



CITY OF CORTEZ
123 ROGER SMITH AVENUE
CORTEZ, CO 81321

Cortez City Council to Open Council Chambers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cortez, CO, March 17, 2021 – Cortez City Council has approved safety measures to open City Council meetings to the public. On March 23, 2021, Council meetings will be reopened to public attendance with the following safety guidelines. All persons in attendance at Council meetings shall abide.

1. All attendees shall be subject to a health check and temperature measure at the entrance to the building. Attendees shall provide their name and a telephone number for contact tracing purposes.
2. Masks or face shields shall be worn at all times in Council Chambers, no exceptions. Masks should cover both mouth and nose, and should **not** be removed at any time while in Chambers.
3. The number of occupants/attendees present in Council Chambers shall be determined by the State color designation and applicable regulations.
4. Persons who cannot or will not wear a mask shall be accommodated in auxiliary rooms, as space allows.
5. There will be bathroom facilities available for those who attend Council in Chambers, and for those who are accommodated in auxiliary rooms.
6. All in-person attendees should follow posted safety protocols that include social distancing and using hand sanitizer.
7. Accommodations for distance attendance via zoom shall be made for the public, staff members, and Councilmembers.
8. The public shall be admitted to Council Chambers fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled start of the meeting.
9. The primary front entrance will be the only entry/exit used for the public on Council meeting nights. Other entrances and exits shall remain closed.
10. Police officers and/or Sergeant at Arms shall be posted as needed at entrance and in Council Chambers.
11. All attendees at Council meetings shall engage in respectful behavior and language at all times.
12. Public comment accommodations:
 - a. Due to time constraints, the first six (6) persons wishing to make public comment may do so at the beginning of the meeting. All other comments will be heard at the conclusion of scheduled agenda items.
 - b. Each person shall be allotted a maximum of four (4) minutes to complete their comment. The commenter will receive a signal when time is nearly complete and should abide by the timekeeper.
 - c. No member of the public shall comment more than once at any meeting, nor shall any person be ceded the time of another commenter.

- d. Each member of the public will state their name and residential address at the beginning of their comment period. There are no residency requirements to participate.
 - e. Council may amend length of comment time (i.e. reduce to 3 minutes) at the beginning of meetings in order to better accommodate all members of the public. Council may poll commenters or request a single spokesperson for a large group to reduce duplicate comments, should they deem it necessary.
 - f. Comments shall alternate between in-person attendees and zoom or electronic attendees to provide fair access to all parties.
13. These guidelines shall be disseminated to the public.

With questions please contact Cortez City Clerk Linda Smith at 970-564-4008.