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

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

March 12, 2024

Mayor and Council:

The following is my report for the current term:

- The Department of Local Affairs has awarded the City $133K through the Local Planning Capacity Grant to support the affordable housing fast tracking initiative for the Community and Economic Development department. This will help implement systems that fast track or expedite the development review process for affordable housing. The City will hire an independent contractor who will help bring the Housing Acton Plan to fruition, support our Proposition 123 commitment, and maintain Prop 123 eligibility for funding opportunities.

- The City is applying for $4.4M in Congressionally Directed Spending through Senator Hickenlooper and Senator Bennett's offices for FY 2025. This funding would be used for the equalization tank project to stabilize the pressure in the City's water network; helping alleviate problems in the water distribution lines including breaks and dispersions. This will help meet the current water needs of the community and give us more time to acquire the resources necessary to replace the antiquated water lines within the City.

- The City refuse department has been experiencing some difficulties and set backs when collecting refuse, especially while using the new side loader which was purchased for its efficiency. Residents have been leaving additional refuse, other than what will fit in the allocated polycart; and at times an exorbitant amount. One solution that is being considered is to provide a second polycart at half the cost to residents. In some situations even this would not be enough. *(please refer to the attached photographs)* The City will conduct its annual City clean up week beginning May 20, 2024.

- Employee Spotlight – Mr. Don Cornett

  We would like to recognize Public Works Street Foreman Don Cornett as a leader for the Public Works team, the City, and the Community.

  Don is in his 30th year working for the City of Cortez. He started off as a part time operator in the Street Department, then advanced to full-time running the recycling program when it was in its infancy. After five years Don transferred back to the Streets Division as an operator then a senior lead operator. He was later promoted to Public Works Street Foreman in 2014 where he oversees a staff of dedicated personnel. Don has done an excellent job of providing traffic services, snow removal, and maintaining our streets.

  Don has also overseen the tree trimming program for many years. About 15 years ago, Don was tasked with taking down a 65' dead Cottonwood tree on the ditch bank west of North Sligo Street. While up in the bucket truck the tree fell against the bucket and began to slide. With his ability to think quickly, Don assessed the situation, tied a rope around the tree and, with the help of a front-end loader, was able to get down and remove the tree without any damage or injury.

  During his tenure, Don has helped the Water Division with water leaks and other emergencies. He has also been a strong proponent for removing graffiti as soon as it occurs. As a long-standing member of the community, Don even has a residential area, Cornett Heights, named after his grandfather.

  Don is a consummate professional, a dedicated public servant, and a credit to the Public Works team and the City of Cortez.