

CORTEZ CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 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, Amy Huckins, Orly Lucero, David Rainey, and Arlina Yazzie. Councilmember Sue Betts was absent. Staff members present were Director of Finance Ben Burkett, Director of Public Works Phil Johnson, Airport Manager Russ Machen, Municipal Judge James Shaner, City Planner Tracie Hughes, IT Support Technician Bill Kuhn, System Analyst Shay Allred, Police Chief Vernon Knuckles, City Manager John Dougherty, Deputy City Clerk Sara Coffey, and City Attorney Mike Green. There were 16 people signed up as participants.

2. A presentation was made by Laura Lewis Marchino, Executive Director for Region 9. She spoke about the information included in the Council packet including the Monthly Reports for June and July which highlight the latest activities that are happening with Region 9. She commented that the Corporate Annual Report gives an overview of the financial situation and contains information on the key programs. She spoke about the membership in Region 9, which includes the City of Cortez, and stated that the Region 9 board meets quarterly. She stated that the four core programs offered to all members include: business loan programs, State data affiliate (information included in Economic Snapshot brochure), economic development services (strategic planning), and technical assistance and incentives. She spoke about two recovery grants that are being received by Region 9 in regard to COVID-19 and stated that the money will be distributed in the region to help businesses/Chamber of Commerce/etc. as they are recovering.

3. A presentation was made by Miriam Gillow-Wiles, Executive Director for Southwest Colorado Council of Governments (SWCCOG). She stated that they are a sister organization of Region 9 and have the same footprint. She spoke about the goals of the COG including ageing, environment, housing, telecommunications, tourism, and transportation. She spoke about the Regional Broadband Planning and a grant that was recently submitted for the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. She stated that the COG supports the Southwest Transportation Planning Region and works with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) for transit coordination. She spoke about other programs that the COG is involved in including workforce diversification, business support, and recycling initiatives. She stated that the COG works with many different organizations including economic groups, tribes, and Chambers to offer support where needed.

4. Municipal Judge Shaner was introduced and he spoke about how the Municipal Court is currently being run through the pandemic. He stated that Municipal Court meets every Monday and when needed on Wednesday and Friday. He stated that the most typical cases seen in Municipal Court are alcohol related or shoplifting, but may be any violation of the Cortez City Code. He stated that he began with the City in 2008.

5. Director of Finance Burkett gave an update on the budget impacts of COVID-19 and reviewed the July Financial Report. He stated that the sales tax numbers have come in stronger than anyone anticipated and that the higher sales tax has helped in the areas where the numbers

have not been so good (recreation center revenue/lodgers tax). He stated that funding to Mesa Verde Country has been temporarily halted to ensure that the Lodgers Tax Fund does not go into deficit. Discussion was held on sales tax received from vacation rental properties within the City. Director of Finance Burkett stated that the department heads are managing the reductions that were approved by Council in April which has helped with the expenditure projections for 2020. He stated that currently the sales tax rate allocated for the recreation center is .55% and will go down with the final debt payment made in 2021 to .35% in 2022. He spoke about the audit updates noting that the 2016 audit is complete and is waiting for the auditor's financial statements to be completed. He stated that the TABOR revenue continues to be worked on and balanced. He spoke about changing auditors and contractors and the time that would be incurred to complete that process should Council decide to move that direction.

6. City Attorney Green stated that he writes a variety of memos for different reasons and as the attorney is involved in many different facets of the City such as with franchise agreements, Land Use Code opinions, litigation, employee issues, etc. He commented that the memos can be used for discussion/action/information purposes. He stated that his memos are privileged documents and they don't need to be shared with anyone as it is attorney/client information. He stated that if there are any suggestions or changes that Council would like, to let him know.

7. Haley Leonard-Saunders introduced Brian Ensign, Licensed Social Worker/Addictions Counselor, noting that he is in charge of the Acute Treatment Unit, Crisis Services, and Detox facilities for Axis Health and he could answer any questions should Council have any. She stated that the request for funding has changed since the last discussion with Council as Montezuma County has offered to pay the full amount that was needed for the detox funding. She stated that the only funding request being made from the City of Cortez is for the \$12,000 for the acute treatment facility for 2021. She spoke about the acute treatment facility located in Durango which has been funded for over ten years by all the local municipalities/counties. She stated that in 2019 there were 59 people serviced in Montezuma County at the acute treatment facility and this year to date there have been 29 people. She spoke about community policing discussions that are being held with local stakeholders and City Council will be kept in the loop as the discussions continue.

8. Discussion was held on the disposal of the Airport fire truck which has exceeded its useful life and is no longer certified for usage at the Airport. City Manager Dougherty stated that Council could either accept bids on the truck or give the truck to the Cortez Fire District. He spoke about the City funds that were used to purchase the truck and Airport Manager Machen stated that there is a truck similar to the one at the Airport that is for sale at \$10,000; however, he feels the City's truck is worth more due to its low mileage and good shape that it is in. Discussion was held on whether the Fire Department could use the truck or if the truck should be sold for surplus. It was noted that the FAA has released the truck as the City has met the grant requirements which helped purchase the truck, as the Airport has had the truck for over 20 years. Council agreed to have further discussion at the next worksession on the disposal of the fire truck and Council asked if the Fire Department could give some feedback on their use for the truck.

9. Discussion was held on having Wi-Fi available outside City buildings. City Manager Dougherty spoke about Wi-Fi being available 24/7 in various City property parking lots and it is felt that the service should be offered from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., not 24/7. Mayor Pro-tem

Medina stated that it is important to have access to the internet at the Library, Welcome Center, and City Hall parking lots, especially through the next school year. City Attorney Green suggested that the City could look at what other communities have done in regard to time limitations and get back to Council. It was noted that equipment has been ordered for the Wi-Fi program; however, it has not been received yet. Director of Public Works Johnson stated that IT supports the Wi-Fi access but it needs to be done safely and properly which is the reason the times of 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. are being recommended for offering the service rather than 24/7. It was noted that the service would not be needed by the community that the service is being provided for at 1:00 a.m.

The virtual meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.