

CORTEZ CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION/SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026

1. The special meeting/worksession was called to order at 6:00 p.m. and started with interviews of applicants for the Public Arts Committee.
 - a. Will Blair was interviewed for a youth position on the Public Arts Committee. When asked about his interest in joining the committee, Mr. Blair explained that art is important for the community and throughout human history, and that art is effective for making change and demonstrating community involvement. He noted his participation in Youth Leadership Council and student government as relevant experience, though he acknowledged limited direct community art project experience. Mr. Blair emphasized that youth provide unique perspectives and often create revolutionary art, making their participation in art movements and community events valuable. Regarding his arts involvement, he mentioned taking an art class and participating in community projects through Youth Leadership Council. Mr. Blair expressed desire to see more public art opportunities for youth in Cortez, including art galleries and music spaces where young people could perform and showcase their work developed in school or independently.
 - b. Ava Anderson was interviewed for the youth Public Arts Committee position. Ms. Anderson expressed primary interest in gaining experience and learning how to contribute to the art community as an artist. She had not attended local art events or committee meetings but viewed this position as a good first step toward greater involvement. Ms. Anderson highlighted her passion for art and believes she could contribute meaningful ideas to the community. She reported taking art classes throughout high school and drawing constantly as her primary hobby and favorite activity. Anderson wanted to see more opportunities for artistic expression in Cortez, noting the lack of clear pathways for youth to get involved in community art activities and expressing desire to make such opportunities more accessible for everyone.
2. At 6:10 p.m., Councilmember Dobry moved that City Council go into executive session pursuant to C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(e) for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and/or instructing negotiators concerning the City's efforts to select a developer-builder for a housing project on land located on West 7th Street. Councilmember Lewis seconded the motion and the vote was as follows:

DeHaven	Dobry	Lewis	Keefauver	Medina	Randle	Spruell
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes

Close of Executive Session: The open meeting resumed at 7:23 p.m. Those persons participating in the executive session were Mayor Pro-tem Dennis Spruell, Councilmembers Matt Keefauver, Bill Lewis, Robert Dobry, Lydia DeHaven and April Randle, and Councilmember-elects Kathleen Swope, Carly Wolf, Clarisa Osborn, and Claire West. Also participating were City Manager Drew Sanders, City Attorney Patrick Coleman, Interim Community and Economic Director/City Planner Jason Armstrong, and Contract Affordable Housing Coordinator Jennifer Lopez of Project Moxie, LLC. No adoption of any proposed policy, position, resolution, rule, regulation or formal action occurred during the executive session.

The worksession/special meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.