

CORTEZ CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION/SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2025

1. The work session was called to order at 6:01 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. Councilmembers present included: Mayor Pro Tem Dennis Spruell, Robert Dobry, Matthew Keefauver, April Randle, and Bill Lewis. Mayor Rachel Medina participated remotely. Councilmember Lydia DeHaven was absent. Staff members present included Paralegal Lydia Regalado and Lieutenant Rogelio Maynard, City Manager Drew Sanders, and City Clerk Danielle Wells. City Attorney Patrick Coleman participated remotely.
2. Discussion of Charter Amendments presented by Patrick Coleman, City Attorney

Council reviewed proposed charter changes and emphasized the importance of limiting the scope of amendments to simplify the ballot and avoid overwhelming voters. Separating the Charter changes into three ballot questions was proposed. It was suggested the first ballot question would address spelling and gender typo corrections, removal of departments, council term limits, and attorney qualifications. Council agreed that references to departments should largely remain unchanged, with the exception of removing the Municipal Utility Department and the Public Health Department, which do not currently exist. Term limits were discussed with a proposal of eight consecutive years of service followed by a four-year break before eligibility resets. Attorney qualifications will be adjusted from five years to three to broaden candidate options. The second ballot question was suggested to focus on Council compensation. Council emphasized the need for a clear guardrail preventing members from approving pay increases for themselves, while allowing future adjustments through ordinance. This approach ensures flexibility for future councils while preventing self-approved raises. The third ballot question was suggested to focus on addressing remote participation. Council discussed the potential conflict if voters reject the ballot measure, noting that the ordinance may need to be revoked to reflect voter intent, even though no clear discontinuity exists. Overall, council agreed to shorten and simplify the proposed changes, focusing on these three ballot questions to improve clarity and potential voter support.

Work session adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Rachel Medina, Mayor

ATTEST:

Danielle Wells, City Clerk