

CORTEZ CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2020
5:30 p.m.
Virtual Contact Through Zoom

1. The workshop was called to order at 5:30 p.m., by virtual contact through ZOOM. Attendance at the workshop included Mayor Mike Lavey, Mayor Pro-tem Rachel Medina, Sue Betts, Amy Huckins, Orly Lucero, David Rainey, and Arlina Yazzie. Staff members present were Director of Public Works Phil Johnson, IT Support Technician Bill Kuhn, Director of Finance Ben Burkett, Interim Chief of Police Andy Brock, City Manager John Dougherty, City Clerk Linda Smith, and City Attorney Mike Green. There were five people signed up as participants.
2. Director of Finance Burkett spoke about the National Perspectives of COVID-19 impacts that could occur to the area. He stated that public services will be impacted by the economic strain of COVID-19 and that there will be furloughs and layoffs and the timing of the impact will depend on each jurisdiction's major revenue sources and elasticity of sources. Discussion was held on the need to monitor the next six to 18 months and that staff has been asked to reduce any unnecessary spending. Discussion was also held on finding new resources for funding and the possibility of a recession and how that may affect decision making for the future of the City. Director of Finance Burkett spoke about what other communities are doing to deal with the forecasted impacts. He noted that consumer confidence is still really high because people feel that things will get moving along quickly and he stated that when the confidence level changes, that is when it will have an effect locally.
3. Director of Public Works Johnson stated that since 2014, the intersection of US Highway 160 (East Main Street) and Hawkins Street was listed in the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Intersection Priority Study. He stated that the project was scored in 7th position; however, a project dropped out and funding was pursued for this project with CDOT. He stated that the lowest bidder for the project came in with a \$450,000 shortfall from the CDOT budgeted amount (\$1.95 million) and he spoke about the possibility of using the City's Street Improvement Fund (SIF) to pay the difference of the bid amount which was \$2.402 million. He spoke about the SIF Chip-Seal Project that was budgeted for in 2020 and stated that the City is not ready to move forward with that project due to staff being needed in other areas during the last few months (due to COVID-19). He stated that staff will continue with preparations for the chip-seal project to move forward again in 2021 and crack-sealing and road-patch repairs will be addressed in 2020. Discussion was held on the importance of the intersection which would include a stop-light and ADA/crosswalk improvements and noted that access to businesses in the area would be mitigated by CDOT.
4. Director of Parks and Recreation Palmquist reviewed the proposal for the Parks and Recreation personnel that is being recommended for layoff and rehire for the various divisions (agenda item 7b). Discussion was held on the employees that would be rehired at the golf/park divisions due to their skills of handling the various equipment that is used such

as for mowing, etc. He discussed the plan for opening the recreation center and the different phases that would be implemented as allowed.

5. Discussion was held on the 2021 Budget that is currently being developed. City Manager Dougherty stated that with the COVID-19 pandemic, the expectation of the economy going into recession burdens all departments with difficult decisions. He stated that all departments are to provide line item details for the 2020 Revised Budget, 2021 Budget, and 2022 Budget and staff is encouraged to find additional cuts to help with the budget deficiency that is projected for 2020 and to plan conservatively regarding the 2021 and 2022 Budgets. Director of Finance Burkett stated that it is hoped that more information can be shared with Council on how the budget is created/planned and he noted the timeline that is being requested for the budget process to move forward. Discussion was held on how staff will predict future years for the budget when everything is so unsure and Director of Finance Burkett stated that staff knows the items that are required to be continued (infrastructure, maintenance, etc.). He stated that an estimate will be made on revenues and the expenditures will be decided based on the revenue estimate to produce a balanced budget. Discussion was held on the audits and when that process may be completed. Also, it was noted that Capital Projects have been postponed and could be phased back in based on Council's priorities.
6. City Manager Dougherty stated that the tennis and pickle ball courts are being recommended to be opened on (Wednesday) May 13, 2020, with certain precautions. He stated that the Governor had included pickle ball and tennis in the his last orders (Safer at Home) to be opened and staff is recommending that single play be allowed at this time. Director of Parks and Recreation Palmquist stated that he feels the players will be following the social distancing rules and that the protocol will be posted at the courts. Discussion was held on the use of one ball during play and it was noted that if the players do not do the right thing, the courts can be closed again. Director of Parks and Recreation Palmquist stated that the tiered approach will help everyone adjust and double play will not be allowed until a future tier. Discussion was held on the numbers that have been reported for COVID-19 in Montezuma County and the need to take everything slow.
7. Council adjourned to Executive Session at 6:45 p.m., for a conference with the City Attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions under Section 24-6-402(4)(b).

No decisions were made in the Executive Session and the virtual meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.