

CORTEZ CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2019

1. The workshop began at 5:30 p.m., with dinner 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 Patrol Lieutenant Andy Brock, Director of Planning and Building Sam Proffer, City Engineer Chad Hill, Associate Planner Neva Connolly, City Planner Tracie Hughes, Director of Public Works Phil Johnson, Management Intern Peyton Heitzman, Deputy City Clerk Sara Coffey, City Attorney Mike Green, and City Manager John Dougherty. There were five people present in the audience.
2. City Planner Hughes stated that Council was interested in holding a worksession to further discuss the newly revised Land Use Code prior to moving forward on its adoption. Different dates were discussed and Council chose to meet on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 5:30 p.m.
3. Discussion was held on the Public Works Conservation Fund Budget. Director of Public Works Johnson stated that \$5,000 was budgeted for seed money for the conservation plan and to date \$3,200 has been spent with a lot of programs still to complete. He stated that a lot of momentum has begun with the conservation plan and he would like to increase the amount approximately \$10,000 more. He spoke about the different items the money would be spent on, such as table tents for restaurants advertising that water would not be served unless requested. It was noted that the money would come from the Water Enterprise Fund. Council agreed the budget could be increased to \$15,000 for the program.
4. Laurie Hall spoke to Council about helping to fund the Montezuma Food Coalition food pantry. City Manager Dougherty stated that the Food Coalition missed applying for the City's grant program in 2018 as they were just obtaining the building located on North Street. Ms. Hall spoke about the pilot project which provides local food to those in need and stated that a space is being provided for an art program that would begin to help fund the food pantry. Discussion was held on the items that needed to be purchased to help move the program forward and the amount requested. Council suggested that people in the community, such as hardware stores/electricians/etc., be approached to see if they could contribute to the project. Council noted that they appreciate all that is done by the Montezuma Food Coalition and stated that the program is important to the community. Council tabled the request for further discussion at a later date.
5. Mayor Sheek stated that Annie Barrow, Manager of Horticulture Outreach Programs with the Denver Botanical Gardens, presented a program on Monday, April 22, 2019, titled 'Water-Wise Landscaping.' She introduced Ms. Barrow and also Ross Shrigley, from Plant Select, who spoke about plants that are recommended for our area. Ms. Barrow spoke about landscaping with water conservation in mind and strategies to reduce water consumption including plant selection, grouping plants together based on water needs, and soil amendments. She noted that Montezuma County is at the edge of a steppe climate that

varies from the mountain conditions found in Rico to the high desert conditions of Cortez and that a variety of flowering plant, grasses, shrubs, and trees can be supported in the community. She stated that a plant list with guidelines is a great idea for encouraging new business landscaping and she encouraged Council to use the new medians in downtown to showcase landscaping that would work in the area. She shared pictures of different landscaping ideas that require low maintenance and no or little water. Discussion was held on the different grasses that could be planted that also require little water. Mr. Shrigley stated that the local nurseries offer plants that are drought tolerant and work in our area. He stated that the plants are labeled with Plant Select watering suggestions. He also shared pictures of annual plants/trees that continue to bring long lasting beauty each year and use less water.

6. City Manager Dougherty stated that Lisa Bunker, from Osprey, has spoken with him about partnering together with Empire Electric, the City of Cortez, and Osprey to purchase and place an EV charging station at the Welcome Center. He stated that Osprey is willing to contribute up to \$10,000 toward the first EV charging station and the City would need to maintain the facility after the installation. Management Intern Heitzman spoke about a grant that is being completed to request funding toward the EV charging station. Discussion was held on how customers utilizing the charger would pay for the use. Council agreed that the location was a good idea as it is centrally located in the downtown area and that the proposal should move forward.
7. A brief discussion was held on the Destination Imagination request that would be presented to Council during the regular meeting. Council noted that other kids have requested funding in the past from other communities; however, Council has traditionally funded requests made by Cortez students.
8. City Manager Dougherty reminded Council if they are interested in attending the Colorado Municipal League training held in June, to let him know as soon as possible so reservations could be made.

Council adjourned from the workshop at 7:25 p.m.