

CORTEZ CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION/SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

The work session/special meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

- A. Green Ash Beetle Informational Presentation. Parks and Recreation Director Creighton Wright presented an update on the emerald ash bark beetle, an infestation that has spread across the country over the last few years. Working with arborist Roman Jefferson of Legacy Tree Solutions, staff ranked the City's ash trees by value, health, and likelihood of being saved. Trees marked for treatment appear on the map included in the packet. Two treatment methods are being used for the trees that remain: a trunk-injection that lasts two to three years and kills the beetle in its larval stage, and a soil drench applied at the drip line that the tree absorbs through its roots. Staff prioritized the healthiest trees and will monitor closely after treatment and during Spring leaf-out. Treatment costs \$100 to \$300 per tree, while replacement runs close to \$800 per new tree. There are 10 to 12 trees too badly damaged to save. Those trees will be removed over the winter and plan to be replaced over time.

- B. Executive Session – Municipal Judge Beth Padilla Contract and Fiber Express Line Negotiations. Council considered a motion to enter executive session.

Mayor Pro Tem Lewis moved that City Council go into executive session for a conference with the city attorney CRS Section 24-6-402(b) to receive legal advice regarding the municipal judge's professional service contract and the Fiber Express Line and for the following additional purposes: 1. Pursuant to C.R.S. Sections 24-6-402(4)(e) and 24-6-402(4)(f)(I), for the specific purposes of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and/or instructing negotiators, and for discussing a personnel matter, both of which concern the Professional Services Contract between the City and Municipal Judge Beth Padilla. Ms. Padilla has not requested that this executive session occur in an open meeting. 2. Pursuant to C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(e) to determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and/or instructing negotiators, and specifically concerning the Fiber Express Line. Councilmember Randle seconded the motion and the vote was as follows:

Lewis	Osborn	Randle	Spruell	Swope	West	Wolf
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Close of Executive Session: The open meeting resumed at 7:36 p.m. Those persons participating in the executive session were Mayor Dennis Spruell, Mayor Pro Tem Bill Lewis, Councilmembers April Randle, Kathleen Swope, Carly Wolf, Clarisa Osborn, and Claire West. Also, City Manager Drew Sanders and City Attorney Patrick Coleman were present for the executive session. No adoption of any proposed policy, position, resolution, rule, regulation or formal action occurred during the executive session.

The work session was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.