

CORTEZ CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2019

1. The workshop began at 5:30 p.m., with dinner being served. Attendance at the workshop included Mayor Karen Sheek, Mayor Pro-tem Orly Lucero, Jill Carlson, Sue Betts, Ty Keel, Mike Lavey, and Gary Noyes. Staff members present were Chief of Police Roy Lane, Management Intern Peyton Heitzman, Risk Manager/Executive Assistant Dawn Lichtenburger, Director of Public Works Phil Johnson, Director of General Services Rick Smith, Director of Planning and Building Sam Proffer, City Clerk Linda Smith, and City Manager John Dougherty. There were two people present in the audience.
2. Council viewed the CIRSA video 'In the Scope of Your Authority.'
3. Director of Public Works Johnson spoke about backflow requirements and asked if the City would consider paying for the material for backflow preventers and homeowners could pay the City back over a period of time. He spoke about some fixed income homeowners that are struggling to complete the State mandated requirement of installing backflow preventers and wanted to present the idea of working with them through an agreement. He stated that the homeowners would be required to hire a plumber to install the preventers. Discussion was held on what happens if someone does not comply with the backflow preventer requirements. Council agreed to have the City Attorney review the process and possibly offer an agreement for residents. It was suggested that there may be other resources available for residents to receive funding for the purchase of the backflow preventers.
4. Director of Public Works Johnson spoke to Council about recycling, specifically cardboard. He noted that recyclables may become more expensive to sell with the new tariffs but also noted the benefit of offering the collection of the commodities and keeping them out of the landfill.
5. Director of Public Works Johnson shared with Council a copy of the table tents that will be placed in the restaurants to let customers know about water conservation and to ask for water if they want it served. He spoke about having a table at the 'Third Thursday' explaining water conservation and xeriscape information to the residents.
6. Director of General Services Smith stated that solar has been placed on the new City Hall building and the program has been successful. He stated that Council had asked to research other City buildings that could be used for solar and the Cortez Animal Shelter and the Golf Course Maintenance buildings are being proposed for possible solar systems because they have south facing roofs. Mike Ellis, representing Shaw Solar, spoke to Council about the proposal and explained that municipal governments are not allowed to take advantage of the 30% tax credits, which is changing in 2020, and therefore Shaw Solar can take the credits and share the amount back with the City. Director of General Services Smith spoke about the monitoring that has been completed by Shaw Solar with the current system. Discussion was held on the cost of solar panels and how that will change with the new tariffs. It was noted that solar is an investment for the future to help save on utility expenses.

7. City Manager Dougherty spoke about purchasing the ditch bank property from Fred Torres. He stated that Mr. Torres has offered to sell the property to the City for \$5,000. City Manager Dougherty spoke about discussion that was held with Mr. Torres in previous years on the property and noted that the completion of the ditch bank trail has been identified as a goal in the Comprehensive Plan. After discussion, Council decided to decline the offer.
8. Interviews for the at-large position on the Golf Advisory Board will be held at the next Council worksession (June 11, 2019) and Council agreed to send questions they would like to ask the three applicants to the City Clerk. Council asked that an update be given on the golf course marketing.

Council adjourned from the workshop at 7:20 p.m.