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NEWSLINES

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crisis, implying that the city would thus essentially establish permanent, substandard housing and attract more homeless people to the area. Chico's declaration specifies an end date of June 30, 2021.

Mayor Randall Stone had the last word, speaking fervently in support. The median household income of Chico is \$45,000, and the median home price is out of reach. The city's lowest-income residents can't afford base-level rent. That is, in part, because city fees for new development were historically the same for small and large homes, encouraging developers to build bigger.

"We couldn't provide housing for our residents in this community before the Camp Fire," he said. "We have to build for the entire community ... that includes people that are making \$800 a month and that includes people that are making \$8 million a month."

The vote to adopt the state regulations passed 5-2, with Morgan and Councilwoman Kasey Reynolds against.

In addition, it looks likely that the council's meeting procedures could change, even if the length of its meetings does not. Morgan motioned to end the meeting at 10 p.m., just as the clock struck that hour. He and fellow conservative Reynolds were outvoted.

"I can't imagine going to bed at 10 o'clock if we could go till midnight to address these issues that are so pertinent," Stone said, reiterating the city's need to address Camp Fire-related issues.

Morgan replied that while he understands the point, "when we're going into closed session at midnight and doing personnel reviews or litigation ... we're not doing the public a good service."

The council unanimously agreed to discuss several items at future meetings related to meeting protocol, including length, the timing of business from the floor and responses to pending litigation.

In other council news: The panel also reviewed the city's Diversity Action Plan for the first time since 2013, and adopted goals. This includes increasing outreach to underrepresented groups, having departments make annual workforce diversity reports, and scheduling presentations from cultural groups.

—ASHIAH SCHARAGA
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