

CORTEZ CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR WORKSHOP/SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021, 5:30 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting/in-person and Virtual Contact by ZOOM

1. The workshop was called to order at 5:45 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 Director of Parks and Recreation Dean Palmquist, Director of General Services Rick Smith, City Planner Tracie Hughes, Director of Public Works Phil Johnson, and Director of Finance Kelly Koskie. 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 ten people signed up as participants on ZOOM.
2. Council adjourned to Executive Session at 5:48 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). The Executive Session was concluded at 6:32 p.m., with no decisions made. Scott Krob was present in the Executive Session with City Council with discussion held on water rights.
3. Councilmember Lucero recused himself from the discussion on the solar rate discussion. City Manager Dougherty stated that when Montezuma County put in their solar charging stations they were informed that the rates were being changed by Empire Electric. He stated that he asked Director of General Services Smith to look into the rate changes to see how they may affect the City's solar systems. Director of General Services Smith spoke about the two solar systems which are located on City Hall noting that they are working well and have offered savings to the City for energy costs. He explained how much the proposed new energy rates/demand charges would cost the City which are estimated to go into effect in September. He asked if Council would like to send a letter similar to the one sent by Montezuma County asking the for City to be grandfathered in to the old rates or to receive the "All Energy Rate." No further discussion was held on the item.
4. Finance Director Koskie reviewed the February Financial Report explaining the revenue and expense portion as well as the way the report is broken down for the different departments. She noted that the bottom of each page shows what percentage of the budget that has been spent. In answer to a question from Council, Finance Director Koskie gave an update on the status of the audits commenting that the auditor will be at City Hall in May to work with staff.
5. A presentation was made on the band shell proposal noting that Council authorized a group of citizens (through Resolution No. 4, Series 2020), now called the Friends of the Bandshell, to raise funds for the construction of a band shell to possibly be located in Centennial Park. Bob Waggoner stated that discussion has been held with the Onward Foundation to be involved with the fundraising portion as they have experience as a non-profit organization. Jim Keo, of Keo

Studioworks, spoke about the difference in a band shell and a bandstand and reviewed various locations that the band shell could be located. It was noted that shade trees, bathrooms, parking, and other amenities would be important to the band shell completion. Discussion was held on a possible conflict with the original proposed location of the band shell and the future Library expansion. City Attorney Green stated that City staff members need to be consulted (Planning and Zoning/Building Department, etc.) before moving the project any further so that the proposal meets City regulations. It was suggested that the Planning and Zoning process should be completed before Council approves the location for the band shell. Council agreed that discussion would need to be held on the best location for the band shell as the City also has property on the south side of town that is planned for a new park. It was recommended that the neighbors of Centennial Park should be consulted if the band shell is still recommended to be located in that area. Also, discussion would be needed on who would be paying for the long term costs of caring for the band shell. It was suggested that the project move to the Planning Department for their input.

The worksession meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.