



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

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

November 14, 2023

Mayor and Council:

The following is my report for the current term:

- The City of Cortez affordable housing commitment was accepted by the Department of Local Affairs, allowing Cortez to opt-in to Prop 123, a state law that opens up funding for housing. This could allow for the City and also for profit and non-profit entities to apply for available funds through the State for affordable workforce housing projects.
- The City received 37 applications for the Cortez Community Support Grant. Each year, the Cortez City Council budgets money from the General Fund to support community organizations that preserve or enrich the health, education, welfare, and fitness of the community. The grant review committee will convene to review the submissions and will report to Council with their recommendations.
- According to CDOT, the South Broadway / Hwy 491 speed study final report will not be done until Spring of 2024. The delay is due to the system they use being unable to compute the findings of the Hwy 491 study. CDOT will continue to work on the issue.
- Employee Spotlight – Colby Early, Refuse and Recycling Superintendent

Colby Early has worked for the City for 22 years; starting off as a loader on the refuse trucks before being promoted to Recycling Manager in 2010. He was again promoted to Refuse and Recycling Superintendent in September, 2022.

Colby implemented a series of positive steps that included reorganization of the department, instilling a safety-first culture, developing standard operating procedures, optimizing truck routes, and replacing old equipment with four state-of-the-art new trucks, to name a few. Because of these improvements, our refuse and recycling program continues to add new residential and commercial customers.

Colby is a member of the San Juan Basin Recycling Association and the Four Corners Recycling Association and is currently part of the Leadership Montezuma class of 2024. He has successfully written a Recycling Resource Economic Opportunity (RREO) grant which helped pay a portion of one of the new trucks, and has written successful recycling rebates for the City since 2011.

Interestingly, Colby's family farm worked with the City's Parks and Rec Department on seeding City Parks in the past and played a big role in Colby coming to work for the City of Cortez.

Colby is a consummate leader, professional and a dedicated public servant. He is a credit to the Public Works team, the City of Cortez, and our community.