

CORTEZ CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 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 present in the Council Chambers included Mayor Mike Lavey, Mayor Pro-tem Rachel Medina, and Arlina Yazzie. Councilmembers participating by ZOOM included Amy Huckins, Orly Lucero, and David Rainey. Staff members present were City Planner Tracie Hughes, Director of Finance Ben Burkett, Patrol Lieutenant Andy Brock, Director of Public Works Phil Johnson, City Manager John Dougherty, City Clerk Linda Smith, and City Attorney Mike Green. There were five people present in the Council Chambers and 11 participants by ZOOM.
2. Ann Brown, June Head, and Joe Keck, representing the Montezuma Heritage Museum, spoke to Council about their request for assistance in completing the renovations of the new museum with a \$5,000 one-time donation from the City to complete the audio/visual theater. They spoke about the history of museums in Cortez and commented that any money that is donated would be matched 100%. It was shared that museums are a great attraction for tourism to the community and the investment would be a great return for the City.
3. Kelly Kirkpatrick, Executive Director for Mesa Verde Country, updated Council on the latest happenings of the tourism office in 2020 and the goals for 2021. She shared two videos (Cortez, Colorado from the Sky and Ride through History in Mesa Verde Country) showing ‘stories’ of Cortez and Montezuma County. She spoke about visitation to Cortez this year and noted the changes that have been made to advertising due to no international travel. She spoke about the collaboration of the various partners (State and Region) of Mesa Verde County and thanked City Council for their support during this hard year. Council thanked Ms. Kirkpatrick for her dedication and hard work.
4. Director of Finance Burkett reviewed the Monthly Finance Update for September 2020 and the budget impacts of COVID-19. He shared the numbers for the Lodger’s Tax which is down for the year as well as the numbers for sales tax which are up. He commented that the City is covering all expenditures based on the revenues that are coming in. He spoke about the General Fund and reviewed the changes that were made after the copy was sent to Council in the packet. He spoke about the COVID money that is being requested for reimbursement and stated that he would email the updated financial statements.
5. City Planner Hughes spoke about the Master Streets Plan noting that staff has been working on the plan (in the one-mile area) and hoping to have the plan in front of the Planning and Zoning Commission very soon.
6. Discussion was held on proposed Montezuma County Land Use Code and City Manager Dougherty noted the comments that were included in the Council packet from City Planner Hughes regarding suggestions that could be made to the County Commissioners. Mayor Pro-tem

Medina noted that it makes sense on the one acre regulation rather than the three acres. Mayor Lavey noted that wild fire mitigation should be addressed due to the drought we are in. Council did not have any objections to forwarding the information to the County Commissioners.

7. City Manager Dougherty spoke about sick leave should an employee be affected by COVID-19. He stated that 80 hours has been recommended for employees to receive separate from their normal sick leave allowance should they be required to be off for COVID-19 and he would like to recommend that the City match that with an additional 80 hours allowing for a total of 160 hours that employees could use should they need to. City Manager Dougherty also spoke about changing the Personnel Handbook allowing employees to contribute to a COVID 'bucket' that could be given to employees that go over the 160 hours and don't have additional sick leave to use. He spoke about employees that have been sent home because of the close proximity to others that have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Council supported the proposal.

8. Discussion was held on how the remaining CARES Act Funding that has not been used by the City to cover COVID expenses could be distributed. City Manager Dougherty stated that there will be approximately \$100,000 to \$200,000 left from the CARES Act Funding that the City received and he suggested that the City give the money to Region 9 to disperse to local businesses to help them with expenses that they have had due to COVID. He stated that the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) has asked that any of the money that may be left be returned so it could be used by other communities and City Manager Dougherty stated that he would prefer the money to be used locally rather than being returned. He noted a request that was included in the Council packet from the Chamber of Commerce for \$100,000 from the COVID money to be used to pay memberships for all the businesses in 2021. Discussion was held on a maximum amount that could be given to each of the local businesses should they qualify for the funding. It was noted that the Town of Mancos, Town of Dolores and Montezuma County have given their remaining money to Region 9 and they are aware of the timeline and requirements for use of the money. City Attorney Green spoke about his concern of giving money to the Chamber of Commerce as he questioned that paying dues for the membership would qualify as COVID related, though he suggested that the Chamber could apply through Region 9 for the money should the Council allow non-profits to be considered for funding. Colby Black, Chamber of Commerce Board Member, spoke to Council about the request from the Chamber of Commerce for funding noting that there is a great need to keep the Chamber going in the community for economic growth/tourism. Shak Powers, Manager for Montezuma County, spoke about the agreement that was made with Region 9 for disbursement of the remaining CARES Act Funding that the County had and he offered to share the agreement with the City. It was noted that further discussion would be held on the item during the regular Council session (6f) and the money not used by December 31, 2020, will need to be returned.

9. Discussion was held on the allowance of Trick-or-Treat this year and it was suggested that everyone be mindful of your neighbor, encourage people to wear masks, social distance, and follow Health Department requirements.

10. Council held discussion on the open seat that is available on City Council and the qualities that they were looking for in a replacement Councilmember. It was noted that 13 applicants were interviewed on September 22, 2020 and an appointment will be made during the regular

Council meeting (6e). Council noted that there were great applicants for the open seat and thanked everyone for their interest. The process of how Council would vote for the replacement candidate was reviewed.

11. Miscellaneous discussion included a request from the Montezuma County Hospital District for an easement for a water irrigation line through the Geer Natural Area wetlands. City Attorney Green stated that he is exploring all the different options with the request. In answer to a question from Mayor Pro-tem Medina, City Manager Dougherty stated that discussion continues with the State on the status of the hydro-plant. Discussion was held on how the City is handling citizens that are behind on their water bills.

The hybrid meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.