



City of Cortez
123 Roger Smith Ave.
Cortez, Co. 81321

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

February 22, 2022

The following are the current events and topics for the City:

1. Update on the Band Shell project: The City engineer has been in contact with the architect retained by Friends of the Band Shell and is currently working on the design standards we will require for the project. City Attorney Green and I have been working on a model agreement we can enter into with the Onward Foundation once we have the design standards in hand. This is proving to be a very complicated project and it is going to take time for the engineer to complete the design standards.
2. Status update on the audits: We are very nearly complete on the 2018 audit. We are working with the auditing firm to get accurate trial balances for all funds before we call the project completed. 2018 has been exceptionally difficult to deal with. Our Finance Director and I agree that we need to continue to strive to correct the trial balances so that once the 2018 audit is completed, it is done right. So far in 2018 no fraud has been detected (although an official opinion has not yet been rendered) the 2018 audit has been particularly difficult to unwind due to our high risk of fraud and other factors. For clarification, the former employee who created our then high risk environment was employed by the City, and was actively operating the financial software throughout 2018 and into Q1 of 2019. Even so, the audit firm has our 2019 data and that audit is in progress. For context I would like to point out that it took four years to complete the delinquent 2016 audit prior to our arrival; but it has taken approximately 9 months to complete two and start work on a third. Even though we did not create this problem, we remain committed to getting us back on track, and I ask you all for your continued patience and understanding.
3. Water: We are so grateful for the snow that has fallen in our region. Prior to this storm our snowpack dipped below the 90th percentile. We do not have snow totals yet, but this storm should bolster our snowpack significantly, although it is not enough to break the enduring drought. Due to the drier weather our water department treated 9.9 million gallons of water last week, which is slightly higher than normal this time of year. Our water workgroup met last week and made plans to start educating the public early that water conservation will be a must during the coming dry season. We are asking the community to do all they can to conserve water as we move closer to the end of our snow season.

EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT

Pamela Imm – Cortez Municipal Court

Nominated by: Municipal Court Clerk Carla Odell

Pam has been employed with the City of Cortez in the Municipal Court for almost 3 years. Previous to working in the municipal court she was employed by the Montezuma County Detention Center as a Sergeant in the Jail. The work ethic and skills she learned at the detention center have been an asset to her while working in a court environment. Carla notes that she is very pleased with Pam's work, especially her organizational skills. She is not interested in buying a lot of materials for a project as she has the ingenuity to create, as an example, a filing system with what is available. Pam is kind and understanding to patrons but can be stern when needed. With the new changes in the municipal court, most notably the addition of a new judge, Pam remains positive and shows enthusiasm about the new changes. She willingly completes her work and never complains. Carla expresses gratitude for having Pam on her team and knows she can count on her dedication to assist in running the municipal court.