

CORTEZ CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021, 5:30 p.m.
By Virtual Contact – ZOOM

1. The workshop was called to order at 5:30 p.m., through Virtual Contact by ZOOM. Councilmembers present included Mayor Mike Lavey, Robert Dobry, Amy Huckins, Mayor Pro-tem Rachel Medina, David Rainey, and Arlina Yazzie. Councilmember Orly Lucero was absent. Staff members present were City Planner Tracie Hughes, Associate Planner Neva Connolly, GIS Coordinator Doug Roth, City Engineer Chad Hill, Director of Public Works Phil Johnson, Chief of Police Vernon Knuckles, City Manager John Dougherty, City Clerk Linda Smith, City Attorney Mike Green, and Network Administrator Bill Kuhn. Also, Planning and Zoning Commissioners present were Stephen Candelaria, Rebecca Levy, and Robert Rime. There were seven people signed up as participants on ZOOM.
2. Council adjourned to Executive Session at 5:30 p.m. for a conference with the City Attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(b) and for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and/or instructing negotiators, under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(e). Discussion was held on the City Manager's contract and no decisions were made during Executive Session. Council returned from Executive Session at 6:30 p.m.
3. Lucia Story was interviewed for an open seat on the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Advisory Board. Ms. Story reviewed her background and commented on why she was interested in serving on the board. She spoke about the importance of improving quality of life in the community and her experience with teaching Body Pump at the Recreation Center. It was noted that the appointment would be discussed during the regular Council meeting.
4. City Planner Hughes spoke about the Master Streets Plan noting that the current adopted Master Streets Plan was last amended in 1999. She stated that the purpose of the plan is to provide guidance for future alignments of City maintained streets for future developments so that connectivity is preserved throughout the City. She stated that the City has historically implemented the Master Street Plan when reviewing County subdivision plats and gave some background of the plan. She noted that after meeting with County staff, it has been recommended that the map include the entire three-mile area outside the City limits. She spoke about the outreach program that will be initiated over the next few months for public/agencies input and commented that a public hearing will be held with Planning and Zoning and City Council prior to the final adoption (projected for March 2021). GIS Coordinator Roth spoke about the history of the plan and the new revisions that have been made since amended in 1999. City Engineer Hill stated that connectivity to City streets is triggered by development and alignment is discussed by County/City staff during the proposal for new projects. It was noted that the map is available should anyone want a copy and is available on-line through the Council agenda packets. Associate Planner Connolly spoke about the information that will be placed on-line once approval is given to move forward and how the public can comment back to staff.

Discussion was held on how the Master Plan will be noticed on social media and other platforms that will engage the public, including information in the water bills.

5. Director of Public Works Johnson spoke about the Highway Use Tax Fund (HUTF) which is received from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) from vehicle registration and gas tax. He stated that normally the Mayor signs the form by the first week in February; however, staff wanted to inform Council on the document so they could know what it entails. He spoke about the street improvements that would be completed this year with the HUTF money and also shared information on pedestrian crossings that would be improved on Montezuma Avenue and by Madison House. He also spoke about the plan to complete the intersection of Montezuma and Mildred Avenue (referred to as 'plunger alley') with landscaping, curb and gutter. Discussion was held on the Montezuma/Mildred intersection remaining as a four-way stop or having a round-about. It was noted that a cost estimate could be done on both ideas and Council can decide what they prefer for the intersection prior to completion. Discussion was held on putting public art in the round-about should Council decide to complete the intersection that way.

6. General Council Discussion – Director of Public Works Johnson noted that the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) has notified the City that they will be receiving a refund of \$85,000 from the Hawkins ADA project that the City and CDOT jointly funded. He commented on the good relationship that the City and CDOT have and that it is appreciated that they are sharing the cost savings on the project with the City.

The ZOOM Worksession meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.