

CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR WORKSHOP/SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025
6:45 p.m.

1. The Workshop was called to order at 6:45 p.m., in the City Council Chambers. Councilmembers present included: Mayor Rachel Medina, Lydia DeHaven, Robert Dobry, Matt Keefauver, April Randle, and Dennis Spruell. Councilmember Bill Lewis was absent. Staff members present included: Community and Economic Development Director Rachael Marchbanks, City Clerk Linda Smith, City Manager Drew Sanders, and City Attorney Patrick Coleman. There was one person present in the audience.

2. City Attorney Coleman reviewed a worksheet that could be used to create an ordinance for City Council regarding regulations for natural medicine in the City of Cortez. The State law prohibits local governments from banning licensed facilities, services, and use of natural psychedelic substances as permitted by the measure (Constitution Amendment); however, local governments may regulate the time, place, and manner of operation of these facilities. Councilmember Randle spoke about her concerns noting that the natural medicine business includes retail sales, cultivation, testing facilities, and product manufacturing. She also spoke about healing centers and how they would be regulated. Discussion was held on healing centers being regulated similar to a medical facility. Discussion was held on creating a committee to discuss City regulations. It was suggested that the committee include Councilmembers, mental health professionals, EMS personnel, Police field, and members of the public that have an interest. Councilmembers Randle, Mayor Medina, and Councilmember Spruell volunteered to serve on the committee. It was suggested that experts be requested to speak on the subject if that would help the committee understand the regulations better. County Commissioner Kent Lindsay stated that possibly the Health Department, Social Services, and the Judicial system may be able to help with information on the subject. City Attorney Coleman stated that he would work with staff to put together a committee.

3. Council General Discussion.

- Councilmember Spruell shared a video of the property the City owns on 7th Street (old high school property) and the amount of use that is happening with the green grass growing instead of weeds. He said that with a welcoming attitude people will come and use the park. He noted that there is only a backstop on the property and lots of kids are having a lot of fun.
- Discussion was held on the City Charter and preparing changes to the charter which will be included on the April 2026 ballot. City Attorney Coleman stated that the verbiage in the City Charter states Council meetings shall be held at City Hall. He commented that discussion at the recent Council retreat was that the charter needs to be changed should Council want to hold remote meetings. He spoke about the need to form a committee to review the Charter and to make suggestions on the questions/amendments that should be included on a ballot. He recommended that no more than ten to twelve questions be prepared and that some thought needs to be given to how the questions are worded so that if some are not approved, they do not affect other questions. The ballot questions would

need to be approved by Council in January 2026 for placement on the April ballot. City Manager Sanders stated that an ordinance was prepared on remote meetings and was tabled on first reading by Council (at the March 25, 2025 Council meeting); however, if Council would like to have discussion on the ordinance, staff could bring the ordinance forward for Council review.

The regular workshop was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.