

**COLFAX CITY COUNCIL**  
**March 2, 2026**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**ROLL CALL:**

Golden, McRae, Mackleit, Guenther, Sevedge and Huntwork: Present. Shaefer: Absent.  
A motion was entered by McRae, seconded by Mackleit to excuse Shaefer. Roll Call: All Yes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by Guenther to approve the minutes from the February 17, 2026 Council meeting. Roll Call: All Yes.

**GOOD OF THE CITY:**

Chamber President Gary Young announced upcoming events:

- Ribbon cutting for Palouse Brewing Tap House- March 10<sup>th</sup>
- Business Training- March 19<sup>th</sup>
- Quarterly Luncheon- Mayor Retzer- State of the City Update- April 7<sup>th</sup>
- Chamber Mixer at the Perkin's House 5:45-7:15 p.m.- April 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Spring Shred Day- May 5<sup>th</sup>
- Applications are now being accepted for the Farmer's Market- start date May 7<sup>th</sup>
- Spring City Wide Yard Sale- May 9<sup>th</sup>

**BILLS AND CLAIMS:**

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

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CLAIMS	PAYROLL
#11565, 11571-11596 & EFT	#11559-11564, 11566-11570& EFT
\$61,821.41	\$97,629.91

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**GRAND TOTAL: \$159,451.32**

**CITIZENS REQUEST:**

Andrew Nolan, 615 N Perkins Avenue, reported WATCO brought two new engines in. He noted that despite the temperature being 53° today, the generator ran all day long. Nolan expressed his frustration, noting that it has now been seven months since the initial complaint was filed without a resolution.

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Hammer has been in contact with WATCO regarding this matter. They have stated that they are attempting to work with us, but there is no quick solution available.

Sevedge apologized for the noise levels, acknowledging the severity of the situation for the residents.

Guenther suggested reaching out to Congressman Michael Baumgartner or Representative Joe Schmick to make them aware of the issue. Guenther stated she would be willing to sign a letter as a member of the city council to help advocate for a solution, noting that “sometimes the squeaky wheel gets the grease”. Guenther assured the Nolan’s there is not inaction on the city’s part.

Greg Nolan 806 W Summit stated the city should not ask private people to reach out for help on this situation, the city should handle it. A neighbor two houses down from Andrew Nolan’s house reports their blinds rattle from the three engines running. Also, noting that the outdoor ambient temperature was above the 50° mark and the generators were not turning off as they said they would.

Hammer clarified that the generators only shut off when the internal temperature of the engine is 80°.

Retzer interjected he and Hammer have met with WATCO, Hammer has contacted the State and unfortunately there is now quick overnight fix for this problem. There are ordinances in place that state the rail is exempt from the noise ordinances and they are federally mandated.

Mackleit stated “I am at a point right now where I am going to look for support and I am going to do make some noise in your support. I don’t know what I’m going to do, but I am going to do something.”

Staff will draft a letter for the Council’s review and signature.

### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

### **PRESENTATION/WORK STUDY:**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Resolution 26-03 McDonald Park Property Maintenance Contract:**

Hammer stated the existing contract expired in 2025. Following this an ad for bids was placed, and one bid was received from Scott Parrish. There are no changes to the terms of the contract, with the exception of the price, which increased from \$2,000 to \$2,500 per month.

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Golden noted that this proposal was presented to the Park Board and Parrish attended the meeting. The board voted to support the new contract.

A motion was entered Mackleit, seconded by Golden to approve Resolution 26-03 McDonald Park Property Maintenance Contract. Roll Call: All Yes.

**Resolution 26-04 Six Year Transportation Plan 2027-2032:**

Hammer stated this is an updated plan required annually to remain eligible for funding. This plan includes updates following a meeting with a consultant regarding Main Street improvements. Proposed changes include fixing sidewalks, potentially removing trees and adding new bulb-outs to improve street sweeper access.

Looking ahead, and subject to public comment and council approval, there is a proposal to narrow Main Street to one lane in each direction with a center turn lane and a bike path. This traffic calming measure is intended to manage flow of traffic through town, similar to a project completed in Dayton. TIB has been consulted on this plan and indicated a likelihood of approval.

Golden confirmed the 2028 Main Street Improvements is for this traffic calming plan.

Hammer stated we are adding this to the improvement plan now to secure possible funding, with specific details to be finalized later.

Mackleit asked if we are pushing back Fairview.

Hammer noted that the estimated cost is over \$7 million. As a result, that project will be pushed back until the necessary funding can be obtained.

A motion was entered by Huntwork, seconded by Mackleit to approve Resolution 26-04 Six Year Transportation Plan 2027-2032. Roll Call: All Yes.

**Resolution 26-05 SCJ Contract-Critical Areas:**

Building Inspector Shawn McSweeney stated we received a \$20,000 grant to update our Critical Areas and Growth Management. McSweeney noted that fulfilling this requirement is essential for the city to remain eligible for future grant funding. To assist with this McSweeney has reached out to SCJ for professional guidance.

Planning Commission Member Adam Hoffman clarified that the primary purpose of this grant is to ensure we meet minimum requirements and complete the necessary checklist.

Planning Commission Chair Al Vorderbrueggen also noted that while some of these new requirements may not directly apply to Colfax, we are still required to address them to remain compliant.

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A motion was entered by McRae, seconded by Golden to approve Resolution 26-05 a contract with SCJ to update our Critical Areas. Roll Call: All Yes.

**Resolution 26-06 Expenditures for Comp Plan Update:**

McSweeney stated this resolution aligns with the previous resolution. Although we did not receive a grant for this project, he is asking for approval to spend \$10,000 for SCJ to update our Comprehensive Plan concurrently with the update to the Critical Areas. While we are not mandated to update the plan at this time, an updated plan must be in place by 2027 to remain eligible for future grant money.

Our current plan is over 300 pages long, and the goal is to scale it back to approximately 40 pages. This will make the document a more effective and user friendly tool for staff and council.

Hammer noted funds are available in the General Fund, they were not specifically budgeted for this purpose. Hammer stated we are seeking council approval now and will bring a formal budget amendment before council at a later date.

A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by Mackleit to approve Resolution 26-06 Comprehensive Plan Update. Roll Call: All Yes.

**Resolution 26-07 Seek Grant Funding McDonald Park Pathway:**

Hammer stated this is another RCO Grant that McSweeney found to repair the McDonald Park pathway that has deteriorated over time. This grant is specifically for pathways and would be used to address the deteriorated asphalt condition of the McDonald Park pathway. The grant has a maximum limit of \$150,000, and Motley has provided a quote for \$107,000 for the project. The city would be responsible for 25% of the total cost. Hammer plans to apply for .09 Funds to cover that portion. If those funds are not received, we will return to council for further approval.

A motion was entered by Guenther, seconded by Mackleit to approve Resolution 26-07 Grant funding for McDonald Park Pathway.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Police:**

Police Chief Michael Melcher is still waiting on a response from CJTC. Kent is the first agency to be awarded funds from the 2015 Public Safety Funding Program.

Ivan Martinez remains on track for start date of April 1<sup>st</sup>. Martinez was fitted for a vest last week. Melcher plans to apply for a grant to cover the cost of the vest if the program opens this year, as it was unavailable last year.

Melcher attended a two-hour control and defensive tactics training with the Sheriff's Office at the high school.

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Two power poles struck have been struck and damaged. The driver involved in today's incident was identified as unlicensed and inattentive driver and has been ticketed.

Melcher has successfully removed eight derelict cars from city streets. One vehicle required towing, while the others were removed by owners.

**Calls for service:**

- 110 traffic stops
- 21 Infractions
- 83 calls for service
- 6 public records requests sent directly to Melcher

**Public Works:**

Hammer will have a pre-construction meeting for the Water Improvement Project this week.

Taking advantage of the good weather, crews have been out spraying weeds.

**COMMITTEE/BOARD/COMISSION REPORTS:**

**Park Board:**

Golden stated the Park Board met and topics that were discussed:

- McDonald Park contract presented and approved
- Pool is scheduled to open on the last day of school to begin the regular swim season. Start-up procedure will begin early to ensure there are no issues opening day.
- Advertisements for the pool manager and lifeguard positions have been posted
- Clean up around the pool is still ongoing
- Skatepark renovations from last year will need some paint touch ups
- Surplus funds from the fundraising for the skatepark, these will be used to move the gate and change the entry to the skatepark
- Park Board is currently looking for two new members

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

**MAYORS REPORT:**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

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**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Retzer adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

  
Jim Retzer, Mayor

  
Lynda Kramlich, City Clerk