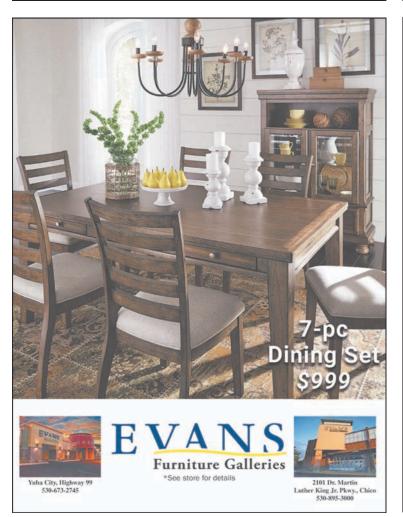


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the city to be that partner," she said. "When we're looking for city property, we don't have a lot of it available."

Morgan anticipated some people would be shocked by his aye vote, so he explained that this could drum up some interesting conversation, and "it's irresponsible not to allow the discussion."

Another initiative that received support across ideological lines was Huber's proposal to look into a homeless jobs program. In general, these programs provide work to the unhoused that include cleaning up blighted city areas.

An ad hoc committee will review such programs elsewhere and discuss whether one could financially pencil-out for Chico.

Some service providers in attendance were split on the topic. Angela McLaughlin, Safe Space Winter Shelter board president, said she was open to discussing the concept, but she was concerned about the efficacy without a comprehensive approach that included enough shelter beds or housing for the individuals who would partici-

"It feels like it's almost pandering to a group of the community that says, 'Well, they should just get a job,' without taking into account the whole spectrum of issues we're encountering," she

In contrast, Patrick Newman, of Chico Friends on the Street, said that people have to give those on the streets opportunities to live a dignified life, and this provides a counter-narrative to the claim that homeless people are destroying the

"What you're trying to do then is to humanize, include and socialize people on the streets," he said. "This is a matter of how people see this population, and that's a very powerful thing."

Vice Mayor Alex Brown, the only dissenting vote, voiced concerns similar to McLaughlin's. Just before casting her vote in support, Councilwoman Kasey Reynolds cited statistics from programs elsewhere that have helped house families and connected people to services. Morgan chimed in that he'd support it because he was "for progress."

—ASHIAH SCHARAGA

ashiahs@newsreview.com