

CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR WORKSHOP/SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2025
6:15 p.m.

1. The Workshop was called to order at 6:15 p.m., in the City Council Chambers. Councilmembers present included: Mayor Rachel Medina, Robert Dobry, Matt Keefauver, Bill Lewis, April Randle, and Dennis Spruell. Mayor Pro-tem Lydia Dehaven was absent. Staff members present included: Municipal Court Clerk Carla Odell, Municipal Court Judge Beth Padilla, Director of Parks and Recreation Creighton Wright, Airport Director Jeremy Patton, Library Director Beth Edson, Community and Economic Development Director Rachael Marchbanks, Community and Economic Development Specialist Helen West, Permit Tech/Deputy City Clerk Cheryl Lindquist, and City Attorney Patrick Coleman. There were four people present in the audience.

2. An update was given on Municipal Court operations by Judge Beth Padilla. She commented that court has been held an average of ten sessions per month in the first quarter of 2025 and the outreach program is continuing with 53 people enrolled and six have graduated. She spoke about the partners that they are working with including Pinon Project, Axis Health, Ute Mountain Ute Counseling, and others. Security has been improved in the courtroom with a new metal detector and a Police Officer is available at each court session. IT has been helpful in keeping the WebEx program going and updated. Data was shared on the case load/jail time, which is up from 2024. Discussion was held on if some of the court fees paid could be used towards the park upkeep. It was noted that currently a percentage of court fees is paid to the Bridge Shelter.

3. The Colorado Aviation Economic Impact Study Summary was presented by Airport Director Patton. The study being presented was from 2023 statistics. An Aviation Economic Impact Study quantifies the economic impact associated with the State's aviation system and other aviation-reliant or closely supportive industries. Economic impact measures jobs, payroll, value added, and business revenues. Statewide impacts consist of the total on-airport and visitor spending impacts of the 66 airports in Colorado, as well as the economic impacts of off-airport activity in the State. Cortez is one of three airports in the State that receives Essential Air Service (EAS) funding. It was noted that the Cortez Municipal Airport will be closing October 4-24, 2025 and coordination will occur with surrounding airports for the closing period. The runway construction project will occur September 19 through November 11, 2025 with the 20-day closure in October being the biggest impact on the project. The airlines will not sell tickets for those days and will work with Farmington or Durango for transportation if needed for airline passengers. Helicopters can continue to come in and out at the airport during the construction period.

4. Vice-Chair Linda Towle spoke about the Historic Preservation Board which was formed in 1996 to protect historic signs on Main Street. The board advises City Council on matters pertaining to Historic Preservation within the City and maintains a City register of historic structures, sites, districts, and signs. The board's mission statement is to protect and preserve Cortez's historic and cultural resources, resources, increase public appreciation of the area's rich

history, and harness our unique heritage as a driver of economic prosperity. The board meets once a month and consists of seven members representing the Cortez Cultural Center, the Chamber of Commerce, the Montezuma County Historical Society, Planning and Zoning, and three at-large members. Ms. Towle spoke about the ten CLG Grants that have been received by the City since 2011, generating \$162,500 in funding for historic preservation initiatives. She spoke about the projects which the funding has been used for including a podcast “Walking Down Montezuma Avenue” narrated by June Head and Robert Dobry. There are currently 58 historic buildings listed on the register, one archaeological site (Hawkins Preserve), and one historical site (median on Montezuma Avenue). The 15th Annual Historic Preservation Day will be held on Saturday, May 31, 2025 at 2:00 p.m., at the Montezuma Heritage Museum, 25 South Chestnut Street. The history of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Cortez will be shared with the community at the event. Also, in May there will be a history trivia game and coloring book selfies that all citizens can participate in via facebook and at local establishments. More information on the Historic Preservation month can be obtained on the City’s web site. Ms. Towle asked one of the Cortez History Trivia questions: name the three historic buildings in Cortez which are listed on the National register of Historic Places – answers were KSJD Building (also known as Montezuma Valley National Bank), Calkins Building, and Ertels Funeral Home. Councilmember Randle thanked the board for all their hard work and also for coming to the Council worksession and presenting the information on what is happening with historic preservation in our community.

The regular workshop was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.