



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**City of Chico**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** December 16, 2020

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

## **DECEMBER 15, 2020 CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY**

**(Chico, CA – December 16, 2020 –)** The regular City Council meeting of December 15, 2020 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**

- **5.5 VICE MAYOR REYNOLDS REQUEST - POLICE STAFFING**

A request was made at the December 8, 2020 Council meeting by Vice Mayor Kasey Reynolds to reexamine police staffing positions that were frozen due to potential COVID-19 budget restrictions.

*Council voted 6-1 to pass a motion to unfreeze Police Department positions, including Animal Control, Dispatch, and Sworn Park Ranger positions.*

“In an abundance of caution due to COVID and the unknown fiscal effects, earlier in the year the Council froze several staffing positions,” said Vice Mayor Reynolds. “Due to the length of time hiring and training for all Police Staffing takes, it was important we unfroze those positions as soon as possible.”

- **5.6 COUNCILMEMBER DENLAY REQUEST – BAN OF NEEDLE PROGRAMS**

A request was made at the December 8, 2020 Council meeting by Councilmember Kami Denlay to discuss banning needle distribution programs within the City of Chico.

*Council voted 5-2 to pass a motion directing the City Attorney to find any and all legal means to ban needle distribution programs within the City limits.*

“The Chico City Council vote tonight to pursue a ban on needle programs was certainly much anticipated by our community,” said Councilmember Denlay. “I look forward to seeing our community continue to pursue actions that reflect what is best for the safety of all of Chico.”

- **5.7 COUNCILMEMBER MORGAN REQUEST – RECONSIDERATION OF VOTE**

A request was made at the December 8, 2020 Council meeting by Councilmember Sean Morgan to reconsider his vote of “yes” on the Establishment of New Fees for the Commercial Cannabis Program made during the Regular Council Meeting on October 20, 2020.

*Council voted 7-0 to pass a motion directing City staff to pause the application process for the program so City staff can have time to bring back a future discussion of options to enhance the fee structure of the Cannabis program for Council to consider.*

“Discovering an inadequate fee structure that would have provided none of the promised revenue on cannabis sales in the City of Chico, Council directed staff to pause the application process while appropriate fees and taxes were investigated,” stated Councilmember Sean Morgan.

## REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 6.3 Councilmember requests
  - Councilmember Sean Morgan requested the City Clerk bring back a policy update on the appointment process for boards and commissions.
  - Vice Mayor Kasey Reynolds requested discussing the best means of continuing to conduct City business due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, including the option of discussing only essential business until the public can have a greater access to City Council meetings. This discussion will occur at the next City Council meeting of January 5, 2021.
  - Mayor Andrew Coolidge requested the following two items for future discussion:
    - Item one – To discuss bringing forward options for a Bond for roadway and infrastructure improvements.
    - Item two – For the City to assist with coordinating a community-wide clean-up event for this upcoming Spring, by partnering with local organizations and volunteers.

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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