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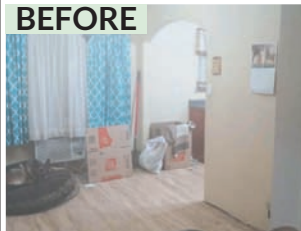
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## NEWSLINES

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better example."

Ultimately, the council decided to create an advisory committee that will consider the regulation of commercial cannabis, with discussion including but not limited to the types and number of businesses allowed, where they can be located, and the permitting process. Committee members will apply and be chosen by the council, and must include representation from several areas, including business, realty, education and the cannabis industry. City staff, including a law enforcement and code enforcement representative, will be present.

The vote fell 4-3, with Morgan and Councilwomen Kasey Reynolds and Ann Schwab dissenting. Schwab advocated for a slower process, adding that more questions need to be answered, including the implications of moving forward while cannabis is federally illegal, potential impacts on crime and how much the city could gain in taxes—or lose to a black market if those taxes are too high.

More than 20 attendees spoke to the issue, most in protest of the effort. Many cited fears of increased crime and easier access for children. More than a dozen picketed outside the chambers before the meeting.

Pat Jones advocated for a crime-prevention committee, and said she was concerned about increased cases of illegal activity and mental illness. "You're really playing with the lives of a lot of our teenagers and our students at the college," she said.

Speaking for the other side, Jessica MacKenzie, head of the Inland Cannabis Farmers' Association, said there is a mature, robust cannabis industry that has been here for more than 20 years—and it has been unregulated.

"I don't think the conversation is about 'cannabis is good, cannabis is bad,'" she said. "I think the conversation is about, we have an unregulated industry that we're trying to move into a regulated industry, where we can benefit from revenue, we can benefit from controls, we can benefit from safety, we can benefit from jobs."

There will be a two-week nomination period for applicants wishing to be on the committee.

—ASHIAH SCHARAGA  
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# CHICO PERFORMANCES PRESENTS



## KEN WALDMAN

*and the Wild Men*

**TUESDAY, MARCH 12 | 7:30 P.M.**

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