

CORTEZ CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 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 Airport Manager Russ Machen, Director of Finance Ben Burkett, Director of Public Works Phil Johnson, Airport Manager Russ Machen, Network Administrator Bill Kuhn, System Analyst Shay Allred, Chief of Police Vernon Knuckles, City Manager John Dougherty, City Clerk Linda Smith, and Deputy City Attorney Tina Martinez. There were 32 people present in the Council Chambers and many participants on ZOOM.

2. Nick Manning was not able to attend the ZOOM meeting as he was traveling from work.

3. Karen Sheek and Suzy Meyer were interviewed for the two openings on the Library Advisory Board. Ms. Sheek stated that she has been on the board for a number of years both as a private citizen and as a Councilmember. She stated that she worked at the Cortez Middle School Library for 16 years and has a passion for Libraries. She commented that the Library staff has worked hard to keep up with the ever changing world and the Library is an important part of the community. Suzy Meyer stated that Libraries are important to a community and offer significant information that is valid and worthwhile. She stated that she served on the Library Advisory Board in previous years and would like to come back. She also commented on how amazing the staff is at the Library and noted that the City has done a great job at trying to keep up with the ever changing world.

4. Discussion was held on how to proceed on the homeless problem in the community. Mayor Pro-tem Medina stated that she and Mayor Lavey met with staff from the Bridge Emergency Shelter and several comments were made on a temporary fix until grants can be received to keep the shelter open year-round. She stated that Bridge is not conducive to house families. She stated that discussion was held on a possible parking lot that people could stay in should they need to stay in their car overnight and possibility finding an empty building that could temporarily house the homeless people. Mayor Lavey stated that he felt the meeting was productive and noted that discussion will continue to be held on the issues. It was noted that the City should do what they can to help people get back on their feet.

5. City Manager Dougherty spoke about the request from the Montezuma County Commissioners to cost share the repaving of County Road F to the Airport. He stated that the 2021 Budget is in a deficit and many of the City roads have not been taken care of; however, Road F is used primarily for traffic to the Airport. Shak Powers, Administrator for Montezuma County, stated that Rob Englehart, Road Superintendent, has been directed to assess the costs that would be associated with repaving the road. Director of Public Works Johnson stated that Commissioner Jim Candelaria had sent him an email outlining the work for County Road F which would include a two-inch overlay from the intersection to the Airport access (3/4 of a mile) with a cost of approximately \$140,000 for the City's portion. He stated that the County

would complete the prep work, shoulder repair, striping, etc. and cover anything over the \$140,000 that was requested from the City. Councilmember Lucero questioned why the City is maintaining a County Road.

6. Discussion was held on the solar project at the Airport noting that Shaw Solar approached Airport staff in 2019 about the installation of solar electric generating panels on the roof of the terminal and Airport maintenance shop. Airport Manager Machen stated that there is only enough unencumbered and usable roof space to impact one electric meter. Discussion was held on the pros and cons of installing the panels and Mike Ellis, of Shaw Solar, spoke about the four projects that they have partnered with the City on previously. He spoke about the leasing structure which allows the City to buy the solar in year six and the advantage of the program for both Shaw Solar and the City. He spoke about the warrantee of the solar panels and the continued maintenance program. In answer to a question from Councilmember Yazzie, Airport Manager Machen stated that a 30-year roof was placed on the Airport about 15 years ago and it looks really good and is checked often.

7. Director of Finance Burkett spoke about the August Financial Report and noted that sales tax is up 5% for August and 2% year to-date. He spoke about the remaining projections for the year as well as the Lodger's Tax projections. He reviewed the various graphs in the August Financial Report and noted that the various revenues and expenditures through the year-to-date. He stated that a public meeting would be held on the 2021 Budget on Tuesday, September 20, 2020, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., and commented that the budget is available on the City's web site for the public to review and comment on.

8. Discussion was held on parades being held on Main Street and City Manager Dougherty commented as long as everyone is peaceful they have a right to protest. Mayor Lavey stated that everyone has the right to the First Amendment Right; however, he would like to encourage a meeting be held with the Freedom Riders, Marchers from St. Barnabas Church, Chief of Police and himself to have dialog and possibly work through any misunderstandings there may be between the two groups. He stated that no one wants any issues to escalate. Chief of Police Knuckles spoke of the issue that happened on Saturday interfering with the Patriot Riders Rally. Discussion was held on everyone being respectful to each other and representatives from the Patriot Riders and the Peace/Justice Walkers spoke about their hope of peaceful and non-violent demonstrations. Both speakers also spoke of the kindness expressed from both sides (waves and smiles) as well as the unkind/hostile actions that have happened the last few weeks. Councilmember Yazzie stated that everyone needs to be good to each other and we all need to rise above and not be like other communities in turmoil. She stated that we have a sense of pride in Cortez and asked that everyone just be kind.

The hybrid meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.