

CORTEZ CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021, 5:30 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting/in-person and Virtual Contact by ZOOM

1. The workshop was called to order at 5:30 p.m., with a Hybrid Meeting/in-person and Virtual Contact by ZOOM format. 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 Director of Finance Kelly Koskie, Airport Manager Jeremy Patton, Director of Parks and Recreation Dean Palmquist, Director of Public Works Phil Johnson, City Engineer Chad Hill, Chief of Police Vernon Knuckles, City Manager John Dougherty, City Clerk Linda Smith, City Attorney Mike Green, IT Support Technician Kyle Kuhn, IT Support Technician Jason Gray, and Network Administrator Bill Kuhn. There were eleven people signed up as participants on ZOOM.
2. Director of Public Works Johnson spoke about the Concrete Cost Share and Streets Program reviewing the intersections that are planned for improvement in 2021. He spoke about the ADA ramps that would be improved on various streets on Montezuma Avenue (Linden, Elm, Chestnut, Beech, Ash, Washington, Madison, and Park Streets) and commented that new striping will also be completed with the project. He also spoke about the proposed improvements on Madison Street to Main Street (across First and Second Streets). He spoke about the layout should Council decide to have a round-about constructed at Mildred and Montezuma Avenue, rather than a four-way stop. Director of Public Works Johnson noted the landscaping that would change should a round-about be installed. Discussion was held on how the traffic issues have improved due to the four-way stop that has temporarily been installed in place of all the turning lanes that were originally in place on Montezuma Avenue. It was noted how much foot traffic there is at the Mildred and Montezuma Avenue intersection. City Engineer Hill spoke about the cost for the round-about proposal versus the four-way stop, noting that the round-about is approximately one million dollars more than the construction on the four-way stop. Director of Public Works Johnson spoke about the next steps for the project which will include meeting with the Colorado Department of Transportation on the project and then advertising for bids. Council agreed that the four-way stop should be pursued rather than the round-about.
3. It was noted that the Emergency Ordinance regarding snow removal is being removed from the agenda for further review before being presented to City Council.
4. Airport Manager Patton spoke about upcoming projects at the Airport besides general upkeep and repair and noted that he is working with the FAA on the replacement of navigation lights that were taken out by an aircraft incident recently. He spoke about a new grant (Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act) that the Airport is eligible for and what the funds (\$13,000) would be used. He spoke about his plans to keep the fire truck should the Airport become recertified as Part 139. He spoke about future planning with Boutique Airline (additional routes), car rental issues, Master Planning for future runway updates and taxi-lane extensions to allow for more hangars. He also spoke about future marketing of the Airport. In answer to a question from Councilmember Huckins, Airport Manager Patton explained the plan for the update of the security cameras.

5. Director of Finance Koskie spoke about the review that was held on the two bids received for completing the City's audits beginning in 2017 to present. She commented that the review committee is recommending that Atlas CPA's be awarded the contract which will be discussed during the regular Council meeting. She reviewed the reason that two separate motions would be required for the award of the audits, one for the years 2017–2018 and another for the remaining years 2019-2025 (due to the multiple year award). She spoke about the importance of getting the firm locked in as their team is gearing up and ready to go. She spoke about the plan to work with the firm and noted that quarterly meetings will be held to stay proactive on how the audits are moving forward. Discussion was held on the Professional Services Contract which City Attorney Green noted is the standardized agreement for all City awards.

6. Discussion was held by City Council on how to move forward to allow public access (in-person) to the Council meetings. Councilmember Rainey asked if Dr. Aiken could be invited to the next Council worksession to speak about the COVID policies/risks before Council makes a decision on how to move forward with any changes. Councilmember Dobry stated that he would really like the City to find a way to allow people to attend the meetings in-person. Discussion was held on opening different City spaces for the public to attend in-person and what staff would be needed to monitor that everyone is wearing their masks/taking temperatures and being able to run the equipment for the public to watch and speak at the meetings. Council agreed that Dr. Aiken be invited to speak at the next Council worksession before a decision is made on how to proceed with opening the building for public access during the Council meeting/worksessions. It was noted that Montezuma County will be moving to blue on the COVID dial on Saturday, February 27, 2021. City Manager Dougherty stated that he would speak with staff on the spaces that could be available for public access for the meetings prior to the next Council worksession.

7. Continued discussion was held on the assessed fees for maintenance of the green space for Brandon's Gate and Rodeo Subdivisions (previously discussed at the February 9, 2021, Council worksession). Director of Parks and Recreation Palmquist spoke about the City wanting to contract out the work to a local landscaping company so the park maintenance staff can take care of their other duties, which now include maintaining the downtown/South Broadway medians and City gateway areas. He reviewed the fees that would be assessed to the homes (and/or lots) in the two subdivisions and the possibility of phasing in the fee changes to be able to cover the costs of the maintenance. Discussion was held as to why the subdivisions didn't create Homeowner's Associations (HOA) instead of having the City complete the maintenance on the extra features that the subdivisions have. Discussion was held on getting assessment fees in arrears and all the lots being assessed rather than just the lots with homes built on them. Director of Parks and Recreation stated that he was completing a bid to receive the costs for the maintenance and would present that information to Council for their review at a future meeting. Discussion was held on changing the maintained area to allow for less maintenance. Discussion will continue on the matter at a later date.

The worksession meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.