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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 3, 2021

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*****MEDIA ALERT*****

FEBRUARY 2, 2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

(Chico, CA – February 3, 2021 –) The regular City Council meeting of February 2, 2021 was held with various agenda items of note. Below is a summary of some of the items that drew interest from members of the community.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

- 5.1 Paradise Sewer Project Cooperative Work Agreement and Project Committee Representation – To continue our region’s long-term recovery after the 2018 Camp Fire, the Town of Paradise both needs and desires to form a sewer partnership with the City to accept a direction connection from Paradise to Chico’s Water Pollution Control Plant.

Council took action to facilitate work and utilize grant-funded payments to assess the City’s Water Pollution Control Plant’s ability and needs to accept a direct connection from the Town of Paradise. This project would support Paradise’s rebuild and recovery from the Camp Fire Disaster. The City Council made it very clear that this is not a final action on approving a connection, but this effort will allow for additional information and robust public engagement to evaluate the feasibility and costs of such a connection. A primary point of assurance that City Council made clear was that no project should impact Chico ratepayers negatively, should such a project proceed. Motion passed 7-0.

- 5.2 Creating Sheltering Options – As the City continues to explore any and all viable solutions in regards to mitigating the impacts of homeless on the community and to help find ways for service providers to forge a sustainable continuum of care for Chico’s unsheltered community, Homeless Solutions Coordinator Suzi Kochems presented a report of the options currently being considered. These options included building partnerships for the establishment of a legal camping environment, a potential outdoor shelter environment, a non-congregate shelter collaboration, and a potential Park-n-Ride safe parking site.

Council seized an opportunity to work with a local non-profit, allocating \$282,933 of Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funding to support the efforts of the Chico Housing Action Team (CHAT) to secure a non-congregate shelter site. In addition, Council directed staff to continue their efforts on finding the funding necessary to establish sheltering options at the City-owned property at 2352 Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway (the current BMX track site, near the Silver Dollar Fairgrounds), and to press ahead with continuing discussions to find collaborations with the County of Butte, the Butte County Continuum of Care (CoC), and local service providers. It also bears highlighting

that the City continues to seek community support to raise the funds necessary to relocate the current lessee, Silver Dollar BMX. There's an additional \$300,000 needed to finalize the relocation of the non-profit entity, to enable a usable space toward finding responsible solutions toward helping the unsheltered.

- 5.3 Consideration and Adoption of the “City of Chico Signal System Plan 2020” – In order to enhance Chico’s current traffic signal system to not only improve safety for all modes of travel, but to facilitate the efficient movement of goods to benefit local business, and to create an adaptable and resilient system to manage traffic congestion and improve traffic operations, a Traffic Signal System Plan for the City was presented to Council.

Council took action to accept the plan and directed City staff to begin the process of applying for grants to fund the Traffic Signal System Plan to help ensure a more effective and efficient transportation system within the City. Motion passed 7-0.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 6.2 Councilmember requests
 - Mayor Andrew Coolidge made a request to reconsider the directives taken on the Ad Hoc Housing Committee’s recommendations at the October 20, 2020 regular Council Meeting.
 - Councilmember Kami Denlay made a request to make the Greater Chico Homeless Task Force an official City commission.
 - Vice Mayor Kasey Reynolds made a request to review items in the City’s Municipal Code. The specific Code sections will be identified when the item returns for Council discussion.

To view the agenda in its entirety, or to watch the recorded meeting, please go to http://chico-ca.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2.

For media inquiries, please contact Lynda Gizzi, Public Information Officer, at (530) 896-7204.

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