

CORTEZ CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2020, 5:30 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting (City Council Chambers/ZOOM)

1. The workshop was called to order at 5:30 p.m., through a hybrid meeting format. Councilmembers in attendance at the workshop included Mayor Mike Lavey, Mayor Pro-tem Rachel Medina, Amy Huckins, Orly Lucero, David Rainey, and Arlina Yazzie. Staff members present were Director of Finance Ben Burkett, Director of Public Works Phil Johnson, Airport Manager Russ Machen, City Planner Tracie Hughes, IT Support Technician Bill Kuhn, System Analyst Shay Allred, Chief of Police Vernon Knuckles, City Manager John Dougherty, City Clerk Linda Smith, and City Attorney Mike Green. There were eight people signed up as participants.

2. Thayer Plewe spoke to Council about his interest in serving as the youth representative on the Golf Advisory Board. He spoke about his experience as a golfer and noted that he is one of the Juniors that plays on the course every day and really cares about the course. He commented that staff at the course do a great job and he sees water and the ageing trees as future concerns for golf course.

3. Interviews were held for the two open seats on the Board of Adjustments and Appeals. Nick Manning was not able to attend as he was called out-of-town for his work (fire fighter). Rebecca Levy spoke with Council about her interest on serving on the board and noted that she is currently a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission. She stated that she has land use planning experience from many different municipalities in which she has lived. It was noted that a Board of Adjustments and Appeals meeting request has been made; however, there currently are only three members and the board must have four members to hold a hearing.

4. Mark Drudge, Director of Cortez Retail Enhancement Association (CREA), stated that he appreciates Council allowing him to meet with them in person as he feels it allows the public to connect with Council. He spoke about how CREA was originally developed twenty years ago and the amount of sales tax (2%) that CREA receives from the businesses in the community through their payment of sales tax. He noted that all City businesses that pay sales tax are members of CREA and he spoke of how the money (approximately \$200,000) is spent promoting the businesses in the community. He spoke about some of the promotions that are funded by CREA including the Cortez Cash program and the Third Thursdays. In answer to a question regarding the sponsorship of a coupon booklet for Cortez businesses and Mr. Drudge stated that they have worked with others of the community to sponsor a booklet, but do not run the program as another organization already provides that. Council wished Mr. Drudge good luck in his retirement and thanked him for all his hard work noting the Third Thursdays are a huge success because of he and Mr. Brooks' combined effort.

5. Director of Public Works Johnson gave an update on the truck traffic issues and what the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) has done to alert semi-trucks that are traveling on South Broadway turning at the Highway 491/Highway 160 split. He shared visual diagrams that are painted on the highway as well as signs that are posted for the semi-truck traffic to

follow for directions. Discussion was held on other suggestions for keeping the trucks from missing the turn and then ending up in the residential neighborhoods. Director of Public Works Johnson stated that he has asked that information be posted at the Port of Entry to help the trucks know of the intersection issue. Discussion was held on the speed limit for the area and it was pointed out that discussion continues on the issues with Empire Street and the intersections (on the east and west end) that connect with State highways.

6. Discussion was held on the disposal of the Airport fire truck. City Manager Dougherty spoke about the Airport fire truck which has been decommissioned because of age and he asked if Council would like to declare the truck as surplus and asked how Council would like to dispose of it. He stated that the Fire District has declared an interest in the truck; however, Airport Manager Machen has noted that the Airport purchased the truck through a grant (City paid approximately \$20,000 of the purchase price) and he would like some kind of return for the sale of the truck that could be put back into the Airport fund. Fire Chief Jay Balfour gave background on the Fire Protection District which was formed in 1987 and is paid by the taxpayers. He spoke about the interest of having the truck serve the community for brush fires and noted that the truck is in excellent condition. Discussion was held about the bidding process that the City would use should the City choose to sell the truck. Airport Manager Machen stated that the truck is 23 years old and has only 4,000 miles on it. He noted that he understands the sensitivity of working together with another tax supported entity; however, it is an asset to the City and through the tight budget time, every dollar matters. Discussion was held on the Fire Protection District providing fire protection for the Airport should there be a crash. Council agreed they would like to donate the truck to the Fire Protection District.

7. City Planner Hughes noted that the river valley requirements have been dropped from the County's proposed Land Use Code; however, more discussion has been scheduled to be held at the County Commissioners meeting on September 22, 2020. She noted that still on the table is the idea of allowing one-acre (from the minimum three-acre) lots as well as new setback requirements. It was suggested that the City work with the County regarding suggestions for the three-mile area and the City Master Streets Plan should be updated. Discussion was held on the availability of water and other utilities (septic systems, etc.) that would be needed should the County Land Use Code change to allow smaller lots less than three acres. Director of Public Works Johnson stated that all jurisdictions need to meet and review land use planning as well as water availability that would effect each from any changes. City Planner Hughes stated that a Master Streets Plan is ready for review. It was noted that discussion on the proposed Montezuma County Land Use Code will be held at the joint County Commission/City Council meeting scheduled for Monday, August 31, 2020, 6:00 p.m. City Planner Hughes stated that she would email the latest version of the proposed County Land Use Code to each of the Councilmembers.

8. Discussion was held on the vacancy on City Council, due to the passing of Sue Betts, and how to proceed with filling the open seat. City Clerk Smith noted that Section 21 of the City Charter outlines the process and Council asked that notice be placed in the newspaper and the City's website/facebook to advertise the open seat. Council asked that interviews be set for the applicants at the worksession on September 22, 2020, with appointment to be made at the Council meeting on October 13, 2020. It was noted that a picture of Councilmember Betts will

be hung in the Council Chambers sometime in the fall with her family present to hang the picture.

9. City Manager Dougherty stated that information on the 2021 Community Support Grant process was included in the Council FYI's in the August 11, 2020 packet and it has been asked if Council would like anything changed on the grants paperwork before it is released for the non-profits to complete. Council commented that the paperwork looked good and discussion was held on when the grants would be reviewed and the amount of funding that is budgeted for the grants.

10. Discussion was held on when evaluations would be done on the Municipal Judge and the City Attorney and how the evaluations would be held (executive session). It was suggested that the evaluations be done the first of the year.

The virtual meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.