From:	rekb[redacted]
To:	Peggy Flynn; Pocekay, Dennis; Janice Cader-Thompson; John Shribbs; Karen Nau; Kevin McDonnell; Mike Healy; Barnacle, Brian; -- City Clerk
Subject:	Good CO@ meeting. Now it is the money
Date:	Friday, October 13, 2023 11:36:10 AM

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Dear Mr. Mayor, City Council Members, and City Manager.

It comes down to money. The Blueprint for Carbon Neutrality meeting was very much worthwhile. The cost will be enormous for both the City and for individuals in the community. The actual $$ assessment is the next step.

Only two courses seem to be available for Petaluma. The first would be to accept the cost and community economic and social turmoil necessary to achieve carbon neutrality. The second would be prepare the community for disasters that may arise. The central issue is how money would best be spent.

Two issues are at play to arrive at "best spent" choice. The political/psychology of disappointment and the many reactions to money badly spent. I can only point out the obvious: increasing instability worldwide, the long-term effects of fiscal/Total Debt situation in the USA, the maximum 20-year US rate of growth without recessions will be less than 2%(source CalPERS and GAO), and of course inflation adjustments. Another consideration would be exemplified by the possibility of $10 -$20 per gallon of fuel which would render carbon neutrality efforts moot and at the same time plunge Petaluma into a very different crisis. Therefore, I see the noble goal of carbon neutrality as not feasible. If not feasible then change course.

Perhaps funding should go looking into how best to prepare Petaluma for what is to come. At least Petaluma would end up with justifiable concrete results that could be staggered by realistic City needs and leaving the Community better able to respond to whatever the future may bring.

For those not familiar with the debt issue, I am providing a brief analysis below.

Sincerely,

Richard Brawn

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The effect of debt is to pull money from the future into today. We promise future income for debt service (payment of interest and principle). By doing so, we decrease our future income. This also applies to government debt. The implication is that future GDP (GDP is effectively the total of all goods and services transactions within the

USA in a year) must grow sufficiently in order to pay debt service or else the standards of living will drop. Please refer to the US Debt Clock, which is the most easily accessible data. (https://www.usdebtclock.org/current-rates.html#)

What is of concern is the Total Debt burden on GDP which is $147 trillion divided by $30 trillion or around 500%.

These numbers leave everyone asking the following: Even though debt maturities vary and so does the ability to pay, we intuitively understand at some point a cascade of debt that cannot be serviced will occur. And, then what happens?

The only feasible course of action will be to reduce the debt burden. At best, that implies little or no future growth. Please bear in mind that the future turns out to very seldom be what we expect today.