

CORTEZ CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2020

1. The workshop began at 6:30 in the Mesa Verde Room, City Hall. Attendance at the workshop included Mayor Karen Sheek, Sue Betts, Ty Keel, and Mike Lavey. Mayor Pro-tem Orly Lucero and Councilmember Gary Noyes were absent. Staff members present were Interim Chief of Police Andy Brock, Director of Public Works Phil Johnson, General Services Director Rick Smith, Associate Planner Neva Connolly, City Clerk Linda Smith, City Manager John Dougherty, Deputy City Attorney Tina Martinez, and City Attorney Mike Green. There were eleven people present in the audience.
2. City Attorney Green presented information on procedures for Quasi-Judicial hearings for both liquor licenses and marijuana licenses. He stated that different processes are required for liquor hearings and explained that the applicant's background is not required for a Change of Location process. He stated that the Colorado Revised Statutes outline who can speak at a liquor license hearing as well as what can be spoken about. He stated that a Quasi-Judicial hearing is similar to a court process noting that the people that speak at the hearing are under oath and giving testimony. He also spoke about the Statement of Rules for public hearings for a marijuana license which was adopted by City Council through Resolution No. 2, Series 2020. He stated that each person that speaks will be sworn in and will be asked where they live or if they own property or a business in the City. He spoke about the findings (Cortez City Code Section 4-215) which Council would need to review prior to any motion being made for approval or denial of a marijuana license. City Attorney Green stated that Councilmember Betts will be recusing herself from the discussion on the NuVue Pharma public hearing due to a potential conflict-of-interest and; therefore, only three Councilmembers would be hearing the presentation. Councilmembers stated they do not feel the hearing would be fair with only three Councilmembers hearing the issues. Discussion was held on whether there was a quorum of Councilmembers to hear the presentation and if the applicant would consider continuing the hearing to another date when more Councilmembers would be in attendance.
3. General Council discussion included concern for semi-trucks driving down Sligo Street and ending up in the parking lot at the High School as they are not sure where to turn around. Also discussion was held on the intersection of Montezuma Avenue/Empire Street which is being changed to a four-way stop. Councilmember Lavey spoke about the presentation made by the students on Bill SV2Colorado at the last Council meeting. Discussion was held on the Emergency Preparedness meetings that are held quarterly. In answer to a question from a person in the audience as to how the neighborhood is defined for the marijuana hearing, Mayor Sheek explained that the applicant, an adult residents of the City, the owner or manager of a business in the City, and/or the owner of real property in the City would be allowed to speak at the public hearing.

Council adjourned the worksession at 7:15 p.m.