

CORTEZ CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR WORKSHOP/SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2022
6:00 p.m.

1. The workshop was called to order at 6:00 p.m., at the City Council Chambers. Councilmembers present included Mayor Rachel Medina, Mayor Pro-tem Arlina Yazzie, Lydia DeHaven, Robert Dobry, Matt Keefauver, David Rainey, and Dennis Spruell. Staff members present included Director of Community and Economic Development Rachael Marchbanks, Chief of Police Vern Knuckles, Human Resources Director Matt Cashner, Director of Parks and Recreation Creighton Wright, Finance Director Kelly Koskie, Deputy City Clerk Donna Murphy, City Clerk Linda Smith, City Manager Drew Sanders, and City Attorney Mike Green. There were five people present in the audience.
2. Interviews were canceled with Michael Frazier and Teri Paul for the open seat on Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Advisory Board and will be held at a later date.
3. Human Resources Director Cashner spoke about the FAMLI (Family and Medical Insurance) program which was created through the Statewide voters' approval of Proposition 118 in 2020. He stated that the FAMLI program exists to ensure all Colorado workers have access to paid leave and the benefit depends on time employed within Colorado. He stated that if the City does not opt out, it will automatically be considered an "opt in" with City and employee premiums due beginning in 2023. He stated that if the City decides to opt out they can reconsider the option anytime. He spoke about the benefits that the City employees currently have now and noted that a sick leave donation plan is available to assist employees who may need assistance. He stated that the program would not be optional for employees if the City becomes a covered employer. He stated that City employees may directly enroll in the program through the State if the City does not opt in. Discussion was held on the pros and cons of the program and staff was directed to present a resolution at the next Council meeting to opt out of the program.
4. A round table was held in the Training Room (at 6:30 p.m.) with City Councilmembers, City Manager, City Attorney, Montezuma County Attorney Ian MacLaren, Administrator Shak Powers, and Montezuma County Commissioners, Jim Candelaria, Kent Lindsay, Gerald Koppenhafer. Discussion was held on projects which the City and County are working on including transportation, housing, County department updates, economic development, and emergency management. The County asked the City to help fund the reconstruction of Road F, which goes to the Airport. Discussion was held on the cost (currently estimated at \$550,000) and if the City could contribute approximately 25% of the cost. The City officials stated that they would discuss the request. The Commissioners and City Council agreed to invite the tribe and representatives from Dolores and Mancos Town Boards to future joint meetings. County Administrator Powers stated that this was his last week with the County and the Commissioners announced that they held interviews for a replacement County Administrator and would be making an announcement of the finalist candidate as required by State Statute.

5. Mayor Medina asked if the City could offer a demonstrated xeriscape plot so the community could see the plants and how xeriscaping could look. City Manager Sanders stated that discussion could be held on how to proceed with a demonstration plot; however, currently the staff is busy keeping the grass watered and the parks kept up. He suggested that the City partner with someone that is an expert on xeriscaping and that the plan could be included in the budget process. It was noted that the CSU Extension office is a good place to get information and it was suggested that information be offered to the citizens through a link to xeriscaping ideas that are already created by the State.

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