020

As Approved by the City Council at their regular meeting of July 21, 2020

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

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

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

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

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

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

\*\*\*\*GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20\*\*\*\*  
\*\*RE CORONAVIRUS COVID-19\*\*

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

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

**CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) ADVISORY**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**6:00 pm            CONVENE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING by Teleconference Only Per Shelter in Place Directive**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Slayter called the regular meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present:** Mayor Slayter – By video teleconference  
Vice Mayor Glass – By video teleconference  
Councilmember Carnacchi – By video teleconference  
Councilmember Gurney - By video teleconference  
Councilmember Hinton -By video teleconference

**Absent:** None

**Staff:** City Manager/City Attorney Larry McLaughlin  
Assistant City Manager/City Clerk Mary Gourley  
Administrative Services Director Ana Kwong  
Bill Braga, Fire Chief  
Henry Mikus, Engineering Manager  
Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director  
Dante Del Prete, Public Works Superintendent

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Council and staff are modeling appropriate behavior
- Wearing a mask is the number-one thing we all need to do to protect ourselves, and if you need a mask, contact city hall.

- We have complimentary Sebasto-Masks, which a number of us are wearing.
- They're available in a wide variety of colors, and they are free for the asking
- They are high quality items that can be washed and used hundreds of times.
- They're not disposable.
- They're very well made by a local vendor.
- They've got a cool Sebastopol logo on them.
- The City Council displayed the Sebasto-Masks that are available at city hall.

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

**PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS:**

**\*Proclamations and Presentations have been suspended until further notice.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT** (At this time, members of the public may comment on any item not appearing on the agenda. It is recommended that you keep your comments to three minutes or less. Under State Law, unless otherwise permitted under the Ralph M. Brown Act, the merits of the matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon by the City Council at this time. For items appearing on the agenda, the public will be invited to make comments at the time the item comes up for Council consideration.)

**Public Comments Received by Email Prior to the Meeting:**

A copy of the emails submitted prior to the City Council meeting have been made a part of the public record. A list of emails received are as follows and were made available to the City Council as well as placed on the city web site from the following persons:

- JoJo Lawrence
- zen Destiny

Honora commented as follows:

- Know we're going to be talking about racism and Sebastopol.
- Appreciate the depth that a lot of the city council members have gone into and having these conversations.
- Was doing some research last night, just looking at redlining maps, just what is our history?
- Why is our town so white?
- Would love information from the city counselor, whoever has it, about what caused the segregation that is Sebastopol.
- It is a very white town.
- Would like to know what what's the history of the systems that have been in place to cause people of color to not live here, and what of those systems are still supported with city policies with government policy.
- Do not know how to research this stuff.
- This is all very new to me, but I would love help with this because it's interesting. I'm really curious.
- Why are we so white? Nothing wrong with white people, but it's a very much a curiosity.
- The other thing I would like to know is if the city Council members have done work on their own racism, their own internalized racism, would you be comfortable talking about that?

- I asked that in a very open and curiosity conscious way.
- Personally, done a course called Untraining White Liberal Racism. It's very deep emotional work.
- What led me to that was raising my kids in this town after moving here from Oakland and thinking is this white flight? Like what is this that brought me here?
- How do I teach my kids to be citizens of the world and understand people as people?
- Everyone I talked to is like, "Well, you got to work on yourself."
- Kept looking for other answers, but it just kept coming down to that.
- Working on myself has been really, really eye-opening, terrifying, painful, difficult.
- Know a lot of you I'm sure have been reading and learning and knowing, and probably have incredible backgrounds where you are able to take in information and synthesize it in an incredible way.
- Just curious on the emotional level, what kind of work have you tapped into as the leaders?

**STATEMENTS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BY MAYOR/CITY COUNCILMEMBERS FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA** (This is the time for the Mayor or City Councilmembers to indicate any statements of conflicts of interests for any item listed on this agenda) *There were none.*

**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.
- Council Members 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 Tem.

Mayor Slayter read the consent calendar.

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

Councilmember Gurney requested Item Number 3 be removed from the consent calendar.

Mayor Slayter asked for Public Comments: There were none at this time.

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

Item Number 3 to be discussed at the end of the agenda per Council policy,

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

VOTE:

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

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

1. Approval of Minutes of the City Council Regular Meeting of June 16, 2020 (Responsible Department: City Administration)

**City Council Action: Approved Minutes of the City Council Regular Meeting of June 16, 2020**

**Minute Order Number: 2020-140**

2. Approval of Minutes of the City Council Special Meeting of June 23, 2020 (Responsible Department: City Administration)

**City Council Action: Approved Minutes of the City Council Special Meeting of June 23, 2020**

**Minute Order Number: 2020-141**

- ~~3. Approval of FY 20-21 City of Sebastopol Budget Schedule (Responsible Department: Administrative Services).~~

4. Approval of Extension of Emergency Proclamation of Local Emergency issued by the Director of Emergency Services (Responsible Department: Fire Chief)

**City Council Action: Approved Extension of Emergency Proclamation of Local Emergency issued by the Director of Emergency Services**

**Minute Order Number: 2020-143**

**Resolution Number: 6304-2020**

**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.)

5. Informational Presentation on Tobacco Retail Licensing/Vaping Ordinance and Direction and Consideration of Next Steps (Requestor: Vice Mayor Glass)

Vice Mayor Glass introduced the agenda item.

Celosia Arcadia provided a presentation to the City Council. (A copy was attached to the agenda item).

Jason Cunningham presented additional information.

- Family physician here in Sebastopol and the West County and the current chief executive officer at West County Health Centers.
- This is something I have a passion for. I see patients and love doing that as a family doc.
- Deal mostly with chronic illness and helping patients move through the disease of adulthood.
- We know now that most of the health outcomes that we need to work on are affected by behavior.
- We know that behavior is the single biggest factor of how we manage that.
- What we eat? If we exercise? What are we addicted to? Who we hang out with?
- Although medications and diagnosis are important, it is behavior.

- Just to say out loud, this is a big deal.
- If you look at how we cope with our own trauma and other things, we oftentimes retreat and use chemicals as a way to self-manage.
- We deal mostly with diseases that start early on and COPD, heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, amputations, other things, we know cancer are directly related to smoking.
- Fought now 15 years of my life now to try to support individuals to work towards that.
- If there's one thing I would know is, I cannot do that alone.
- We are desperately working on trying to treat diseases and we have behavioral health specialist.
- Deal with opiate use disorder and alcohol use disorder.
- Deal with a behavioral health team that works on that.
- Can't do that alone.
- If this pandemic has taught us anything, collective action is incredibly important and systemic policies and other factors play a much larger role than we experienced before.
- We have a team clinic and when I talked to my team clinic manager today, she said, it is a big deal, vaping.
- That kids are using vaping as if it weren't tobacco even changing the way that we're asking the question of nicotine versus tobacco we saw a huge increase.
- Recognizing that that tobacco and nicotine become an addiction that these youth are now becoming addicted to chemicals that will have impact on long-term.
- Their only reason that's happening is because of influenced by corporate greed.
- Think this is an opportunity for us, as a community, to take on collective action in an important way and help the medical community to recognize that health is bigger than the healthcare delivery.
- It's about us as a community.
- This is an opportunity for you, as leaders in our community to participate in something that could make a big difference. It's evidence-based, it's smart. We know it makes a difference.
- Just ask that you participate in this in a leadership role to help our community, to be safer and to support our children not becoming addicted so that I don't have to deal with that 30 years from now.
- Just really warms my heart to see the passion in the group here, but also to recognize that we're with people who take this seriously.

Alanna Brogan added additional comments.

- This is a great example of collective action and how we can change the systems around our community to improve the health of our community.
- Want to thank all of the coalition members that have put in so many tireless hours, bringing this to the forefront and preparing this presentation.

Mary Lou provided additional information.

- Would like to add I'm a member of the Gravenstein Health Action Coalition and a member of the TRL task force.
- Have been working on this issue since 2018.
- Been involved with Health Action and we've been speaking to people.
- We've been writing op-eds.

- We've been pretty active in trying to get a TRL started in our community.
- I am a nurse. I have a master's degree in community health.
- I am passionate about people, about smoking and have been for a very long time.
- Our goal has been encouraging this tobacco regulation to help protect our youth from illegal sale of tobacco and vaping products and to try and address the serious epidemic of teen addiction and tobacco.
- Others are here and are able to outline the issues around vaping and also how you've purchased the e-waste, which is a really big deal.
- After years of progress and decreasing cigarette smoking in younger population, the tobacco industry has found another way to encourage youth toward nicotine addiction and make more money, obviously.
- The industry spends millions on advertising promotions and marketing to ensure profits from addictive cancer causing, lung disease encouraging substance.
- Here in Sebastopol, when school is in session, you can actually go into Safeway and catch, I don't mean catch literally, but notice that there's a group of kids hanging by the door.
- Many of them vaping.
- Was able to go on a survey with another member of the group.
- We saw them when we got close, they jammed them in their pockets, or they jammed them in.
- We weren't there for enforcement.
- We were just curious as to what they were doing, but they were there, a very large group.
- To the kids, it's cool. They think it's a really cool thing to do.
- They are really mistaken in terms of, they had heard that this helps adults get off of cigarettes.
- They're assuming, "What is this? It's like medication, right? It tastes like mango."
- It's time for us as a community to recognize this is a real problem that the schools have been on the frontline of enforcement of this problem for several years now.
- It's really unfair burden to put on them because not only do they have to discipline the youth, when they have been found in the bathrooms, in the vape zones, as they call them.
- They also have to try and find a way to get rid of the e-waste, which is not an easy thing to do.
- Think it's time for us to do this.

Mayor Slayter asked for questions.

- Think we've got a really good message from the coalition.
- Think we understand your unity and message.
- Do you have any possible way to estimate the effects of COVID on youth tobacco use?
- It seems to me that it might be dropping because the concentrated population at schools isn't there.
- Realize that hopefully this is a very temporary hiccup in our history.
- In the communities who have enacted TRLs, who is responsible for policing the ordinances?

Marsha Sue Lustig commented as follows:

- One thing that we didn't mention, that was the thing I was going to bring up, was enforcement.
- We are fortunate because what we're offering is the potential for three years of help with education and enforcement through County grants.

- It'll give opportunity to provide education in the city and also to the police who might be doing it in the future.
- Without that leg, it's tough to make any headway because we can see what the stores, they add all the new products and they are constantly growing, finding new ways to market to our kids.
- I'm hoping that is answering your question.
- They've had tremendous success, but it requires enforcement and education.
- The County and others can from the County who are here, can speak to it.
- The County and some other cities have also already enforcement provisions where the tobacco retailers pay a fee to pay for that enforcement and education.
- That's what we're proposing.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- It was mentioned in one of the potential elements of an ordinance would be to restrict the sale of tobacco in pharmacies, and then mentioned CVS is leading by example.
- Is that by good example or by poor example

The presenter stated it was by good example. A good example would be that they've already chosen the words since we're a pharmacy here we have these products to help support people with health. Then, we're not going to have something that's poisonous, which contradicts health. CVS is already doing that, but not Rite Aid. Safeway has a pharmacy, so this would affect Safeway.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- This is a question for the city attorney.
- If we did pass an ordinance to follow CVS with the other pharmacies, is that allowable or legal
- One of the examples on the coupon looked like it was exclusively a smoke and tobacco shop.
- I've never shopped there but would that involve us putting somebody out of business on the list?
- Since this is going to go to staff report, is all of these options going to come back.
- Are we going to narrow in on what we think?
- Realized this is a big list of a lot of possibilities.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- First thing I wanted to do is to kind of explain the procedure that the Council will be following in the future.
- Assuming you give direction this evening to go forward, then an ordinance will be returned to you for a first reading.
- The ordinance at that time will be completely explained to you of all the provisions in front of you.
- The idea this evening is to give you an idea kind of ahead of time, how all these elements work together, how they accomplish the goals.
- In the staff report this evening on pages four through seven, you'll see a summary of a lot of the provisions that are going to be in the ordinance that you will see at a subsequent meeting.
- It gives some details about what other jurisdictions statewide or locally have enacted similar provisions.

- Nearly everything in this ordinance has been enacted somewhere.
- Some of them have been defended in court.
- Some of them have not had to be defended in court.
- Some of them have an overwhelming large number of jurisdictions that have adopted them, some have a lesser number.
- But all that information is in the staff report, which gives you an idea of these provisions all work with each other, because some of them kind of work ingeniously to accomplish a goal by a means that might not be immediately obvious if you just read the ordinance.
- What other jurisdictions in the state have adopted these and what happened when they did.
- All these are ordinance provisions, in my opinion, are all legal and enforceable.
- That includes the tobacco free pharmacies.
- There are grandfathering provisions in the ordinance.
- When you do see the ordinance in the future, you'll see that a number of existing business or businesses are exempted because they're already in existence, but they nevertheless have to get a license.
- As far as enforcement goes, I was going to comment on that briefly that the enforcement can be done in any number of ways.
- Generally, in the future, in the more distant future, it would be done by the city attorney and the enforcement can take place with revoking the license that they've taken out, or by seeking a criminal complaint, which would be a misdemeanor or by going to court and seeking a civil injunction.
- There's a number of means in the ordinance that are adopted in the event the city would have to enforce this in the future, and these enforcement provisions are obviously familiar to city attorneys and we know how to use them.

Councilmember Hinton commented questioned if what you're saying is that the ordinance that will come back to us will include all of these things in the ordinance not really some of them.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented staff will return with a comprehensive ordinance.

- if something turned out to be objectionable to the Council, you could delete it.
- We're certainly not recommending that.
- Again, it's what's in pages four through seven of the staff report this evening, is the reasoning and the justification for each one of these provisions.
- What you will see ultimately for a first reading is the most comprehensive version of the ordinance and all these provisions will be in the ordinance, albeit in a not the exact same format that you see them in pages four to seven.
- Four to seven is basically the practical information you would need that the questions that you typically might have as a Council member, they've already been asked some of them.
- What other jurisdictions [Audio drop] these same provisions, how many of those jurisdictions have done them?
- What's this provision in the ordinance for?
- How does it work?
- What's its goal?

- This information is all annotated in the staff report and that comes back in a different format in the ordinance for a first hearing in the future.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- Would like to make a request when it does come back.
- Looking at number seven, and not that I have an opposition to that, but I'm curious, does that put anybody out of business?
- There's a lot of info here, but it doesn't really completely address what's currently happening in Sebastopol.
- Would be just nice to see that background when it comes back.

Celosia requested clarity on the discussion for item number 7.

- Are you talking about proximity to schools?
- Or to significant tobacco retailers?

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- It does not say if there's anybody currently operating in this close proximity to schools, which makes me just think Safeway, I don't know how far it is away from Manly.
- It's not specific to Sebastopol.
- It just says there's no rule in Sebastopol right now, if I'm reading this correctly, so that's just one example.
- It's not really specific.

Mayor Slayter commented the staff report has a suggestion of either 500 or 1,000 square lineal feet from a school, so it would be up to the Council to choose.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- When it comes back, if we choose 500, I'd like to know, does that knock out specific retailers?
- It just seems like it's not specific to retailers and I'd like to see it when it comes back at staff level.
- Would like to have the background.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- There was another item, a number of years ago something similar to this.
- Believe it was in regards to cannabis sales and the planning department was very easily able to provide a map with rings of distances and I would expect that that would be part of a staff report and I think very useful.

Aerial commented as follows:

- Did have an answer to Mayor Slayter's first question about youth vaping during COVID.
- While we don't have data specific to that, we do have information about specific advertising tactics that the vaping companies have implored to directly market their product.
- In one of the ads Puff Bar, which is a very popular vaping device that Celosia mentioned in her presentation.

- There was an ad called Solo Break, which encouraged people to a solo break during their stress of being quarantined and particularly the stress of parental text messages, by using a vaping product.
- While we don't know the exact amount, we do know that the industry is moving very quickly to market to our youth.

Mary Lou commented as follows:

- Safeway is a big corporation and in general they have a pharmacy.
- They would be affected by the pharmacy.
- It won't put them out of business, but they just would not be allowed to sell the product, and other Safeway's have actually agreed to do that and the manager, on a discussion with him said, you give me the law behind it and I'll do it.

Mayor Slayter opened for public comment.

Honora commented as follows:

- Was wondering if it would be appropriate to have a deposit paid on the e-merchandise so that when schools confiscate it, they can get a return, they can return it to the store and get money for that.
- That might cover the costs.
- Might have unintended consequences but just an idea.

Greg commented as follows:

- So a year and a half ago, I conducted a young adult tobacco purchase survey for the County of Sonoma Department of Health Services, which involved going out with underage purchasers who have their own valid California ID and extensive training to state their age if asked by cashiers.
- We did undercover operations across the county, and as a result of that, we were able to determine that one out of six stores in Sonoma County sold tobacco products to underage purchasers.
- In many cases, those cashiers made those transactions knowing the participants age and, in many cases, seeing IDs.
- I just have a quick show and tell. Here are the products from a year and a half ago that we were able to purchase, young adults were able to purchase and including in that were vaping products, Juul, as well as a \$40 Suorin vaping device.
- Having worked for a number of years with retailers to help them with compliance and County of Sonoma Incorporated, I have had a lot of opportunities to do trainings and work with retailers.
- But often in this world, there is a message from retailers saying, "Well, it's not us who are selling. We're not part of the problem. It's other people or it's parents that are the problem."
- Clearly this represents purchases over approximately three weeks, going out over a number of evenings and also daytime.
- Just to give people a picture of what really goes on. There are vaping problems at schools.
- There is access at schools, but again, our surveys showed that locally one out of six retailers were willing to sell to underage purchasers. Some didn't check IDs, but a number of them did and sold anyway.

- So just to illustrate the problem that we have locally.

Riya commented as follows:

- Resident of Santa Rosa and I attend Maria Carrillo high school.
- Member of Impacts Sonoma, Sonoma County Tobacco Free Youth Coalition, as well as a statewide organization, CYN's youth board of directors.
- Here to possibly bring youth perspective to the following, so banning flavored products and ensuring that tobacco shops are distanced from school campuses.
- Flavored tobacco products attract teens to tobacco products, while shops feed constant supply to these teens and not only do both of these components put a student's wellbeing and health at risk, but also have completely destroyed our school student body environment.
- Many students at my school, even myself, are scared to go to the bathroom, even during school, as they don't even want to run into uncomfortable situations where their other school kids using tobacco products, I myself have even gotten severe migraines from the intoxicating smells coming from flavored vapes in the bathrooms.
- My own tennis team wasn't able to practice or compete comfortably, due to the cigarette and e-cigarette uses happening behind the courts.
- These flavors and shops that are providing your students with e-cigarettes is not leveraging the health of the teams who are using them with the daily lives of our teens who are simply trying to go to school and feel safe and comfortable.

Bob Gordon commented as follows:

- Coalition for Tobacco Free Sonoma County.
- Know there's interest in the pharmacy provision, just one of the many provisions for the tobacco retailer license.
- Wanted to mention that Sebastopol could join 42 other jurisdictions in California that have already passed a tobacco free pharmacy provision.
- It started with San Francisco in 2008.
- 12 years ago, yes, there was litigation back then, Safeway didn't like it, Walgreens didn't like it, Phillip Morris didn't like it.
- That's all been green-lighted for many, many years and that's why 42 communities, including Oakland most recently, and in the County Cloverdale, unincorporated Sonoma and Healdsburg are the three communities that have passed tobacco free pharmacy ordinance.
- It really changes what a Rite Aid is to young people.
- They don't see that power wall of tobacco anymore at the front of the store.
- Which again is in direct contradiction to what's happening in the back of the store, which is a pharmacy is a place to get better, not to get cancer or heart disease or lung disease.
- Tobacco in pharmacies don't mix.
- Hope you'll consider that.
- It's legal as was stated by the city attorney and as long as it's a level playing field for all types of pharmacies, generally four types, there's independent pharmacies, of which there's one in Sebastopol and then chain drug stores such as Rite Aid and then grocery stores which have pharmacies like Safeway and then Big Box stores, which may have a pharmacy as well, but not applicable at this point.
- Those would all be included.

- As long as it's a level playing field, it is allowed to happen.

Michelle commented as follows:

- I'm staff at the Center for Wellbeing, and I am part of this coalition, but also, I've been working in tobacco control for almost 15 years.
- The center has also held large grants with the California tobacco control program.
- We just finished up last week, of the last five year of grant, and we're starting this week, the next five years of a grant, which we will be, number one, we will continue to work with jurisdictions to pass or amend any current and in need of an update tobacco retail license.
- We're also training youth peer leaders at various schools.
- These peer leaders will be trained in the knowledge of consequences of tobacco and nicotine use.
- Then in turn, teach their peers the same.
- That's going to be an available resource when all this culminates.
- The third objective, just so you know, is a cessation component and part of that is that we will offer three to four nicotine cessation workshops to reach youth who are addicted to nicotine, free of cost.
- This is what it's all about.
- We have youth who are addicted to nicotine.

Pam Granger commented as follows:

- Chair of Tobacco Free Sonoma County.
- Heard from a number of our colleagues tonight.
- We're here because we're mad and scared, but mostly mad.
- We're unwilling to let big tobacco and big vape, addict another generation just to pad their bottom line.
- Sometimes we have to put health before profits.
- We think that time is now, many of us have lost someone special because they smoked.
- Never got to spend fun time with my mom's dad.
- Only knew that grandpa's the one who lived on large tanks of oxygen, choking on every breath.
- No one knew enough to keep him from starting to smoke at a young age, but we sure do now.
- No one strategy will do the trick, but passing protective policies with appropriate enforcement, supporting community education and providing cessation support are a balanced three-legged stool in fighting a lifetime of addiction.
- Our community's youth are still surrounded by unhealthy choices and messages in the retail environment.
- Stores play an important role in people's health because they influenced the choices we make and they set our social norms.
- A better balance of options within our stores is what we need to make the healthy choice the easy choice.
- Getting the sale of all flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-cigarettes and menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars, setting minimum pack size and price and setting density limits with retail locations near youth sensitive sites to reduce the interactions of kids with storefront and point of sale advertising, are all critical steps to reversing the youth epidemic and create the first generation that's tobacco free.

Council Deliberations:

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- We have had a number of meetings, this coalition with our City Manager/City Attorney and City staff, and we have worked on the various aspects of the potential items to go into the ordinance, and that's that nice grid that you see there.
- Would suggest that we direct staff to move forward with working with this group and grafting a potential ordinance with all the details, the various options in there.
- Then we can go through those and determine if there's any items that we would want to delete.
- Would say that this is our job as elected officials.
- One of the things that government does is set floors.
- We set standards for our community and part of our job is to set standard that enforce or create a community where health is the norm.
- One of the things we do is we have ordinances about building safety. We don't want people to build buildings that fall down on people.
- We have ordinances about crossing the street safely.
- We have all these ordinances and so it makes sense to me that we would have an ordinance that enforces tobacco or mitigates tobacco use, particularly by youth in our community, because in the long run, it has a tremendous cost and we want to provide a healthy environment for our kids.
- As many of you know, my deceased husband, former Mayor Kyes, started smoking when he was 14, he tried to quit for something like 40 years.
- I can't tell you how many times he tried to quit and part of why he had such a hard time quitting was because he started smoking at a very early age when he was 14 and if he were here now, I know he would support this ordinance because he just was never able to kick it and then he made a very early exit from my life.
- Let's move forward with directing staff to get going on this ordinance and we can have a full reading of it and make the decisions about the details in a future meeting.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- Thanked Vice Mayor Glass and our city staff in health action for bringing this forward.
- Agree that the city should move forward with a strong tobacco retail ordinance.
- Think it's our responsibility to protect the health of our community and at this particular unique moment in history, to sharpen our focus on our youth.
- Years ago, I was the Council's rep to health action, the countywide Council, and we were considering bringing a TRL there. I brought the issue before my colleagues on the Council, the majority of whom were smokers, I believe, and the proposal for an ordinance went nowhere.
- Glad we have another opportunity to advocate for its passage because we've heard from our presenters, this information about vaping in our youth completely captured by that addictive, unhealthy activity.
- That was information we didn't have the first time around.
- Think we should go forward and move quickly and move strongly.
- Thanked everyone for the work.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- Supports this item
- Supports this moving forward
- It was a lot more extensive than the earlier presentation and vaping.
- The numbers are shocking.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- In agreement with my colleagues and I would say if there is a minimum number, if there is a maximum number we need to be as strong as we can be on this ordinance.
- Choose the most stringent, choose the most conservative, choose the most aggressive, whichever category you're in  
Council can then ratchet things back if we feel the need, but to have a standard that is suggested by practicing professionals in the field of health care, I think is what we need to be listening to.

Mayor Slayter thanked the presenters.

**City Council Action: In consensus to direct staff to return the ordinance to a future city council meeting.  
Minute Order Number: 2020-144**

Due to technical issues, Mayor Slayter re-opened public comment.

Peter Mancus commented as follows:

- I want to compliment the mayor for being flexible about public comment.
- I didn't speak earlier because of the online difficulty and I want to ask everybody listening this question, if President Trump announced he was going to burn all the amendments to the US constitution, how would you feel about that?
- Would you be comfortable with any government official wanting to eliminate the legal basis for all of your valuable priceless rights?
- I assume the answer is no and that leads me to this, believe it or not, over two years ago, Sebastopol's current mayor Patrick Slayter, in a public City Council meeting did exactly that.
- He advocated burning all amendments to the US constitution.
- There is an audio-visual recording of that.
- Every City Councilmember and probably Patrick Slayter himself would admit what I'm attributing to him.
- Any official who wants to burn all the amendments to the constitution, to me functions as a domestic enemy of the US constitution and is violated his oath of office and is no longer a public servant.
- He or she functions as a public serpent.
- For two and a half years I have repeatedly urged Mr. Slayter to publicly apologize for and withdraw his statement. Inexplicably, he has refused to do so. Logically, that implies he is serious.
- If he had the power, he would burn all the amendments, and ironically, that means he would make slavery legal again, and later on in this meeting, he's going to talk about things related to slavery.

- And to make matters worse, I've urged every one of the City Council members to publicly rebuke Mr. Slayter for his advocacy, championing of burning all the amendments and for two and a half years.
- No City Council member has rebuked him.
- Their silence implies they condone, they accept what he says, which taints them.
- What is wrong with our civic leaders that they pledged their allegiance to the flag, they take money from the taxpayers to pay their stipend, but publicly they're not willing to abide by the US constitution.
- They have slipped their constitutional callers.

Mayor Slayter closed the public comment period.

**PUBLIC HEARING(S): NONE**

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

6. Discussion and Consideration of Approval of Resolution Committing the City of Sebastopol to promote racial equity in City relationships, programs, services and policies (Requestor: Mayor Slayter)

Mayor Slayter presented the agenda item.

Mayor Slayter asked for questions.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Wanted to say that I, in particular and appreciative of the idea of training, because many of us have not given enough thought, and as you say, there are things that we don't realize.
- There's words, there's phrases, there's things that we're looking at, there's historical perspectives that we just may not know about, and if we're going to be a community that's really committed to, an egalitarian equity oriented attitude, and providing a space where everybody in our community is valued and not only has equal opportunity, but equal respect.
- We need to make sure that everybody is trained.
- Appreciate that aspect of your suggestion or your resolution here.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- Thanked the Mayor for making this extensive effort.
- For me as a first time reader, it took a lot of work to get through each paragraph because the words were so significant and I had to think is that what we want to say and the right way to say it.
- Personally, I got a little overwhelmed at the material.
- Accountability is something that you've mentioned several times, and we know from our previous discussions in the last two weeks, that our community wants a lot of transparency in our government and what we're doing.
- Think that's a value that you intend to be in here, and maybe we can find a place for that particular word as it couples with accountability and that's self-responsibility, and community wide responsibility.

- It's going to take a lot of effort to get us to the place we want to be.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- Appreciate the training part too, even though it's normally the question section.
- Did take part when I worked for the Press Democrat, when it was owned by the New York times in diversity training at that time and earned a certificate and they hosted that type of training.
- That was back in 2010 or 2011.
- Sure, it's changed a lot, but I think that's something we could certainly come up with and should be added to the ethics training.
- Appreciate you including that.
- Interested in hearing from the public about changes we might make to it.
- Was curious where you got it from, and maybe it's a combination of things, but there's a lot in there – sounds like it was kind of the best of the ideas put together.

Mayor Slayter opened for public comment.

Peter Mancus commented as follows:

- All in favor of genuine, sincere racial equality and the lack of discrimination.
- However, I strongly object to what Mr. Slayter is proposing as a resolution.
- Legally, the city is already committed to promote racial equality.
- Therefore, resolution his unnecessary and it's a colossal waste of time.
- I accused Mr. Slayter of engaging in what amounts to virtue, singling and campaigning during a public city Council meeting in the guise of governing when it's really, he's campaigning.
- Also preening himself publicly, and what I find to be incredibly ironic is that this man, our mayor who champions racial equality and good relations among the races, two years ago, promoted burning all the amendments, which would eliminate the 13th amendment, which wouldn't mean slavery could be made legal all over again.
- It's also my opinion that he's either violating or borderline flirting with violating the Federal Hatch act, which makes campaigning in the guise of governing illegal and parts of the hatchet are applicable to state and city employees.
- By the very nature of his resolution, there's an implication that the city is not now promoting racial equality, and if the city is doing what the law requires, there's no need for that resolution.
- If he and the rest of the Council wants to be super sensitive about certain words, certain phrases that you haven't thought about, and you're going far down the road of political correctness, which is border line flirting with violations of the first amendment.
- If you end up passing rules that says, you can't say certain words, you can't say certain phrases.
- That would clearly violate the first amendment.
- Mr. Slayter also mentioned he didn't realize the racist root of certain words. It's clear to me, he doesn't realize and I assume most of you don't either the racist roots of gun control in this country.
- Gun control laws got started by white supremacists who didn't want blacks to be armed

Honora commented as follows:

- So excited that this City Council is supporting this resolution.
- Is there a copy of the resolution available for people to read? I haven't seen it. I even searched on the website. I would love to read it.
- I love to hear that people on the city Council are doing a research about knowing the experiences of people, of color, just culturally and just day-to-day.
- A big piece that I want to make sure isn't missed is that we can't memorize all of the words that have racist roots.
- We can't memorize all of the things that are offensive to other people, but what we can do if we, and there's quite a few programs that can connect the city Council to, we can work as white people to look at the foundational pieces of ways that we have been steeped in our culture.
- The white training within our culture, by no fault of our own, and develop the skills to look at the racism that we hold within us at the same time as recognizing the goodness that each of us has within us.
- It's a cool tool that we use called multidimensionality.
- Even though I got scared of a black guy who was pulled up next to me in a parking lot in Santa Rosa, and I was like, "Oh, what's going to happen?"
- Then I saw him get his little 2-year-old out of the back of the car.
- We can all track that racism that's within us, that we've been trained to really feel and embody.
- We can track that and notice it. Say hi to it. You're a part of me and be able to move on.
- That kind of emotional work, being able to track our own racism after we recognize it and not let ourselves be debilitated by it, that kind of work isn't something you're going to get from any book, except possibly Layla Saads, Me and White Supremacy Workbook, but that's really ongoing work.
- I can give you resources if that's something that is interested in.
- It's also something you can't do in isolation.
- We need to support each other because it's really painful.
- It's about loving yourself so much that you're not run by the racism within you anymore.
- Thank you so much for, for being open to all these ideas.

Alanna Brogan commented as follows:

- Want to applaud the want to have this conversation.
- Think it's so important within our communities, but I just wanted to bring the attention to the fact that the Sonoma County office of education and Sonoma County health action is really wanting to bring this conversation to the communities and have a lot of resources to bring to the communities for education training, training people about how to have these discussions.
- The Graduate Student Health Action coalition has been in conversation around all of this, and we would love to help the city in any way that we can.

Celosia commented as follows:

- Thank you so much for bringing this topic forward.
- Concerned when I hear the mayor say that this that he thinks there needs to be a resolution because it makes me go, "Well, what are the problems?"
- What are there that implies that there's some issues that maybe I don't know about?"

- Definitely in favor of racial equity within our city, and I also think that while the mainstream media is presenting the issue of race relations as a topic that it's really important for us as citizens of our country to examine the difference between being a global citizen and being a Patriot, and I just want to urge everybody here in, in the self-work that you're doing examining your own self and any tendencies towards or biases related to race, but also be mindful of the importance of patriotism in this time where AI and a police state is also threatening our country.
- While people are crying about systemic racism, there's also big issues like systemic pedophilia that is huge and very concerning. The work goes deep.
- There's a lot of work to be done, and Terrence Williams is somebody you might like to watch on YouTube. Candace Owens is also somebody you might like to watch on YouTube. The Right Melissa on Twitter might be interesting to follow, and that's the end of my public comment.

Council Deliberations:

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- Think that we need to be careful not to confuse racism with prejudice and discrimination, because racism is the notion that you are superior because of your race, or that your race is superior.
- Been in business 27 years there on main street, fixing all kinds of shoes and all kinds of people, and I'm just not seeing that racism that we're talking about.
- I'm not seeing people coming in and saying that, "You know what? My race is superior to others."
- Think we need to be careful about discrimination and mixing up the words.
- Think that there's a difference between discriminating against somebody and being prejudiced against somebody than being an outright racist, because I mean, I have never felt that I was superior because of my race and I was born at five mile and school Craft in Detroit, Michigan, which was three miles into the black side of Detroit, Michigan.
- I had to take cover at my grandparents' house behind the couch when the tanks rolled down their street during the Detroit Race Riots.
- Think we just should be careful about using that word racism to fluidly because I think it creates more of a problem than what there actually is.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Wondering if all of us should spend some time thinking about and cogitating and analyzing what you have put together here, and I'm wondering actually what our City Manager would say about if we provide feedback on suggested edits or ideas of things that we might want to see changed in this.
- Do we have Brown act problems if we all send it to Mayor Slayter?
- How could we participate in a process of suggesting giving the mayor feedback on this without being a problem?
- We have some precedent before, because occasionally the Council's seen a draft of a letter and then before it's finalized individual Council members have sent their comments onto the person who was going to ultimately sign the letter.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented that to avoid a serial meeting situation, Council members should do that individually and let the mayor read them for himself and compile them and bring it back to

the Council in that circumstance, versus emails that all the Council members see, because you could develop a consensus off of that and you'd have more than a quorum doing so. I think it would be acceptable for individual comments to come in solely between the Council member to the mayor.

Councilmember Gurney suggested it could be person at a time to the Mayor and not a group conversation.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Very receptive to all of the input, to all of the public comments, to the suggestions for some alternative places to go for some thoughts and information.
- Will happily move on to our next item from this one but before we go to that item, we've been here now for two plus hours.

**City Council Action: None Taken.**

**Minute Order Number: 2020-145**

**Resolution Number: 6305-2020**

Mayor Slayter called for a break at 8:03 am and reconvened the meeting at 8:16 pm.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- Just as a point of order, I wanted to let you know that item number three, that I took off that consent calendar about the budget, is a question related to the last two weeks' discussion and I think many of the people participating tonight were part of that discussion and would be interested to participate in the question that I'm going to ask of the budget subcommittee.
- Requested if the Council could take item number three after item number seven and hopefully those people will stay with us before we shift to small business issues and internal public works issues.

Mayor Slayter commented the Council could consider that after item number 7.

7. Discussion and Consideration of Actions for Black Lives Matter Movement Art Proposal. A Special Public Arts Committee Meeting has been scheduled for Monday, July 6, 2020 at 10:30 am to discuss potential ideas for an art proposal. A report from that meeting will be presented with this agenda item with recommendations to be considered from the City Council, Further information will be submitted to the Council and public at this meeting (Responsible Department: Planning Director)

Planning Director Svansson presented the agenda item.

Adana provided additional comments.

- Sophomore at Analy High School and a resident in Sebastopol.
- With a group called the Black Lives Matter Visibility Team.
- Would like to paint Black Lives Matter in the central Plaza near the peace wall in Sebastopol.
- Our goal is to get this done as soon as possible to show our solidarity with the BLM movement.
- We would like to bring together community members to make this a fun, inspiring community project.

- Hopefully, we can turn this project into a teaching and learning experience that is inclusive of everyone.
- This project is important to us because we really want to bring unity and support to Sebastopol.
- Wanted to bring to light that racism is very alive in Sebastopol and not only can racism be clearly harboring a hate for a specific race, but it can also be passive and micro aggressive.
- Racism is a complex system of oppression that we knowingly and unknowingly contribute to.
- We believe if we get the community to come out and show their support and really put some of their own creativity into a greater picture, not only will we form a tighter bond within the community, but we will also inspire other cities to do the same.
- Having a beautiful permanent piece of art located in such a central area, such as central and meaningful area, will hopefully raise awareness and spark necessary conversations.
- This movement to end police brutality and the oppression of black people that has been prominent in America for nearly four centuries needs to be recognized in a permanent way in our town.
- When protests and conversations about brutality begin to fade, we need some reminder to continue to fight for change.
- Black lives matter is a movement, not a moment.
- We want visitors that come to Sebastopol to stop and appreciate our work.
- We want everyone to feel welcomed and represented in this community.
- We need something that sparks conversation in everyone for a long time.
- When the youth in Sebastopol become the leaders of Sebastopol, we want them to be able to show their kids that they live in a place that stands up against injustice.
- We live in peace town so we need our voices to be heard.
- If there is no justice, there can be no peace.
- We have clearly considered the logistics of this project to make sure the painting goes smoothly and the end result is admirable.
- Public Arts committee, board member, Jen Vertz, and the rest of our team have put in lots of time and care into our design plans.
- We have come up with ways to ensure the paint stays within the designated area.
- Our event coordinator, Dezi Kai, is working on sending out a virtual flyer.
- It helps to get more community participation and we will also begin to contact local teachers and schools for support.
- We would like to give a huge thanks for hearing us out and supporting our project.
- We appreciate you all so much for everything you do for our community.
- Thanked the City Council.

Jen Vertz provided additional comments.

- Want to say that it was a real honor that we got this chance to even be able to take a look at this project and help in any way that we could.
- Think that we can do a really great job.
- We can tape off those bricks and keep them protected.
- This is just the plain concrete sidewalk part that we could do here this way.
- We don't block off the parking spots or the roadway as well, which was something that was kind of in consideration.

- Nobody's going to be impacted by closing a street.
- Really proud of the initiative and the leadership that the entire group has shown.
- Really proud to be working with all of them and it's absolutely just been an honor to meet all of them and just be a part of this group.
- Thank you for everything that you've done, and I'm really proud to be a part of it.
- It was a unanimous vote from our end to donate the money from the Public Arts committee budget to this.
- Think everybody's really proud to see this happen.

Mayor Slayter asked for questions.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Don't think anybody said anything about these hands, these hand prints on here and a description of what this project includes.
- There are the words, but then it looks like we have a lot of hands there.
- Just wanted to see if anyone had wanted to talk about that or how you were going to do that, or what your thoughts were about those hand prints on the artwork.

Adana commented as follows:

- Idea was to have maybe just a few people, the few people in our group to paint the Black Lives Matter, or at least do the first coat and then when that dries, we want to bring as many community members as want to join and really have them literally put their hands on the project.
- We'd really think that it would bring the community together to have them put their mark on our piece of art.
- We're trying to have it a little more structured.
- We're going to send out virtual flyers and things like that.
- Whoever wants to join, we're going to have paint and stuff and we're going to make it a fun activity.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- The question that comes up and this probably can't be answered, but it's a hypothetical.
- It is a question that comes up for me, is what is David Ward's mother going to think about this?
- David Ward was killed under the same situation as George Floyd.
- He was strangled to death.
- There were officers standing by and not intervening.
- The same exact situation, same age nearly.
- When George Floyd, who was killed by the police, we shut down our intersection for nine minutes and now we're going to do this big mural in the town square.
- If you know David board's mother, she's very progressive and very spiritual and I just don't know what she would think about this.
- I'm of the opinion that it should be more inclusive.
- The artwork that is, that includes everybody.
- What is she going to think about this?

Dezi commented as follows:

- We really want to be inclusive of everyone.
- Think that for this right now moment, we are super focused on black lives because they're at risk right now.
- They're being harmed and they have been for so long.
- Obviously, we do, we want to be inclusive of everybody, but really putting out that statement and then having community come in and do the hands, they don't have to be just a hand print, people can write things in them.
- Just want to say, it's a hard line of being, we really want to be inclusive of everybody, but I think at this moment in time, we really have to stand up and be like black lives matter because they haven't mattered for so long.
- That's what's being shown in our country right now, but we do still want it to be inclusive.
- We would love to hear feedback maybe from his mom or anybody else.
- Just take that into consideration too.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- I appreciate that.
- I have reached out to the United Methodist church because they have the retaining walls there at the corner of North Main and Healdsburg that are totally open.
- I talked to them about maybe utilizing that as the place where we could do a beautiful mural.
- Maybe in the future, we could do that.
- I've also thought that it would be to invite David Ward to participate in our review of the police policies, to invite his mother to participate.
- That could open up a wound, but it also helps heal the wound.
- Also, Jeremiah Chass, his family as well.
- I think that they are really important voice in our review of the policy.
- When my comment at the last meeting was, was there ever a time when Pomo lives mattered?
- We stole all the Pomo's land and now we, as the City Council, we give them a resolution for the month saying it's Pomo heritage month, but you know, it's just a piece of paper and it's just a hollow.
- Want to try to avoid that and want to have something that's more, has more sustenance to it and more meaning that will last for a lot longer.

Mayor Slayter opened for public comment.

Honora commented as follows:

- This is so exciting.
- I'm so glad that the youth are going to do this project. I think it's fantastic.
- I would put forth that Mr. Carnacchi has an interesting question and I would say it somewhat misses the point of what the art installation is about.
- It's not that we're trying to say, let's raise up black lives.
- It's saying let's get rid of the oppression that has kept black people down for so long, kept people of color down for so long.

- Kept people like David Ward, put him in a position where he was killed by police oppression.
- Mistakes made by white people who were acting from their way training.
- A Black Lives Matter banner really symbolizes all of that.
- I definitely can't speak for David Ward's mother, nor can any of us in this meeting.
- But the thing that's going on in our country is that we're trying to get rid of that oppression at its base root level.
- We're not trying to just give something to the Pomo, give something to the black people, give someone to the gay people.
- We're trying to say, let's change the white people and what we have supported for so long.
- Let's look at ourselves and just pull the rug out.
- Let's pull out the roots of what is causing all of this, causing David Ward's deaths, causing black people and brown people to be killed in incredible numbers through this country and all the different pieces of that.
- So yeah, it's a bit missing the point and I totally understand where the question is coming from also, but it requires more examination.

Peter Mancus commented as follows:

- This is a big pivotal if, any part of public taxpayer money is used to subsidize or pay for the cost of this black, pro black lives movement mural, I object.
- Promise you, I will do my best to find a very competent law firm to sue the city to stop it.
- My reasons are sound.
- It is well established law that no government official can directly or indirectly use taxpayer money to promote any point of view for or against anything or any group versus another group.
- It's elementary.
- The government must remain neutral.
- This is an absolute prohibition.
- What you people are planning on doing if taxpayer money is involved, violates the first and 14th amendment.
- It's my understanding that what's under consideration is appropriating a thousand dollars for the mural.
- I have no problem with non-taxpayer money being used in any amount to build a mural about any subject.
- If it's only a \$1000 and you people are all for it, come up with your donations and pay for it.
- It's a serious breach of trust for the government, which is supposed to remain neutral and represent all citizens equally, to selectively use taxpayer money to support one point of view, as opposed to another.
- It's a dangerous political game that smacks of the politics of identification.
- It violates equal treatment.
- It opens up Pandora's box.
- Even though I object, if you do appropriate any amount of taxpayers' money, I'm going to demand the same amount of money be appropriated to me and any other citizen who wants money to create a mural for any point of view that they champion.
- I disagree with the young lady's statement, who says racism is clearly alive in Sebastopol.
- I've lived here since 84.

- I haven't experienced it.
- Mr. Carnacchi has said something similar, building a mural is an empty symbolic gesture.
- It's not going to end police brutality.
- The people who are championing this, for the reasons given with all due respect, in my opinion, are living in la la land and they are constitutional illiterates.

Sara Willis commented as follows:

- I'm been resident here for about seven years and I'm helping out with this project.
- It's just logistics.
- First generation from here and really supportive
- We really hope that with this statement and art for the community to come together is a way to unite everyone that has lost a loved one in with oppression and racism and police brutality in all the ways.
- We would definitely want them to be included, the families if they want to.
- It's a very inclusive project.
- Think with having it just being really organized and safe for this time with COVID to start there, because it starts as building visualization and coming to the streets and then going from there to more profound, even more profound ways with politics and governance in the city and Sebastopol.
- We've spoken with numerous students who've experienced racism in Analy and in other schools, locally here in different ways with microaggressions to more aggressive ways.
- This would be just a really profound way to bring the community together.
- Just wanted to share that and kind of like emphasize the organization that will take place and the safety behind it, working with everybody, gloves, masks and things like that.
- Just creating a beautiful event for everyone to be a part of and hopes that it also inspires to get more involved and just be more present with what's happening and systematic race systemic racism in our system and everything about that.
- Just wanted to say that, and I'm really proud of everyone that's come together to support for this.

Jann commented as follows:

- I just have to congratulate the people who spoke tonight and I say young, just cause they're younger than I am.
- These are mature adults.
- These are well thought out, articulate, constitutionally savvy adults.
- This is a community action.
- Mr. Mancus's comments only validate the reason that six and seven are on the agenda tonight.
- I really think that the city is taking a really good stand.
- This is about community.
- We know each other, we embrace each other.
- Let's do that.
- Dezi was so articulate, all the best.

Celosia commented as follows:

- Think this is a really complicated topic.

- First, I want to say, I love the hearts of all the young people and I appreciate the good intentions.
- I know my good friend Hook Buggy was out by Whole Foods and he met a bunch of people.
- And I think that could be this group based on what he was telling me about the arts.
- And he was so happy.
- He was so jazzed.
- And I just want to let you all know that, personally I'm from the Bay area.
- I grew up around a lot of different races and different kinds of people and cultures.
- And personally, I think black lives hella matter, but I also am aware that there's a difference between the corporation of Black Lives Matter and the movement towards justice and calling out the wrongdoing of the police abuse that's been in the history of our country and the BLM riots have led many people, many deaths, including an 8-year-old girl in Atlanta.
- I think it's really important that we think about affiliation because I personally don't agree with being affiliated with the organization of the BLM when what we see is black lives getting killed as a result of these riots.
- That is alarming to me.
- I don't know if anybody's on Twitter here, but if you haven't seen the numerous videos of black people jumping white people, it's astounding and alarming.
- And I was 12 and 14 when I got jumped.
- One time at school and one time just in, I guess, I didn't think it was the wrong part of Oakland, but it wasn't fun.
- Just think we need to be really cautious about using the term, because it means a lot of things for a lot of different people.
- Just want to close by asking two questions.
- How is this helping black America?
- And is the statement inclusive?

Paris commented as follows:

- I'm a new resident of Sebastopol, and I just want to say that I really support the Black Lives Matter movement.
- Think it's so important.
- Think we need to listen to the young people in this community, and we need to listen to people of color in this community about what they need from us and how we can act in allyship to support them.
- It's very disheartening to hear people bringing up comments about their personal experience, which is coming from a place of privilege and has nothing to do with what these young people are trying to bring about in this community.
- The awareness that they're trying to bring to systemic racism, which is very real, and it exists everywhere.
- It exists in Sebastopol and putting this mural out in the public square, where everyone can see it means that this community is standing up for black lives.
- We're not doing that, this is literally the least thing that we can do.
- The least thing that we can do to show our support.

- Think it's so important and I would donate \$500 or \$1,000 if that's what it takes to get this up in our city.
- That's how important I think it is.

West commented as follows:

- Wanted to voice my support for this.
- Been a part of this and I'm so heart-warmed to feel the community come and support this and also the youth lead this.
- I'm a new resident of Sebastopol, and I'm white and as a white person, I know that there's no way I could actually understand the experience of the people of color in this community.
- Would just want to extend that knowledge out to the white people here who are saying, yeah, their personal experiences.
- There's no way you're going to know and you have to listen.
- That's what we have to do.
- If you're white, especially male, you really don't have any much experience with that.
- Would just encourage you to really listen to what...
- These are high school students.
- They're telling you; I've had this experience here.
- It's not great.
- There's racism everywhere.
- Experiences all the time.
- We need something like this to, even just baseline, have people feel comfortable in this community.
- Honestly, white supremacy is alive and well here, like, very alive and well.
- This is the base minimum that we can do.
- Hope it goes far beyond this, in this community.
- Thankful for the community members who are backing this and who understand

Council Deliberations:

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- May be missing the \$1,000 number.
- Re-looked at my agenda item, and it didn't say a number in there - maybe that was thrown out. I do think that's a minimum.
- This is coming from our Public Arts Fund.
- I was surprised if that's really all it's going to cost, and I would be willing to support it at a bigger level if needed.
- I think that it's art, it's a sign of the times and I'm super thrilled that our youth has envisioned this. And thank you, Vice Mayor Glass for pointing out the hands. My screen's so small. I couldn't quite see what was actually going on. It was great to have that pointed out, but I'm excited.
- I'm excited to hopefully participate.
- I think it couldn't come at a better time for our community.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- Had a similar comment about cost.
- I'm wondering to Adana, Dezi, Jen, how far does the \$1,000 go?
- Do you have an estimate that is something beyond \$1,000 that we can work with tonight?
- Are we talking about a project that really is a \$5,000 project, but nobody's said that?
- I don't understand as Councilmember Hinton was also asking where the \$1,000 came from and is it enough?

Jen Vertz commented as follows:

- We did contact Public Works to see if there was some paint that we could purchase through them as far as striping paint goes, and we did contact Home Depot and a few other places in counts and affordable striping paint.
- Don't think we're going to need a ton.
- I know that these guys have another project in the works after this one.
- I think for this one, we kind of estimated this as a good number.
- I personally think myself and some other people, if it does go over \$1,000, I would be happy to throw in some myself.
- I do think this is a decent amount to get this project done

Councilmember Carnacchi questioned if someone could answer the questions about how is this helping black America (the project) and is this statement inclusive?

Adana commented as follows:

- This is helping black America because we are recognizing black Americans and we are supporting them.
- We are lifting them up and voicing the struggle that they have gone through their whole lives and for centuries.
- So that is how that's helping black America.
- It is inclusive.
- For those of you that don't understand exactly.
- The Black Lives Matter movement is it's not saying black lives are more important than any other lives.
- That's not what it's saying.
- It's saying that white lives have been a priority for so long and black lives need to be held to the same equality.
- So basically, Black Lives Matter is fighting for equality and we're trying to lift up black lives and give them a platform for voicing their struggle that they've gone through.
- And it's really trying to be inclusive.

Dezi commented as follows:

- I think that is really important for this community, especially because a lot of people of color, especially black people in our community, they really do feel excluded.
- We have experienced a lot of racism in school and maybe not necessarily conscious racism from people.

- There's a lot of stares and looks that we get from people from just walking down the street.
- I definitely think that it is important to add to America and we can contribute to helping make that change just one city at a time.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- I've given this a lot of thought over the years and I have a little thought experiment that I do.
- Where I take say 20 Mason jars, and I fill them up with water, that's equal to the same percentage of water in each of our bodies. So that you have them all sealed.
- You have 20 jars.
- We're all there.
- They're all filled with the exact same amount of water.
- They're all exactly the same.
- Then I have a sheet of labels, like the little stick on labels that you can peel off and a Sharpie.
- And I write on there, "Republican" and I stick that on one of the bottles.
- "Democrat" -- stick that on the bottle.
- "Pro-life."
- "Pro-choice."
- "Black."
- "Asian."
- "White."
- "Gay."
- So many different labels that we come up with until all of a sudden, all 20 of those jars now that were exactly identical, they all are different.
- In some cases, you have to separate them. And as a matter of fact, just by virtue of the label.
- So I think as Council members, we should be coming up with policy that allows us to strip off those labels and to see what's really at the core that the one thing that we most share in common is that we're all made up this, whatever percentage.
- I'm not sure of the percentage of water, but that is taken this form, no matter what color you are or what sex or what your political beliefs are.
- At the core, we are all the same.
- I think that this particular label that we're going to put across our plaza is just that.
- I think that it's hard for me to say that I definitely am not opposed to it, but I'm not for it either.
- When it comes time to vote, I'm not going to abstain from this because I think that we should be looking at ways of making our Council more inclusive.
- Where we have representatives from different ethnicities to represent the community, and then we could have term limits, would be one way of doing that.
- We could have what's called a single transferable vote for proportional representation, which is how the mayor of San Francisco got elected actually.
- We could have the mayor, could be an elected position once every two years.
- I think that, that would create a larger turnover on Council.
- We would have a more representative government of what the actual dynamic of our population actually is.
- To the comments of Dezi, had said that it's mostly ignorance, I think is what you're seeing in the racism that is happening.

- It is true that there is racism in Analy High School.
- We all have seen it.
- We all seen the federal law suits, but I think that the key word there is really ignorance.
- This is a really difficult subject to talk about.
- I think that we should be thinking in the larger picture of how we can actually create policy that allows us to see who we are and that we're all the same instead of creating...
- I think this creates a little bit more division in our community, by saying what we're saying and putting a label across there.
- It's not that I am against it or that I am for it.
- I'm definitely going to abstain when this comes to a vote on this, because it's so difficult.
- I think it requires more conversation to squash that up now.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- My first comment is great artists thought provoking and it is controversial.
- It gets people engaged with thinking about the issues of the day.
- It gets people to think about how the meaning of a piece to them personally.
- So great art is kind of like a big Rorschach test.
- Like the blob looks like this to me, but it looks like that to you.
- Then as you experienced that, then it gives you the ability or the experience, the opportunity to reflect on what that means about yourself and what that means about what your values are.
- I just want to say that about art, but we can say that we're all the same and that all of us have skin and bones and water in our bodies and this and that.
- We may intellectually believe that, but that doesn't change that a lot of these kids have had different experiences.
- Their experience in their high school may have been somebody making a snide comment behind their back or to their face or little disrespectful events has been happening to them all their lives.
- They are used to walking down the aisle in the grocery store and having everybody grab their purse or those kinds of things that, that we know happen to people of color.
- That doesn't happen to me. I do realize that when they're telling me that those things happen to them, I do recognize that they're not making it up. It's true. A lot of us don't want to look at that.
- We want to say, "Yeah, we live in peace town. We live in this bubble and things like that don't happen here."
- Well, it doesn't happen to me because I'm a white, upper middle-class person with a college education and it doesn't happen to me. But that doesn't mean it's not happening to them.
- The point isn't that as they very articulately said, is not that black lives are more important than other people. It's recognizing that historically they have been undervalued, that historically they have been massively disproportionately killed in various situations. That's what this is.
- When we put this in our community, this is a reminder, this is setting our community standard.
- This is saying that us white folks, we're not going to go along with this anymore.
- We're not going to go along with the snide comments and the obnoxious actions that are going on in the hallways of our schools or at the grocery store or at the bank or whatever.
- We're going to say, "We're allies, and we're not putting up with us anymore."
- That's what we're doing.

- I think that the people actually thinking that they're racially superior is not really all that common probably here in Sebastopol.
- But that's not just the problem. The problem is standing up for saying, what's right.
- Standing up for saying, it's not okay with me. Saying I'm going to take responsibility for stopping this now and making sure that everybody's a part of our community and that we don't sweep the history under the rug. We don't pretend those things didn't happen. That we actively work to make sure they don't happen anymore. That we're putting the few people that do engage in this kind of behavior on notice.
- That, that's not okay in our community. It's not part of our community standard. That its bad behavior.
- It's totally not okay.
- That's what we're saying by doing a project like this.
- We're also saying that all those people with their hand prints, that they're allies, that they're a part of this and that we as a community, on us, white folks and Latino folks.
- And all these other folks are saying, "Yes, we're putting our stamp on this.
- We want to participate. We want to be allies and say, let it stops here, it stops now."
- We're going to stand up and demand that these kinds of community standards are part of our everyday life.
- A question for our City Manager, as I understand it, the public arts committee and the public arts fund is entirely funded by developer fees.

Director Svanstrom commented as follows:

- Yes, the art fund comes from large commercial projects as part of a development cost.
- They can either do the art on-site or contribute to that fund.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Thank you for that clarification.
- I think that, that's important to know that this isn't general fund money.
- This is money that is a development fee, that does not come from taxpayers.
- It comes from people who are doing large development projects.
- In my extremely word heavy resolution item in the middle section City Council recognizes other groups of people are also marginalized based on gender, sexual orientation, class, religion, and age, among other factors.
- Focusing on racial equity provides the opportunity for government to create frameworks, tools, and resources that can, and must also be applied to all marginalized people.
- When the question of is this equitable came up, that's kind of the way that I'm looking at it is yes, it is equitable.
- It brings a voice to folks who have not oftentimes in our society had much of a voice.
- And the difference in perception of when I am going to a regional board meeting or in the old days when I would go to meetings. And I would wear not necessarily a suit and a tie, but certainly a neck tie and some kind of businessman looking type clothing. And the difference in people's perception as I walked down the street, wearing those clothes, versus if I've been doing what I honestly really sometimes would rather be doing, which is making sawdust and getting greasy.

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- And crawling under the house used to be a lot more fun than it is now, but it's still kind of fun to crawl underneath there and fix the plumbing or the electrical system every so often.
- And the difference in perception of me going to the hardware store, wearing dirty clothing.
- And I realized that, that's not even 1/1,000th of what the perception is, but it's something that I am able to notice in my existence as a white male in very white Sebastopol.
- And it's like this tiny little sliver of insight that allows me to have an incredible sympathy and understanding for people who do not have the ability to.
- It's not a change of clothing.
- You can't take off Latinx skin and put on white skin.
- It's impossible.
- You are who you are and you are who you are matters in this community.
- This is a, I believe a community value statement.
- It's not saying that there's some detriment to others.
- No, it's celebrating others.
- I'm looking at it from a wide perspective.
- I think what the vice mayor said is accurate.
- I agree with her.

Mayor Slayter moved and Councilmember Gurney seconded the motion to approve:

- Design of art as submitted
- \$1000 for project

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

VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmember Gurney, Hinton, Vice Mayor Glass and Mayor Slayter

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: Councilmember Carnacchi

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- I want to mention an opportunity for our youth, particularly.
- I think this will be important.
- It's on a little different subject, but it is related.
- We now have a vacancy on a Region Wide Citizen Advisory committee for the RCPA, the Regional Climate Protection Authority.
- This would give a youth from Sebastopol the opportunity to speak on climate issues.
- Who's going to inherit the earth. Our youth are going to inherit our earth.
- And this is a chance to speak up about those issues of environmental injustice, social injustice that relate to the climate.
- I would like to direct all youth to the city website and City staff has the application posted there.
- I hope people are interested in our community.
- Social equity is intrinsically tied to climate change, and it's not difficult to find data that shows people of color are heavily disproportionately affected by climate change.
- So that's for me, just another good reason why we need to support these kinds of activities.

**City Council Action: Approved:**

- Design of art as submitted
- \$1000 for project

**VOTE:**

**Ayes:** Councilmember Gurney, Hinton, Vice Mayor Glass and Mayor Slayter

**Noes:** None

**Absent:** None

**Abstain:** Councilmember Carnacchi

**Minute Order Number:** 2020-146

3. Approval of FY 20-21 City of Sebastopol Budget Schedule (Responsible Department: Administrative Services).

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- This is the budget meeting schedule for the review and updating of our fiscal year budget for 2021.
- I have a direct question to the budget subcommittee concerning the meeting schedule.
- Want to hold our audience of people were interested from the last two weeks to get this question.
- noticed there's just one public meeting that's listed in the schedule and it relates to the community grants program.
- We anticipate significant comment in the future on the departmental budgets, and it would seem maybe responsible now, in this significant moment in history, to include one or more public meetings where the budget subcommittee to take comment on the discussion of the draft budget as it relates to departments.
- Was wondering if the budget subcommittee would open up perhaps one public meeting, or we can talk about how the public process might be expanded.
- As the two-member subcommittee is making its decisions and recommendations, we have created an opportunity for the public to participate and participate in the transparency and accountability of our budgeting system.
- Could we add, or would it be appropriate to add, would the subcommittee and be willing to add a public meeting, one or more, to have a review of the departmental budgets available?

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin commented as follows:

- Explained why the departmental reviews are not held in public meetings.
- That's because the type of review of those particular budgets with the department heads contains references to matters that are confidential by reason of being personnel related and other factors.
- Going to suggest to the budget committee it would be certainly possible to have a public meeting before the draft budgets are released to the city Council.
- So, sometime between August 12th and August 28th, there'll be an opportunity in there to have one or more public meetings
- The departmental budgets could be completely discussed at that time.

- Department by department and questions asked or comments taken before it's sent to the city Council.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- Not asking that the internal confidential part be disclosed to the public.
- Obviously we know from our City Manager/city attorney that can't be done, but when the review has happened and there's that opportunity before a recommendation to the Council for the budget subcommittee to consider its decisions, reconsider or make changes think that is a valuable time for the public to speak, and I agree with what the City Manager has just suggested.

Mayor Slayter asked for questions.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- We did cancel the Council meeting as is tradition on the 18th of August.
- That's traditionally a time when we all kind of take a small break.
- Just wanted to point that out, that I'm fine with doing a public meeting, but looking at my calendar, we might want to then push back the budget to when it comes to the full Council, unless we're not going to cancel that Council meeting.
- I know the vice mayor and I dedicated the beginning of August for this process.
- Traditionally, the end of August is a time that the Council takes a break.
- If we're trying to get the budget to the full Council on September 1st, then maybe it makes sense to push that public hearing back by two weeks and move the calendar back, just logistics wise, looking at dates.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I think it's a good idea to have a public meeting as a budget subcommittee is deliberating over what final numbers we come up with.
- As we know, the budget process this year has been super wacky because we don't even know how much money we have coming in.
- Everything is up in the air.
- That's why we have less public input than normal because we haven't even had the departmental presentations yet.
- Let's have a meeting where the public can watch our deliberations and participate in them, make public comment, but let's not stick it in the middle of this break time that we had actually kind of lined up on our calendars.
- Can we figure out a date that's going to work for the public that gives us that little break in there, and that it's going to fit in, in the overall continuum of the budget process, because we also need to remember that what's odd about this year is that this is more like a midyear budget review than the actual regular budget process, because we're doing this part way through the year.

Mayor Slayter opened for public comment. There were none.

Council Deliberations:

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- I want to recall that canceling the second meeting in August was always contingent on there not being important work to do otherwise.
- It has been possible to re calendar that meeting if there was something we needed to do, and this might be the year, given all the events of COVID, the sort of economic free fall, black lives matter, where we do have more work to do, and we may want to stay on a schedule and we may want to allow the public in.
- Think a valid argument can be made for holding the second meeting in August and keeping ourselves at work on a schedule.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- I don't think any of us are flying anywhere, but the reason for the traditional break at the end of August is following a heavy staff load of workload that that gets through budget that spring time and early summer are always very busy for Council - It's not just these meetings.
- We Council members all certainly know how hard our city staff works, and now they're all working incredibly hard, oftentimes from their kitchen tables with children and spouses and all that going on as well.
- It's not uncommon to receive an email from a senior staff member, who shall remain unnamed, that has a timestamp of some not normal kind of hour where you're awake.
- I think that we need to recognize that.
- I know that we do, but we need to keep that in mind, and what I will offer as far as agenda setting is we will keep all of these in consideration.
- And if the workflow leads us to that conclusion, then that is a valid conclusion to hold a meeting.
- If we can continue to manage the workload that allows staff to take a bit of a breather, and honestly, the Council a bit of a breather. This is our fourth Tuesday in a row, and some of us have day jobs, or are trying to have day jobs. So, we have to keep that in mind too.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- It sounds like the budget subcommittee wants to roll this matter from September 1st to the 15th
- After the 15th, we have an extra Tuesday.
- That would also provide a little breather if we moved this work over, we've got some extra time in September.
- The important thing to me is to have that moment for the public to have another opportunity for transparency, accountability, input, the wisdom of the community, going into the values, going into the budget as it comes again to the Council for more public review.
- I appreciate the budget subcommittees interest in the idea.

Councilmember Gurney moved and Vice Mayor Glass seconded the motion to direct the budget subcommittee to include an additional budget sub-committee meeting for the public prior to the budget coming to the City Council.

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

VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmember Carnacchi, Gurney, Hinton, Vice Mayor Glass and Mayor Slayter

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

**City Council Action: Directed the budget sub-committee to include an additional budget sub-committee meeting for the public prior to the budget coming to the City Council.**

**Minute Order Number: 2020-142**

8. Discussion and Consideration of Direction to Staff on City Small Business Loan Program  
(Requestor: Councilmember Hinton/Responsible Department: Administrative Services)

Councilmember Hinton presented the agenda item.

Mayor Slayter asked for questions.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Did you check in with CoMission regarding the survey results that they got?
- Did you talk with them about what kind of assistance the businesses that have been surveyed said that they might be needing?
- I think we surveyed 165 businesses and that a large percentage of them, over 50%, have laid off a substantial number of their personnel.
- We know our businesses are having problems, but was there any information indicating this would be helpful?

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- Have not spoken directly with commission about this specific agenda item.
- Have spoken merchants downtown, just personally, over the last few months, trying to bring this forth
- Know that businesses need help, but I haven't spoken with CoMission specifically about the results of their survey in preparation for the agenda item.
- Certainly, could look at that.
- May need to bring this back to the Council once we get feedback

Mayor Slayter opened for public comment.

Jann commented as follows:

- This is very exciting.
- It's something that needs to move very quickly.
- Councilmember Hinton has done a lot of work in perusing the packet.
- There were a lot of fill in the blanks.
- I don't like the idea that the business has seemed to be begging for anything.
- They're looking for support, and I don't speak for other lion's share of them, I speak for a small part of the community, but this is a vibrant part. This is very important part.
- What I'm hearing, week to week, sometimes day to day, this is a very bumpy road and it is not going to level out.
- I would hope that a couple things happen that you put some numbers in those holes.

- Discussed Funds - Discussed criteria
- These are businesses who a lot of them taking the time tonight, I see them drift in and out of the lineup, and the thing is to close this gap between city hall and the businesses and not just downtown businesses, it's all throughout, is agonizing because it's like watching a train wreck in real time and the summer, and we all appreciate your hard work and the fact that you didn't sign on for this, dear God.
- You didn't sign on for the fires, you didn't sign onto the flood, and here you are, and you're hanging in there and we appreciate that and I know I speak for a lot of people.
- The thing is, is this is real, and we don't know what to do.
- Put some numbers to it, give us something to look forward to and close that gap.

Linda Collins commented as follows:

- Thank you very much for bringing this to the forefront.
- I think it is extremely important that our businesses, north, south and the downtown know that the City of Sebastopol in its entirety is behind them.
- We did something very similar when this first happened to our community and worked with rotary and we were able to do mini grants to them, and we did a total of 16,200, and it was a very quick and painless process for our businesses.
- I did it as well with the Burnsville chamber of commerce when we had our floods.
- It can be a very simple, easy process, and I think that Neysa, my hat is off to you for really digging in and getting underneath this.
- I think it's very important that this happens quickly and that our merchants know that we truly do care about them.
- And I don't know that we need to understand all of the details of what they're fighting for.
- The ones that I have talked to, which is many, it's PG&E.
- It's helping to pay partial rent.
- All of those types of things that are encumbered to our businesses.
- My hat is off to you really appreciate it.
- I'll do anything I can to assist in making this move forward quickly.

Rei commented as follows:

- Thank you, Councilmember Neysa for doing the leg of research and looking through the packet on what you found
- It is super detailed and great organization and suggestions on the different tiers.
- I would second the consideration to reduce the number of employees for the first tier and perhaps even a third tier to break up the first tier to three employees and less perhaps, and then up to six or 10, and then something beyond that just as what the comment that our town has small businesses.
- I know several that would only have one employee.
- For them to have a better chance at receiving money would be better to have a smaller tier pool of people that would be, I guess, how it gets distributed.
- Otherwise there is just that need from so many, for different reasons to receive funds.
- And then just to be acknowledged by the city for their struggles and to have this offer is huge.

- Thank you for doing that and good luck on getting it out there and letting the businesses know that this is an option for them.

Council Deliberations:

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- It looks like we have a wide variety of suggestions
- The largest question of course is what's the largest number?
- It's a little difficult to analyze this without knowing.
- Absolutely appreciate the words from our small business community and the small business owners and the ED of the chamber, who are living this day in and day out.
- Realize that me saying I need more data, that doesn't help you guys.
- I also feel like I don't know what would be helpful in a lot of ways.
- More is better than less, but what does that equate to and I'm just having a little difficulty with that.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- Think there's a couple of basic considerations.
- One is would we want to do grants?
- Do we want to do interest free loans?
- Think that's for the council to decide.
- With an interest free loan, it seems like we could do a larger amount because the risk to the city is very small.
- Grant or low interest loan, and then how much money the council might be willing to put in either of those scenarios.
- If I favor loan, I think we could come up with more money, less risk to the city.
- If the council gives direction, I could work with Ana to bring it back with some details, lined out, and get some feedback from CoMission
- We can make a final decision if we could get it on agenda review in two weeks.
- Didn't want to do anything without some direction.
- Reason why there are blank spaces

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- Had a concern about the legal justification for grants.
- Now, I noticed that the grant amounts are small.
- I do agree with council member Hinton, that appears that with less risk alone, the amounts could be a lot larger.
- I don't know the justification for the grants.
- We give grants normally where there's an overriding public policy.
- I think you could probably find a public policy in saving small businesses.
- I'm not saying you could not do grants legally, but traditionally they've been for our nonprofits and other good works in the community, then how we've justified grants.
- I have no issue with loans.

- When I first looked into this, I was very familiar with the Healdsburg program and I felt very confident with that because it was a loan approach.
- I'm not saying you can't do grants.
- I am saying though, if you want to go that route, that may take a bit more review to make sure we're on solid ground there.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- I appreciate all the work that's gone into this.
- It's so much to take in at once.
- Especially for me, when I have questions, not being a member of the budget subcommittee, watching us go in economic free fall here.
- It's not just the small businesses that are going to be affected by that.
- Their declining revenue is the city's decline in revenue.
- I have no idea yet what our standing is for what I would call the last quarter of the last fiscal year, the June 30th numbers.
- I'm not sure we understand how to project for the next year.
- When I see the number for the reserves, I don't know if I should believe that.
- And in my mind, as we look to the budget subcommittee, starting its inquiries in August and coming back in September, my worry is that we need to know how our city will be staffed.
- Do we have such a hit as to our revenue that we need to lay people off?
- We have a very skeletal staff as it is that does such high-quality work.
- I can't imagine that we can afford to lose anybody.
- Everybody seems like they're doing essential services for us.
- I just don't know what all we can afford.
- If this other issue of the percentage in the budget of the police department.
- And we're also looking at the work that CoMission has done.
- For me, I think there are a number of positive suggestions that one, for example, Jann at Gypsy came up with, if the city could take the match off the facade improvement program then the businesses could do those facade improvements or be more induced to do them with city help in that way, that's the kind of effort that would enhance everybody's business.
- If the street frontage looked really vibrant and looked really sharp, instead of shabby, I'd be very much in favor of putting money in that direction. That was one business owner's idea.
- I don't know whatever information CoMission has, is to the needs of the businesses.
- I'm sure there's a certain desperation now with these challenging economic times, I'm not sure that the better expense to pay is a PG&E bill or rent that's behind.
- What we want to do is invest in the future vitality in a way that is going to survive.
- We need to work to close that gap between city hall and the business community.
- We're going to have to find a way to do it.
- That is responsible to our use of public funds and also responsible to their vitality.
- That's what I would really like us to focus on, something that enhances the collaborative nature of our business community, where the investment can be longer lasting.
- The facade improvement suggested by Jann at Gypsy. I thought was a really good one.
- There are a lot of good ideas here.

- Rei had another good idea and that was scaling the numbers down because we don't have that many businesses that have 5 employees or 10 employees or more.
- I think all of this is so deserving of more thought.
- I'd like us to figure out a way to assist Councilmember Hinton and Administrative Services Director Kwong or perhaps a bigger group in moving it forward beyond tonight.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- Received the same email about the Gypsy facade.
- Think what I hear from businesses are everybody needs something different.
- Gypsy might need a facade discount right now, but somebody else might need something else.
- If we could let Director Kwong address this because she is our financial person, how she got to the number, which is reported on page three of her estimated final balance of the fund balance.
- How she got there for next June, because I don't believe this would jeopardize any staffing.
- I feel like that was set on a strong basis from our financial budget person who I trust.

Administrative Services Director Kwong commented as follows:

- When the City Council adopted the carry over budget in June, that's where the 3 million come from the fund balance of the \$1.5 million budget adopted in a hole.
- Granted that moving forward, if the deficits stay at 1.5, and the revenue is projected the way that it is right now, then that's where that \$3 million fund balance will stay.
- If the deficit from the other department coming in of their requested budget for 2021 is more than 1.5 million in a hole, then that number will change.
- So that table was a snapshot at the projection that we have for 2021, that City Council adopted a budget.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I'm rather frustrated.
- I won't say disappointed but frustrated that we just invested in surveying 165 businesses and that the basis of this request is not starting with that information.
- Frustrated when I hear businesses, having the impression that the city needs to do this in order to have the businesses understand that the City's with them and that we support our businesses.
- When the COVID thing first started, I said, we need to get somebody pronto deluxe to help our business community apply for PPP money to apply for idle money, to apply for business loans, because that's what providing that kind of technical assistance is what we can really do the best in order to leverage the investment that we have.
- Asked if we have done that
- We have invested in that assistance and somehow this just does not feel like it's using this investment that we had.
- It just feels like we're kind of going around all this work we just invested in.
- I'm not saying I'm opposed to the idea of us creating some, what I would call micro loans for our local businesses, but why aren't we looking into and why aren't we using this information from 165 businesses we surveyed.

- Why aren't we looking at what kind of assistance did in the direct person to person talks that our consultants had with businesses?
- I know they've helped a number of businesses fill out applications for federal loan programs, which is normally local government doesn't provide this kind of assistance because they're so small and it's usually state and federal government that provides that kind of assistance.
- These are extraordinary times. Maybe we need to do something extraordinary.
- But first of all, I'd like to say the mayor and I spent a lot of time trying to figure out how to help by providing technical assistance.
- I get really frustrated with hearing that we haven't done anything. When actually, I spent a lot of time thinking about this and talking to people about this.
- We also made this big investment in surveying 165 businesses to find out what they need.
- I want to know what's the result from that in order to figure out how to craft any kind of micro loan program that we have.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I don't have that information. I was not given that information.
- To my knowledge, the information is not correlated yet.
- It has not been presented to council.
- This agenda item has been in the hopper for a few months.
- What I was looking for tonight, as outlined in the agenda item is direction from the council to try to move it forward.
- I'm happy to bring it back on an agenda item and work with CoMission on what they found out with their work on a final agenda item.
- This has been in draft format and the City Manager will have to address whether that information has been correlated, but it certainly has not been shared with me.
- I presented what I had.

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- Will say that this item was created, because it's something that can be done directly and quickly, and it does utilize the reserves that we have available.
- The whole gist of this item was done by the cities you see in the graph.
- They did something that they could do quite quickly.
- They didn't need necessarily to have all that detailed information.
- They created the loan programs so they could do something quickly.
- I do agree that that information the CoMission has received still is in the progress of being collated.
- Vice Mayor Glass is certainly correct that the first thing we instructed commission to do with these business contacts is to find out if there was anything that these businesses needed right now, that CoMission could help them with.
- Filling out complicated forms, understanding federal programs, and CoMission definitely did that.
- Because of the deadlines with those loans, we had to create something quickly. We did do that.
- It was very successful and helpful to those businesses that availed themselves of that.
- This loan situation is sort of the next tier
- It's still something we can do relatively quickly that provides direct relief now.

- It's some of the work the CoMission does is something that I would say is a little bit longer term.
- It's something that you can do right out the gate

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- I want to acknowledge that the work that's gone into this, the work that I was more involved with and ensuring that CoMission was able to provide services, assistance in those very dense applications.
- All of this, and all the other things that we've all been involved with, these are days that we don't have a roadmap for these kinds of situations.
- I think that tempering everybody's emotions regarding some of this needs to be my counsel, to the council.
- Acknowledging that we're all doing things that will help residents that will help the business community.
- There's not enough data here for me to make a decision, but that doesn't mean that I can't listen to input and consider things and provide useful thoughts
- In this case, for Councilmember Hinton and Administrative Services Director Kwong to be able to do some additional analysis and come back to council with something where the needle isn't swinging quite so wide.
- I see the value in the work that commission does.
- I think that once the survey results are collated, that will inform this type of program.
- Maybe these things are actually on a parallel path and we just don't realize it – Where CoMission's work can inform when this comes back to us in a useful and educated way.
- So I'm not sure what the exact questions that would be useful for Councilmember Hinton on this one, but honestly looking at what other cities have done and their annual general fund budgets and what they have in reserve and no city compares to any other city in any real way.
- The numbers are all over the place. We don't like to compare ourselves to Healdsburg, but sometimes we need to, sometimes we need to compare ourselves.
- I think that looking at a budget number, just so that there's something that is a dart stuck in the wall.
- I think that looking at what we, what we provide in community benefit grants to our nonprofits, somewhere in that neighborhood up to a hundred thousand dollars, I think is where I want to start.
- I'm not saying that's the limit. I'm saying maybe that's where we need to start see what the demand is, see what the data tells us. And if we need to revisit that number, we can do that.
- That's in our purview. As long as we have the bounds that are set around what the rules of the program are.
- If it turns out that we can get a significant return on our money for a little bit more of an investment, my take on it is that a no interest loan, I think is the way we want to be rather than a grant.
- I think it's cleaner as far as government and privately owned business for profit.
- I understand that there may be ways that we can designate that differently, but I think that that gets into some difficulty.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I don't mean to say I'm dismissing this, or this is a terrible idea or something like that.
- It's just that we just made this big investment and if we're going to do something like provide loans, I want to know that it's effective.
- I think Councilmember Hinton indicated that she talked to people from Fairfax and they did thousand-dollar grants, and they said it didn't really do that much good.
- What's the number?
- Are we going to give people three grand and it's so what they go out of business anyway?
- We need to know what could actually be helpful are we capable of giving the level of assistance that can be effective at helping our businesses?
- My question is what does that look like?
- What's that number look like?
- How much does it need to be?
- What does the program need to look like?

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- That's a helpful comment from the Vice Mayor for me, that the use of the money is effective.
- The notion is that we invest in our business community for their vitality.
- That takes me back to the work of CoMission
- Different businesses are going to need different kinds of help.
- I don't live in their responsibilities to understand what would be the best help.
- I'm hopeful that CoMission is going to have some detail on that for us.
- I think the other problem here is that this seems almost like something we need to have a workshop on with more than the council, and yet this zoom meeting format and a big topic late at night, isn't actually going to get us there.
- I'm going to throw out a suggestion and wonder if maybe this should be a single subject meeting where we make an effort to get the report from CoMission, engage our business community and the CoMission report to the council and the council deliberations.
- Our goal has been to unify our business community in a way where it's able to cross market and each one pulls the other one along and up and have that lasting success.
- The notion of effectiveness and investment I think is really critical at this time.
- I think we need more discussion on it and we need the report in from CoMission.
- We need more time to understand the differences between cities that are the differences we're seeing in the programs.
- To compare us to Healdsburg, that's just not us, we're the smallest city in Sonoma County and we have the teensiest budget out of everybody too.
- What can we do? We need to figure out what we can do – that financially responsible to our city operations as well and our other policies.
- I think this is going to bear more discussion.
- I don't know if the idea of a special meeting is a good one or not, but I said the words.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- If we are bringing CoMission back to the next agenda item, is there any reason why we couldn't bring this agenda item back with some of their information for further discussion now that it looks like the council, if we're going to do anything, is at least leaning towards the loan program.
- We could fine tune more suggestion after learning some of the information that CoMission will present.
- I'm not sure what the CoMission report entails.
- The sense of urgency is very real. I think that we all have that.
- I would say that what we will do is look at what CoMission has and I don't know what that is, and we'll get it back on calendar as soon as we possibly can, with the target of two weeks from now.

Councilmember Hinton requested if the item is returned to the Council that it be placed earlier in the agenda.

The Council was in consensus to have this item returned to the Council with additional information.

**City Council Action: No formal vote. Council was in consensus to have this item returned to the Council with additional information.**

**Minute Order Number: 2020-147**

9. Review of City Installation of Banner Permit Program (locations, how usable, maintenance, costs/Street Banner Permit Program Update and Proposal for New Shop/Savor/Play Downtown Banners (Responsible Department: Public Works)

Public Works Superintendent Del Prete presented the agenda item.

Mayor Slayter asked for questions.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- Discussed the new design -- doesn't that conflict a little bit with what is Sip, Shop, Savor, Sebastopol, kind of the kickoff for the whole Interdependence by CoMission.
- Shouldn't it be similar in design?
- Or is it kind of conflicting?
- Shouldn't we have one slogan, and then stick with that, and have that uniform throughout the city?

Superintendent Del Prete commented as follows:

- I did share it with CoMission
- CoMission shared his artwork with me, and they put together the more of a black and white design into a little red heart
- We both agreed that we liked both, and they were on the similar track with not the exact same wording.
- I never did get a chance to reloop back with CoMission but we did share each other's artwork and have a brief conversation about it.
- These banners actually are incorporating two existing banners that we're utilizing now.

- If you're familiar with them, the green banners that say Shop, Dine, Play, and then the yellow ones that are the Experience Sebastopol banners.
- What I wanted to do is get more uniform, and focus on having more locally driven, guided kind of "what is Sebastopol really about?" photos. We incorporated those two ideas into one banner.
- The Experience Sebastopol, and the Shop, Savor, Play are all included in the one design.
- Could we change it to include wording that was more in line with the CoMission statement?
- The final design has not been decided yet.
- What I really want to do is put forward something that, from what I heard from the community that I spoke to, lively colors, local photos, and really give a look that was exciting to the downtown area where the banners are located throughout town.

Mayor Slayter opened for public comment.

Jann commented as follows:

- CoMission, as I understand it, their campaign was about July, 4th of July
- I know that ads were taken out, or at least they were tried, had been placed in various papers, and that campaign is ongoing. I don't know the breadth of it.
- I don't know who's involved as far as subscribers to that.
- The thing is that I think Holly could coordinate this a lot better than a committee of a lot of people getting their hands in this. Holly runs a pretty tight ship, and I think I just trust her with this.
- It is about message, and if I understand Dante's desire to glue these pieces together, and that's great.
- If Experience Sebastopol is being upgraded, and in the sense that that directory, if you go on Experience Sebastopol, that goes to the businesses, and other nonprofits, and ventures in our town.
- I question whether that directory is being updated. I haven't heard anything about it. What I just heard windowed it. That is the call to action, by putting up a banner and saying, "Look at this. Go here." That's the message. That's the point of this. Those things will survive year after year.
- Whereas, I look at the SIP campaign, from CoMission, is more of a limited short-term campaign.
- And while it's fine, in and of itself, I don't think the two are synonymous. They don't blend well with me.
- So the art component to it reflects our town, reflects the art of our town, and the art sensibilities of our town, and the people in our town who perform the arts, who play the arts, who paint the arts.
- We need some kind of art component to this. This is what their town's about.
- I think that those balances, those choices, that you make in any campaign, and if it's an Experience Sebastopol, and that's great, if it goes back to some directory that serves the town.
- I know that Holly's contract is limited, but I think you've got to extend her outside the box. She is the right person at the right time, and she already has it.
- I keep hearing rumors that it gets shifted over to the Community Cultural Center, and I don't think they need it. They've got plenty on their plate.

Rei commented as follows:

- Just wanted to chime in and support Dante's efforts, and his time taken to do research, and connecting the two existing banners, and creating something new and fresh that can be added to our street, and enhance just visually for visitors during this time.
- And as Jann pointed out, that the CoMission Sip, Savor, and Shop campaign is a short term event, and Dante's efforts and his recreating a new banner started way before CoMission's campaign with this; and I feel the two should not be crisscrossed, or tried to match, or make something out of, or included in it.
- I think Dante has a great idea, in that Experience Sebastopol being kept on it, I would support just so that the website is maintained.
- I just went over to it and saw that the what's happening tab doesn't link back to the City of Sebastopol for the list of businesses.
- There's a little internal glitch on that site at the moment.
- So as long as that site is maintained and kept current, as Jan pointed, the last I heard as well, it was going over to the Community Center to be managed so let's just hope that it can be maintained in that.
- But I guess, the design is still happening, so I look forward to seeing that when it's finished.

Council Deliberations:

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- I just wanted to mention, in response to Jann and Rei's questions about the Experience Sebastopol website, the Community Center just took over management of that effective July 1st from Tasha Beauchamp and Cittaslow.
- So they've only had it a really short time, and we have to remember the COVID crisis that the Community Center is in, and know that they will ramp up in that responsibility; but they're not going to be able to just move in there right away, and update a whole business directory, and do everything.
- But they have talked to Dante about that responsibility, and they're excited, and they're online already for a week taking it on.
- I appreciate everybody's comments, and especially Dante's work on this because the program is just, I think, a really valuable one for us.
- People love the banners.
- I like everything about this program, and the upgrade that we have happening before us.
- If I were to suggest one change, I might get away from those worn out words, the Shop, Dine, Play string that you can see in every city. Santa Rosa has it, too. It's not particularly exciting.
- I love the Savor, the word "savor."
- If Holly is going to continue on this project, I would suggest we look for more interesting words that get back to Experience.
- Also, the more interesting images, I had thought about art, and about food, and I think Jann, and Rei, and others mentioned that as well.
- I think if I were going to give some directions and comments to Holly, I would say work on those photos, and an array of photos
- I'm a little hesitant to put a picture, like the one that's on the draft Savor banner, right there with wine bottles in front; because as we learned earlier, let's see, we're a community that has a teen drinking problem, and a teen vaping problem.

- And we know we're not Healdsburg; we can't compete with them.
- I think we should zero in on our identity where we are really strong, and the Center for the Arts provides a lot of that with the Documentary Film Festival, with our popular movie theater, our popular theater.
- If we bring those businesses back with our many artists and musicians, another area that we're really well known for, I think that would be fun to see a little different wording, and a little different photo display.
- And I feel really positive that we are reinvigorating the banners.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Another big part of Sebastopol is hiking, walking, nature, the Laguna, we've got apple blossoms, but I think, "What are our iconic images in Sebastopol?"
- The city entrance sign.
- We are well known for our resolution.
- Well, it's not a resolution, it's in our municipal code that nuclear weapons are not welcome here.
- Well, and we have a radio show about it now, too.
- My input on this is that the actual graphics, the graphic design, I think, is spot on.
- I really appreciate the color palette.
- I would agree that the words maybe can be played around with a little bit.
- I think that we need to make sure that we don't have a Shop, and then it's an empty street front.
- I think that that's kind of a weird dichotomy in that one particular instance, but I realize this is just an example photograph.
- I'm in favor of the resolution, and if it helps provide a little clarity to the program, I think that that's very helpful for everybody.
- The application is incredibly straightforward and reasonable.
- And I think that the base graphic design here is something that can easily be worked on, worked within, to morph into something that is workable for a significant period of time.
- I think that it's clean, it's contemporary, and it's eye catching.
- That we approve the update to the banner program and the general, I suppose, it's just the general proposal for the graphic design; taking in the input from council, and morphing it as needed with the design professionals who are responsible for it.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- Just one last comment.
- Discussed the wayfinding signs and commented on the discussion of if the message goes up or down
- There was a standard practice.
- People read one way, and not the other.
- I think whichever, these should go in the same direction is what I'm suggesting.
- If that's what is the best practice?

Mayor Slayter moved and Councilmember Gurney seconded the motion to approve and adopt the resolution, and the base graphic design of the banners as approved in, with comments from Council to be incorporated.

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

VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmember Carnacchi, Gurney, Hinton, Vice Mayor Glass and Mayor Slayter

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

**City Council Action: Approved and adopted the resolution, and the base graphic design of the banners as approved in, with comments from Council to be incorporated.**

**Minute Order Number: 2020-148**

**Resolution Number: 6306-2020**

#### CITY COUNCIL REPORTS:

10. City Manager-Attorney/City Clerk Reports (Continued):

- Update on COVID 19 Activities. The City Manager will provide an update on status of activities related to COVID 19 Pandemic.
- If you've been reading the newspaper lately, you're certainly aware of the fact that our county's basically been kind of going in the wrong direction, recently, in terms of reopening and its impact on the rising number of cases.
- It's really seen as pretty dramatic.
- I got an email this evening during the Council meeting, actually, from County Council, to all city attorneys wanting to convene a meeting in the very near future, looking towards creating some sort of a task force to work cooperatively to ensure compliance, because that says what they see as the main issue.
- Failure to maintain separation, failure to wear face coverings, failure to comply with the health orders, to try and take a more systematic approach towards education and enforcement.
- I have already signaled my complete agreement with having those types of meetings.
- We saw a little bit earlier this week, that one larger city, Rohnert Park, which had opened its City Hall then abruptly had to close it again.
- This is in response to the elevated cases, what's seen as a difficult situation to protect your employees.
- Basically, from the staff perspective, we've kind of placed the idea of opening the town halls to the public, we've had put that back on hold.
- One thing I will comment on, has been mentioned earlier this evening, we are extremely small staff.
- We have basically designated every single staff member at this point is designated as essential.
- And what translates to is it would be quite difficult to continue to provide the public with the level of service that we are providing now, with all these difficulties, if suddenly we had an exposure at one of our offices, if we had to quarantine people or close an office that had been previously opened.
- Every single other city employee at this point, I would say, is performing an essential task.

- Those who do it, the best work at City Hall, and other city officers are doing so at their offices, others are continuing to work from home.
- We're going to continue that.
- One thing we've had to be, as a city staff these days, especially the senior administrative staff, is we had to be adaptable; because what you think is the situation at the end of the week, you come back on the following Monday and it's a completely different situation.
- That's where we are right now.
- I placed plans to reopen our city offices, at least to open to the normal public usage.
- We placed that on hold for the time being.
- That's not to say we're not doing business across the counter.
- Our planning department has met with us applicants in person, gone over their plans with them.
- In addition, our building department has been open, and people have been in there and received permits, and have been able to meet with our building official.
- The same thing with public works and police, obviously they're all over town, and they're basically doing business as usual.
- Where our goal is to maintain that high level, despite the challenges, and one aspect of that, I'm afraid, is that we're not going to be able to open our offices quite as fast as what I had wanted to do; which, basically, was going to be this week, but now, it's not.
- We'll see what comes with these discussions with County Council's office.
- I think with the County you're going to find, in the next couple of days, he agrees with that.
- In his email tonight, you're going to see that we are going to be placed on watch, and are very likely will be placed on watch, and that some of our reopening will be stalled for another few weeks.
- I don't know for sure that's going to happen, but everybody seems to think it is likely.
- I will know more about that in a couple of days, and anything the Council needs to know on that, I will report to you by email.
- I may have more news for you next week.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- I'm interested to understand better what our city can do about ensuring compliance with the Public Health Officer's orders.
- We all just got the letter, dated July 1st, from Governor Newsom, reminding cities that we have the responsibility and the authority to ensure compliance.
- And I think it may behoove our Council and staff to look into some kind of campaign to make sure our compliance standards are a lot stronger.
- You go downtown, or around town, and there are people in situations appropriately not wearing a mask, and then there are people in situations where they really should and they're not.
- And I'm concerned about conflicts in those situations, and I think we'd like to create a culture of compliance.
- And I'm wondering what we can do.
- We just were talking about banners that we're going to draw people to our downtown, how do we get up a message, "Wear a mask. Socially distance," to make sure that the people in our community are feeling safe.

- I know when we get to correspondence, I was going to mention the emails that I've received, and I think other council members have received as well, where people are concerned about their safety because of this compliance issue.
- I'd be interested from our City Manager, well, and the Agenda Review Team to help formulate what we might do as an outreach campaign to get the compliance up.

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- One of the County Council's goals, if I read his email correctly, is to be able to do more towards enforcement and education than what our law enforcement has been able to do.
- Our law enforcement has been about educating people; it's very difficult to enforce orders.
- We don't want to send our police into supermarkets, or elsewhere, to try and deal with that in that kind of a situation.
- But I will say, the information that you've already received about the CoMission Business Committee that meets every single Thursday at noon o'clock, noon, 12 noon, the work they're doing with the program that went out around July 4th, that has an element of safety.
- Part of what we're publicizing, with regard to the work, is that you can shop safely in Sebastopol.
- That our businesses, who are participating in that, have made a commitment that the shopping in their business location will be a safe experience.
- To me, that's just highly effective.
- It's using that as a sales technique, as a draw.
- If you feel unsafe elsewhere, you'll feel safe shopping here.
- I thought that was pretty genius to come up with that idea that I didn't personally come up with, but I think that's a very excellent idea, and I think that kind of thing can go a long way.
- But obviously, we see a bigger problem here, the mask issue, et cetera, has become a political statement.
- I don't know why it ever ended up that way.
- Well, I do know why, but I won't say it here tonight. But it's become a political statement.
- How do you counter all that and enforce orders that are for the good of everyone?
- I don't know, but we're going to be exploring the idea of some kind of a coordinated effort to do that with possibly a countywide hotline kind of a thing, something like that where people can report it.
- I don't know how we can make effective use of that.
- Obviously, we have yet to have our first discussion of this item; but it was kind of hot news tonight, and I think it's really called for.
- I'm looking forward to hearing some good ideas about how we might do something in that regard.
- I think locally we're using it as a promotion of our local businesses, and I think that could be very effective.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- Well, we just talked about banners.
- We could put it on banners.
- Like a "Wear a mask?"
- I think masks are going to be around for a long time.

- I think a banner, putting some banners up and up with other things makes sense to me, but that could be part of the same thing I'm talking about.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- The increased frequency of the community newsletter.
- I know that it's been in there a number of times, but it doesn't hurt to tell people, tell people, tell people, tell people.
- We've got at least another two or 300 Sebasta-masks on the way.
- There's no reason for people to say, "No, thank you."

City staff announced the following:

- Extension of SCTA/RCPA
- Opening of Nomination Period – Appointments Highly Recommended

**Reference order number: 2020-149**

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

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- The newsletter from the community center to everybody and encourage you all to review the video of the talent show contest.
- The really fun element was our sister city in Japan participated by picking their winners.
- It was a nice sort of global connection between youth when they weren't able to visit.
- Also, the other fest that is coming up, Summer fest.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I just wanted to let the council know I am, as you know, the liaison to health action.
- Health action has, the coalition, has moved forward with working to form a 501c3.
- There are, I think I talked to you about this a few weeks ago, where we now have participation of supervisor Hopkins office, West County community services, the West County clinics and various other groups.
- We're working to forming this organization.
- I was asked to sit on the board, and I explained to the group that I will personally be willing to help them with getting this going and beyond the board, but I am appointed as the liaison.
- That doesn't mean that I am representing the city as a board member.
- I did try to make it clear that I'm wearing different hats here, but in any case, the organization is moving forward to become more of a separate organization now that the hospital district is going way.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- The Sonoma Clean Power board met last Thursday and everything there is fine.

- One thing that I am going to converse with public works about and senior management is a program that is grant money for electric vehicle charging equipment.
- This is a really great program that is available to us as a government entity.
- I think that there's some possibilities there.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- I'm glad you reported on that program because all of us received the communication from Steven and Lisa Pierce about those charging stations.
- \$70,000 we may get.
- I also wanted to ask about a response to this other email that we got about the tobacco grant program, where the California department of justice has a tobacco grant program.
- The deadline is August 7th, where we can apply, local public agencies can apply for funding to promote a healthier community regarding illegal sales and marketing of cigarettes and tobacco products. That came in today from a person named Brenda Vargas at the DOJ. It looks like money available for the DRL program or something related to that.
- I want to call the agenda review committee's attention to that, and potentially health action's attention to that.
- Also, there's a deadline this Friday for applying for the department of finance to receive a direct allocation of the cares act funding.
- We also had a citizen report a concern about threats in our two recent public meetings.
- I don't know if maybe the City Manager and police chief or somebody needs to respond to this one. They're not included in the list.
- I don't want to talk about it online on this meeting, but it needs a response.
- A feeling of threat during the meetings.

12. Council Communications Received

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- Tobacco Grant program – deadline Aug 7<sup>th</sup>
- Discussed threats in recent public meetings

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

**ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING:**

Mayor Slayter adjourned the meeting at 10:53 pm. Meeting was adjourned to the City Council Special Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 8 2020 at 9:30 am (virtual meeting).

Respectfully Submitted:



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