

CORTEZ CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 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, Orly Lucero, Mayor Pro-tem Rachel Medina, David Rainey, and Arlina Yazzie. Staff members present were City Planner Tracie Hughes, Associate Planner Neva Connolly, 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. Patrick Rondinelli, Southwest Regional Manager with the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) presented Council 101 training. He spoke about his background including City Administrator for Ouray for 13 years and currently working for DOLA for the past 3 ½ years. He gave an overview of what his presentation would include beginning with the roles and responsibilities of City Council. He commented that elected officials set policy, use enabling authority and charter to protect public interest, appoint the City Manager, City Attorney and Municipal Judge, provide general direction and on-going communication. He commented that Council should approach all issues with an open mind and consider before commenting that what is said/done may be in the headlines of the newspaper. He stated that Council needs to agree to disagree. He noted code of conduct/ethics that Council should adhere to: be professional; perception is reality; respect each other as professionals; confidentiality; be a positive ambassador for the community; and avoid surprises. He noted that Council represents all the citizens of the community and lack of consistency can create legal, liability, and fairness issues. He spoke about Council's interaction/roll with the City Manager and noted that the City Manager hires, terminates, and supervises City staff and carries out Council's policies. He noted that Council should never exercise authority as a Council member except when acting in a meeting with the full City Council, unless specifically delegated by City Council otherwise. He spoke about advisory boards and commissions that are appointed by the City Council and noted that all boards answer to the City Council with exception of the Planning and Zoning Commission which are authorized to make decisions on some land use issues. He gave suggestions on how Council should interact with staff, citizens, and applicants for projects in the community. He stated that Council needs to give a clear vision so that staff can carry out the vision. He spoke about the different types of meetings that City Council may have and commented that most meetings must be noticed and open to the public at all times. He spoke about conflicts of interest and how Council should handle those issues should there be one. He noted that it is okay to have an opinion, but if a Councilmember acts on that opinion for personal gain versus for the public interest, that Councilmember probably has a conflict of interest. He reviewed a Code of Conduct/Best Practices for Council encouraging Council to work as a team, value each other's ideas, treat each other with respect, and have fun.

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