

CORTEZ CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2019

1. The workshop began at 6:00 p.m., with snacks 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 Management Intern Peyton Heitzman, City Clerk Linda Smith, Chief of Police Roy Lane, City Attorney Mike Green, and City Manager John Dougherty. There were five people present in the audience.
2. City Attorney Green spoke about marijuana regulations and noted that the City has been approached about changing regulations to allow retail dispensaries to make products such as popcorn. Oliver Scott-Tomlin, Chief of Operations Officer for The Herbal Alternative, spoke to Council about producing their own manufactured infused products (MIP). He stated that they don't want to extract the oils but rather combine the oil with popcorn or/and some baked goods. He stated that that they need to stay competitive with the market and having local baked items could help in pricing. City Attorney Green spoke about inspections of the facility that would need to be completed by the State Marijuana Enforcement Division rather than the County Health Department as the marijuana baked goods/popcorn would be considered an adulterated product. Mr. Scott-Tomlin stated that they would be hiring more employees with the opportunity to make their own products and already have a building that meets the City's regulations. It was noted that Land Use Code regulations may need to be reviewed to allow cooking at the dispensaries. City Attorney Green stated that he would find out more information on how often the State would complete inspections on the health and sanitation of the bakery portion of a dispensary should they be allowed to bake their own products. Mr. Scott-Tomlin stated that there are stringent testing on marijuana products and the edibles are tested as well. Council asked that research be completed on how other communities handle this issue.
3. Discussion was held on an alternate for City Attorney Green should he not be available for Municipal Court. City Attorney Green stated that court is held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday now and it is sometimes difficult to make it for the different court times. He stated that Drew Buffington has an interest to fill in as Deputy City Attorney in Municipal Court and noted that Mr. Buffington has minimal conflicts with law enforcement as he does not work in criminal defense. Discussion was held on Mr. Buffington's experience and Council agreed to move forward with an alternate City Attorney for Municipal Court. City Attorney Green spoke about how the system is changing in regard to hiring Defense Counsel and is being more aligned with how the State process works.
4. Discussion was held on items that the Southwest Colorado Council of Governments (SWCCOG) should be working on since their main focus over the past few years has been broadband. Mayor Sheek spoke about how the SWCCOG began in 2005 and stated that they are looking for items to work on that are important to the members. Discussion was held on who is a member of the SWCCOG and it was noted that Farmington is planning to join the SWCCOG. Council suggested that the SWCCOG could work on the following topics: transportation, infrastructure, drug use/safety, solar farm, water/landscaping, mental

health services, and economic development. Discussion was held on grants that have been awarded to SWCCOG in the past and it was noted that grants are awarded more on a regional basis.

The worksession was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.