

**CORTEZ CITY COUNCIL
WORKSESSION
TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2025**

1. The Workshop was called to order at 6:00 p.m., in the City Council Chambers. Councilmembers present included: Robert Dobry, Matthew Keefauver, Bill Lewis, April Randle, Lydia DeHaven, Mayor Pro-tem Dennis Spruell and Mayor Rachel Medina. Staff members present included: City Manager Drew Sanders, City Attorney Patrick Coleman and City Clerk Danielle Wells.
2. An interview of Tasha Schiedel for an opening on the Arts Advisory Board was scheduled for this meeting. Tasha Schiedel was not present.
3. Park Ranger Jay Dollar introduced his new role with the Parks and Recreation Department. This position was created to be a friendly face for the community, promote sustainability and volunteerism and increase safety for our community members. Mr. Dollar will help to educate, observe, and report while the police department will be who enforces. Goals for the program are to create standard signage for the parks and assist with asset management in the Parks and Recreation Department. Currently, Mr. Dollar works Monday thru Friday 12 p.m. to 9 p.m. The city is advertising for a part time and seasonal park ranger position.
4. Library Director Beth Edson presented summer highlights of Library Operations. There were recorded breaking number of visitors in July 2025. Library Director Edson shared that she and her team have worked hard to make the library a welcoming space, and she's proud of their accomplishments. She is focused on curating programs and materials that reflect the needs of the local community. The Volunteer and Friends of the Library groups are thriving, and the Summer Reading Program saw a remarkable 500% increase in participation compared to last year. To build on that success, she hopes to offer more prizes and incentives to encourage returns next summer. Recent programming highlights include 3-D printing classes, Movies in the Park, author talks, and children's library events. The library has also extended computer session limits to two hours and is exploring new technologies to streamline operations and better serve patrons. Looking ahead, Library Director Edson hopes to update the library's paint and carpet and expand the meeting space to support future events. The Council expressed appreciation for her leadership and noted the positive feedback coming in from the community.
5. City Manager Drew Sanders presented information to begin the discussion on Marijuana Regulations. Council discussed:

A. Distance Requirements

Council discussed refining the 15,00-foot buffer rule between stores by taking three measurements, with any one measurement under the limit disqualifying a location. Councilmember Dobry suggested using "as the crow flies" as a simpler and more accurate method, while Councilmember DeHaven noted it may not reflect real-world interactions. Both agreed digital tools and maps could be more reliable than manual measurements. The City has existing data to support digital property line measurements, which would apply only to new businesses; ownership transfers would be allowed, but license lapses would potentially disqualify a location. GIS could also improve accuracy for buffers around schools and parks. Council requested maps showing radii of 1500 feet, 1000 feet, and current walking-distance to support a data-driven decision making.

B. Signage

Councilmember Dobry proposed limiting signage to small, building-attached signs without lights or motion, and restricting promotional content. Restrictions on advertising discounts or specials may be allowed due to potential public health concerns. The green cross symbol, commonly associated with marijuana, may fall under existing code and could potentially be regulated more strictly. Existing signs would be subject to an amortization period before compliance would be necessary. Council

discussed the legal risks of focusing regulations on marijuana, though City Attorney Patrick Coleman noted health and safety concerns could justify such measures. Mayor Medina expressed frustration that alcohol, which poses greater issues, receives less attention, and cautioned that overregulation may harm struggling marijuana businesses.

C. Onsite Consumption

Due to the many other topics taking up City Council's time, the discussion of marijuana consumption lounges will be tabled. Council hopes to bring this topic back up in the future at a less busy time so it is given proper time and consideration by Council.

6. Council General Discussion

- a. Councilmember Keefauver mentioned the eighty-five new state laws that went into effect over the last week. He requested that City staff ensure the City is actively working toward compliance with the newly enacted laws, if not already in alignment.
- b. Councilmember Dobry informed Council that the Montezuma Housing Authority has an open seat and would encourage a City representative to apply for the position.
- c. Councilmember Lewis raised concerns regarding overgrown weeds in the South Broadway median and safety issues at a local motel missing exterior doors. He recommended hiring a seasonal crew or contracting additional services to assist with weed maintenance and emphasized the importance of addressing these issues promptly.
- d. Councilmember Randle requested an update on Bill Teetzel's proposed public art installation at one of the city's gateway locations. Mr. Teetzel previously attended an Arts Advisory Committee meeting and is seeking fundraising support, with initial funding provided by the Rotary Club. City Planner Jason Armstrong is currently awaiting a site plan from Mr. Teetzel for review.
- e. Mayor Medina inquired about the status of the Code of Ordinances and Charter update in relation to the upcoming election timeline. City Attorney Coleman confirmed the project is on track, with plans to organize public worksessions concurrently to enhance public engagement and input. He believes the project can be managed internally without the need for an external consultant.

The regular workshop was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

ATTEST:

Rachel B. Medina, Mayor

Danielle Wells, City Clerk