



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

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

June 25, 2024

Mayor and Council:

The following is my report for the current term:

- I attended the annual Colorado Municipal League (CML) conference June 18 – 21, 2024 in Loveland, CO with Mayor Rachel Medina, Councilmembers April Randle and Dennis Spruell, and Attorney Patrick Coleman where we received a multitude of information that will help our City. While at the conference, Mayor Medina was elected to the CML Executive Board for a two year term. This is a prestigious position that will help our area to be better represented.
- The airport parking lot construction will break ground July 8, 2024. Signs will be placed directing people to use the overflow parking lot across the street. The project should be completed in 60 days.
- The City of Cortez will host the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration with the addition of a classic car show this year. The Cortez Community Band and Flashback, a classic rock band, will perform in Centennial Park beginning at 6 p.m.; food trucks and vendors will serve their fine cuisines all day while parked along Mildred Road which will be closed between Montezuma and Empire; and the evening will end with the annual fireworks display.
- I would like to congratulate Deputy Clerk Donna Murphy who has earned the designation of Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC). This title was awarded to Ms. Murphy by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks after her five year commitment and completion of the demanding requirements. We applaud Ms. Murphy for her dedication and commitment to the City of Cortez.
- Finance Director Kelly Koskie has been accepted as a mentor for the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) National Mentor Program and has been assigned a mentee from Redmond, Oregon. Ms. Koskie has successfully guided the City through some

overwhelming and demanding financial situations over the past few years. This individual will be very fortunate to receive the knowledge and expertise she has to share.

- Employee Highlight – Helen West

Helen West, Community and Economic Development Specialist for the City of Cortez joined the City in June of 2023, and she has been making a great impact ever since.

In the year since she's been here, she has helped the Historic Preservation Board and the Cortez Public Arts Committee stay organized, as well as take on impactful projects such as Historic Preservation Days, a "Historic Cortez" coloring book competition, the "81321 Launch" grant initiative, as well as facilitating grant-funded surveys of the City's historic assets. Additionally, she is spearheading the City of Cortez's Statewide Assessment Brownfields Grant including an ongoing project of developing an Area Wide Plan for South Broadway. Potential outcomes of this study include recommendations relating to zoning/land use refinements, capital projects, and marketing/branding activities.

On behalf of the City she wrote and was awarded a \$179,000 grant from the Colorado Office of Economic Development & International Trade (OEDIT) to help six locally owned businesses improve their facades, purchase equipment, and provide training. Helen has taken on many other initiatives to support businesses and enhance economic opportunities in the City, as well as supporting housing and land use code efforts currently underway in the Community and Economic Development Department.

Helen is a skilled and dedicated employee who is working to enhance the quality of life for residents of Cortez.

\*George Washington Rule of the Week – Rule 22

*'Show not yourself glad at the misfortune of another though he were your enemy.'*