

we just take our marijuana ordinance and permitting and apply it to flavored tobacco?" he said. "Marijuana? OK. Flavored tobacco? Not. It's nuts."

Ultimately, the vote fell along party lines, with Morgan and Councilwoman Kasey Reynolds against. The council also voted to create a tobacco retail licensing program, which will charge businesses a fee to operate, reserving funds for enforcement.

Also on Tuesday, the council modified vehicular access in Upper Bidwell Park, ultimately deciding to open the length of Upper Park Road to traffic two days a week and close it another two days a week. The rest of the time, it'll be open to cars up to Salmon Hole.

It wasn't an easy decision.

Accessibility and maintenance in Upper Park have been perennial topics for the better part of the last decade. The city cannot afford to maintain the park, said Erik Gustafson, Public Works director of operations and maintenance, and the road has continued to degrade because of the park's popularity (the unpaved section after the Diversion Dam gate has long been closed to cars). The city recently received about \$700,000 from the State Water Resources Control Board to reconstruct 4.4 miles of the roadway, from Horseshoe Lake to the end of Upper Park Road, along with trail repairs and realignment and stormwater diversion.

The question was whether to limit access to better preserve it. Councilwoman Ann Schwab—who'd lobbied for keeping the road closed past Salmon Hole until repair work is completed—and Councilman Karl Ory voted nay.

Several public speakers advocated for more funding for the park. Anna Moore, chair of the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission, said she supports a parking fee because of the "dire need" of revenue for maintenance—the city estimated raking in as much as \$800,000 per year from that long-discussed option.

Discussion of such fees, forming a park foundation and funding a development director to drum up donations for the park was forwarded to the Internal Affairs Committee. Ory was the lone dissenter, citing opposition to fees.

—ASHIAH SCHARAGA
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