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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 17, 2021

**Contact:** Lynda Gizzi, [lynda.gizzi@chicoca.gov](mailto:lynda.gizzi@chicoca.gov) or (530) 896-7204

**\*\*\*MEDIA ALERT\*\*\***

## **MARCH 16, 2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY**

**(Chico, CA – March 17, 2021 –)** The regular City Council meeting of March 16, 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**

- 5.2 Consideration of an Upper Park Road Parking Fee Implementation Plan and a Request for Capital Funding in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget Cycle – City staff, in conjunction with Dixon Resources Service, developed an implementation plan for road parking in Upper Bidwell park, including outlining fee collection and enforcement measures. A presentation was given by Public Works Department – Parks and Operations & Maintenance Division Director Erik Gustafson, which detailed the background, fiscal impact, and objectives of the project.

*As the largest recreational location within the City of Chico and one of its main attributes, Bidwell Park receives a large amount of yearly traffic on its roadways. City staff deploys considerable resources towards infrastructure repair and general maintenance of Upper Bidwell Park. The \$2 per vehicle parking fee outlined in the Parking Fee Implementation Plan will provide a funding source to repair and maintain many features of the park, including the 4.4-mile stretch of Upper Park Road, which received considerable erosion damage from storms and has been closed to private vehicle use since 2012. The Plan also includes an annual parking pass option and free parking for specific groups. A motion was made to direct staff to implement the Upper Park Road Parking Fee plan in conjunction with the Upper Park Road reconstruction project and to approve allocating \$108,000 for necessary technology and equipment to implement managed parking in Upper Bidwell Park. The motion passed 5-2.*

- 5.3 Mayor Coolidge Request to Discuss the Housing Committee Recommendations

*A motion to move the discussion of the Ad Hoc Housing Committee recommendations to the Internal Affairs Committee passed 7-0.*

- 5.4 Vice Mayor Reynolds Request to Discuss Code Enforcement Policies

*A motion to move the discussion of City Code Enforcement Policies, including the aesthetics of commercial building and residences and the procedures for addressing*

*abandoned items on City property and rights-of-way to the Internal Affairs Committee passed 7-0.*

- 5.5 Board & Commission Appointments – At a special City Council meeting held on March 9, 2021, the City Council conducted interviews of citizens interested in serving as members of the Arts Commission, Bidwell Park & Playground Commission, and the Planning Commission.

*A motion was made to confirm the appointments of the four applicants nominated for the positions on the three above committees. This motion passed 6-0, with 1 abstention. A second motion was made to confirm the applicant with the most nominations to the position on the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission with a remaining term of 2 years. This motion passed 7-0.*

*The City wishes to welcome our new Commissioners to the Arts Commission, Bidwell Park & Playground Commission, and the Planning Commission. In addition, applications are currently being accepted for the Climate Action Commission, the Architectural Review and Historic Preservation Board, and the Airport Commission. Applications may be found on the City's website at <https://chico.ca.us/boards-commissions> and must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 12, 2021.*

## REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 6.2 Councilmember requests
  - Councilmember Kami Denlay submitted a request to discuss local control on DPH-18-015 Syringe Exchange Program Regulatory Consistency.

*The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) recently proposed changes involving its Syringe Exchange Program (SEP) that would prevent cities and counties from passing local ordinances blocking the program from operating. The CDPH is conducting a 45-day written public comment period during which time any interested person may present comments regarding the proposed regulations. A motion was made to direct City staff to file a letter of opposition to DPH-18-015 prior to the April 5, 2021 deadline for public comment, for Mayor Coolidge to sign the letter on behalf of the City Council, and for City staff to research how the City may join in on the upcoming public hearing. Motion passed 5-2.*

- Councilmember Scott Huber – Councilmember Huber requested to hear a presentation from the Community Housing Action Team (CHAT) in regards to the reallocation of the Community Development Block Grant (Coronavirus) funds given to them for the purchase of the Town House Motel. Funds were to be used for a sheltering facility for persons experiencing homelessness; however, the lease was not able to be obtained. An amended motion was made for council to hear presentations by various entities responding to the use of CDBG funds and if CHAT had a proposal, Council would request to hear it at that time. *Motion passed 5-2.*
- Councilmember Kasey Reynolds – Councilmember Reynolds requested to direct City staff to draft a letter to the state requesting that the emergency funding provided by the Low-Income Household Drinking Water and Wastewater

Emergency Assistance Program be administered equitably to both government water and California Public Utilities Commission-regulated water suppliers, and for Mayor Coolidge to sign the letter on behalf of the City Council. *Motion passed 7-0.*

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](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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