

CORTEZ CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR WORKSHOP  
TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 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 in the Council Chambers included Mayor Mike Lavey, Robert Dobry, Amy Huckins, Mayor Pro-tem Rachel Medina, David Rainey, and Arlina Yazzie. Councilmember Orly Lucero participated by ZOOM. Staff members present by ZOOM included Airport Manager Jeremy Patton, Director of General Services Rick Smith, Grants and Special Projects Chris Burkett, Director of Public Works Phil Johnson, City Planner Tracie Hughes, Director of Human Resources Matt Cashner, Library Director Alicia Gomori-Lusker, Director of Parks and Recreation Dean Palmquist, and Aquatics Supervisor Michelle Devall. Chief of Police Vernon Knuckles, City Manager John Dougherty, City Clerk Linda Smith, City Attorney Mike Green, IT Support Technician Kyle Kuhn, System Analyst Shay Allred, and Network Administrator Bill Kuhn were present in the Council Chambers. There were eleven people signed up as participants on ZOOM.

2. Dr. Kent Aiken, Montezuma County Health Physician and Hospitalist at Southwest Memorial Hospital, gave suggestions for reopening Council Chambers to the public. He spoke about Council following the CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines for any public gatherings noting a few of the most important ones including the limitation on the amount of time that people are gathered in the room (up to 120 minutes) and/or possibly staggering the time which people are gathered in the room. He spoke about the vaccines that have been given out in the community (up to 10,000 at present) and noted that it is less likely to spread the virus once a person has the second vaccine; however, distancing of six feet between people should continue as well as wearing face masks. He commented that if someone cannot wear a face mask for whatever reason, a face shield could possibly be allowed. He spoke about screening for symptoms (temperature check/etc.) before allowing entrance into the building and noted that ventilation is important. Discussion was held on having a 'passport card' (is a card that has the vaccine dates written on it that a person has received) before entering the building. Council spoke about the possibility of offering another space to the public to watch the Council meetings should someone not want to wear a face mask in the Council Chambers and it was noted that the hybrid (ZOOM) will also continue to be offered for those that want to watch the meeting, but not attend in person. Dr. Aiken stated he is available any time should there be any further questions.

3. Director of Parks and Recreation Palmquist and Aquatics Supervisor Devall spoke about opening the outdoor swimming pool this summer. Aquatics Supervisor Devall spoke about the requirements for training the lifeguards and having enough staff for safety reasons to man both the recreation center swimming pools and the outdoor pool. She noted that approximately 20-25 lifeguards and 5 pool managers are needed during the spring/summer months to open both pool facilities. She spoke about the training program which has changed due to COVID regulations and noted that as soon as the equipment is received for training, she hopes to get as many lifeguards trained as possible to allow for the opening of the outdoor pool (which she referred to as one of the crown jewels of the community). City Manager Dougherty stated that currently there are only four lifeguards at the recreation center and approximately six applications have been received for the lifeguard position. Discussion was held on offering limited hours if there

are not enough lifeguards and it was noted that the social distancing may require limited capacity at the pool anyway. It was noted that the rules for the swimming pool would be reviewed again at the end of April so a decision could be made by Council on how to proceed. Council suggested that the plan for re-opening the pool be reviewed by Dr. Aiken before Council's review at the end April. It was noted that maintenance for the outdoor pool will also need to be discussed prior to a decision being made by Council to open the outdoor pool for the summer.

4. Council adjourned to Executive Session at 6:05 p.m., as per C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(b) for a conference with the City Attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions regarding Water 101. All seven Councilmembers, as well as Scott Krob from Krob Law Office, City Attorney Green, and City Manager Dougherty were in attendance. Council returned to the regular Worksession at 7:22 p.m. No decisions were made in Executive Session.

5. The update to be given by Library Director Gomori-Lusker was rescheduled for the next Council worksession due to time restraints.

The worksession meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.