

**COLFAX CITY COUNCIL**  
**February 17, 2026**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Retzer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**ROLL CALL:**

Golden, McRae, Schaefer, Mackleit, Guentner, Sevedge and Huntwork: Present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by Schaefer to approve the minutes from the February 2, 2026 Council meeting. Roll Call: All Yes.

**GOOD OF THE CITY:**

The Kiwani's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Masquerade Ball is scheduled March 28<sup>th</sup> at the Colfax Golf Course, from 6:00-10:00 p.m. With the purchase of tickets, you will receive 2 drink ticket and proceeds go towards Stuff the Bus program.

The Boys and Girls Basketball teams are continuing their playoff runs and will be competing at West Vally High School this Friday and Saturday. Additionally, nine of our boys have qualified for the State Wrestling Tournament.

**BILLS AND CLAIMS:**

A motion was entered by Schaefer, seconded by Mackleit to approve all bills and claims as presented. Roll Call: All Yes.

---

**CLAIMS**

#11532-11558  
\$88,812.43

---

**PAYROLL**

#11521-11531 & EFT  
\$67,359.56

---

**GRAND TOTAL: \$156,171.99**

**CITIZENS REQUEST:**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**PRESENTATION/WORK STUDY:**

**Hotel Motel Application -MacDougall Invite – Resolution 26-01-**

Jason Cooper is applying for \$3,135.67 for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual MacDougall Track and Field Invitational April 18, 2026. The funds will assist with the costs of trophies, medals and t-shirts for the event. This year, the invitational expects 25 teams, including three new teams from Idaho. Cooper is currently coordinating with local hotels to secure block room rates for the visiting

## COLFAX CITY COUNCIL

February 17, 2026

athletes. The event has secured support from several local vendors and organizations, including P1FCU and the Colfax Eagles.

A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by Huntwork to approve Resolution 26-01 Hotel Motel Application for the MacDougall Invite. Roll Call: All Yes.

### **Whitman County Humane Society Contract – Presentation-**

Amy Griffiths from the Whitman County Humane Society presented the city with a contract for animal services. The Humane Society is expanding their outreach and entering into contracts with small towns within the county to help them with their funding needs. Currently they have a contract with Whitman County and the City of Pullman. The majority of their funding comes from donations and fundraising which is about 60% of their income and they are not quite meeting their needs. The contract they are proposing will be based on usage, not the size of the town. Currently there is a 3 day hold for animals without chips or tags and unknown owner and a 6 day hold for chipped animals or the possibility of a known owner. The cost will be \$150 for cats and \$250 for dogs and these fees are intended to help defray the costs associated with these services.

Hammer stated the contract says that we will be charged a fee per cat or dog brought in by citizens or strays. However, we currently do not have cat enforcement in place; we do not take in cats, license them, or utilize our pound for them. There is a concern that if a citizen brings in multiple animals at once, such as six cats, these fees could add up very quickly despite us not providing these specific services.

Griffith stated they have changed their policy and now only accept cats if the animal is injured or too small to survive on its own. In most cases when a cat is brought in, they will do a microchip scan; if no microchip is found, they instruct the individual to return the animal to the location where it was originally found.

Mackleit asked how often we have a dog or cat in our pound.

Kramlich noted there are not a lot of stray dogs and when we do get them in our pound, staff puts it on Facebook and the owner is usually quickly found.

Griffiths stated 2025- 12 animals came from Colfax, 2024- 9 animals were brought in. This last year numbers were high due to a citizen that abandoned 7 puppies on their doorstep. Griffiths stated they will work with law enforcement in lieu of abandonment charges they would pay the surrender fee which is \$50 per animal.

Melcher mentioned the city only turned in one dog, so most of these were owner surrender.

## COLFAX CITY COUNCIL

February 17, 2026

Huntwork asked why the city should be accountable for the citizens animal problem, if you have an animal, you don't want anymore and take it to the Humane Society why should the city pay for that.

Griffiths stated that would be when they would be required to pay their own surrender fee. If people are truly indigent, they work with them, they can do volunteer hours to help pay the cost.

### **CDA- Update-**

Colfax Downtown Association Executive Director Whitney Bond and Executive Assistant Allie Cofer presented a slide show highlighting their projects to include:

- Main Street Tax Credit Program
- Business Incubator Program
- Downtown Heights (Airbnb)
- Downtown Beautification Projects
- Community Partnerships and Collaborations
- CDA Events

The rural regeneration grant recipients are Greg's Electric, Connie Burris (new business venture) and 2 Scoop and a Byte. Bond also reported they are three years away from having a flower pot on every corner downtown. Bond received a grant for five EV Chargers, which will be installed behind their incubator at 102 N Main.

### **Hotel Motel Application – CDA – Resolution 26-02-**

CDA is requesting \$16,000 for their Regeneration Project an effort to enhance the visual appeal, economic vitality and overall experience of downtown Colfax. This money will help with the 75/25 matching grant for store fronts, purchase of flower pots and annual community clean-up event. These visible improvements strengthen curb appeal and create a welcoming destination that encourages travelers to stop and explore.

A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by Huntwork to approve Resolution 26-02 CDA Hotel Motel Application. Roll Call: All Yes.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

#### **Police:**

Police Chief Michael Melcher completed Records Training in East Wenatchee.

**COLFAX CITY COUNCIL**

**February 17, 2026**

Melcher has a few modifications to the HB 2015 Grant Funding Application he previously submitted. Melcher will resubmit the updated application to CJTC.

Melcher reported there is still one entry-level candidate in the background process.

**Public Works:**

Hammer spoke with the Department of Ecology regarding the railroad noise complaints and they informed him they do not handle noise complaints. The complaint has been passed on to the Federal Railroad Authority and Whitman County Health. Hammer reported the Port is working with us to help find an alternate location for engines, possibly at the Port of Wilma.

**Administration:**

Finance Amanda Link announced the City earned the 2026 WellCity Award by making a commitment to employee health, this comes with a 2% discount in medical premiums.

Link and Clerk Lynda Kramlich attended finance and utility billing training sponsored by Springbrook, the city's computer software provider. Xpress Bill Pay; the city's new online bill pay service, has introduced new services that will help streamline the payment process for non-utility payments.

**COMMITTEE/BOARD/COMISSION REPORTS:**

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

**MAYORS REPORT:**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Retzer adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

  
Jim Retzer, Mayor

  
Lynda Kramlich, City Clerk