

**COLFAX CITY COUNCIL**  
**May 20, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by Huntwork to approve the minutes from the May 6, 2024 Council meeting. Roll Call: All Yes.

**GOOD OF THE CITY:**

Senior flags have been put up on Main Street honoring Colfax Graduating Seniors.

Pots on Main Street have been filled with plants.

Golden stated Retzer presented to Whitman County for .09 Funds, Retzer was #1 and the city was awarded \$69,000 for the pool. Great job!

**BILLS AND CLAIMS:**

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

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**CLAIMS**

#9716-9749 & EFT

\$47,342.35

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**PAYROLL**

#9709-9715 & EFT

\$84,732.83

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**GRAND TOTAL: \$132,075.18**

**CITIZENS REQUEST:**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**PRESENTATION/WORK STUDY:**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Chicken Ordinance Discussion:**

Golden stated there were 2 versions sent out to the council. One EWU students put together and one presented to council in 2015. Golden likes the 2015 version for a good starting point.

Enforcement for around coup is building type requirements and then in penalty section talks

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about police chief or designee. He has concerns about the police actually getting a warrant to search property. The EWU removes that language, Golden wonders if that would be best inspected by building official vs. police chief.

Mathis stated when the 2015 version was written there was an actual code enforcement officer, since then that position was removed. Mathis and Interim Police Chief Erica Warren would like to flush out and clean up the language. Code enforcement is complaint driven and we want violations to be enforceable.

Initial would be with building official and the violations would be handled with police.

Sevedge asked if inspections are necessary, we don't do this for dogs.

Mathis stated that would be more for building of the coup and setbacks on property lines.

Hammer stated dog code doesn't specify what you need for holding a dog, but the chicken ordinance calls out specifics.

Golden stated Pullman had a lot of restrictions when they started, but have removed most of the restrictions as they found it wasn't big of a problem. Now their code calls out the number of hens but don't have a lot of building of the coup requirements.

Schaefer stated there are communities close to our size that we could compare our ordinances with, they may be closer to what we need.

Mathis wants it written that if we need enforcement, it is clear on how to handle violations. We don't want it overtaxing for our law enforcement and be clear on rules.

Guenthner would like the planning commission to look at the size of the yard and other regulations, right now it's not equitable

Retzer pointed out that this isn't the most recent version, chickens were removed from the animal code update in 2021.

Mathis stated that version will be located and sent to planning for review.

Guenthner stated it was May 2021 - Ordinance 21-02 the animal code was passed with omission of chicken code.

A motion was entered by Huntwork, seconded by Guenthner to have Planning Commission look at the Chicken Ordinance. Roll Call: All Yes.

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**NEW BUSINESS:**

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Fire:**

Firefighter David Buckley introduced Wesley Gadbois, a new part time firefighter. He is from Western Washington and a recent college graduate. Gadbois is currently living in Pullman and also working for Pullman Fire part time.

Buckley also reported they will begin hose and hydrant testing soon.

**Police:**

Retzer reported we are moving forward with one candidate, while waiting on another to get some things completed before submitting his information for background.

**Public Works:**

Public Works Director Matt Hammer reported work on Morton, Sumner 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> has started. Once school is out, they will close the road completely to finish hooking in new water service lines on both sides of the streets.

Crews have been busy getting water meters changed out to the new remote water meters.

The chip seal project Whitman County will be doing for us will begin in late July.

The OTTA Seal project is underway, Hammer stated they are working through some of the final paperwork. These projects will require residents to move their cars off the street for the work to be completed.

**Administration:**

Mathis reported city administration staff has some good training scheduled for this summer.

Wednesday City Hall will be closed, we are having our ducts cleaned again. We have something going on with our ductwork.

Mathis contacted our City Attorney and our Land Use Attorney regarding the decision for Solbrack's and their attorney.

Dennis Solbrack emailed today and asked if they could take public comment time and talk with council to ask to be an agenda item so they can come up with a plan. Mathis told him it was not appropriate after we spent over \$10,000 on attorney fees to cut the attorneys out of the process at this point. We have hired the best land use attorney and they have determined we can't grant people private rights over someone else's property, that excludes the property owners' access to their own property, even if it is our right of way. Mathis told Solbrack that this is not the proper

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approach to this. Mathis stated the Solbrack's have access to his property. Mathis went on to say we are doing our due diligence to make sure this is done correctly. There are a lot of unknowns and the city can't force residents to change their property lines. Until we hear from attorney's the city has nothing more to offer or discuss.

### **COMMITTEE/BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS:**

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

### **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

### **MAYORS REPORT:**

Lyle Smith from WMS and his superintendent, met with city staff at the pool to go over project, thinks will be moving forward.

Retzer spoke about the .09 funds presentation he did at the county, Retzer had Golden and Allie Cofer from CDA as supporters of project in attendance. He is working on other avenues of funding for the shortfall of funds.

Adventure Thursday's will be at Schmuck Park every Thursday in June, this will be hosted by the Onecho Church.

Jacquelin Maycumber, who is running for Congress, visited Colfax and toured the city with Retzer, he was able to show her all the new things happening in Colfax.

Travis and Larry Harrison along with Retzer sandblasted the Eells Park Fountain and resealed with UV protectant that should help preserve the fountain for years to come.

Retzer stated there has been kids throwing rocks at the fountain and chipping the previous surface, someone crawled up to the top and carved their name on the top portion.

There are a lot of exciting things happening in Colfax this summer with new restaurants and businesses opening.

The Swin Team did find a place to use for the summer. The school is donating a bus to ship kids to and from practice.

The next council meeting will be cancelled for June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

P1FCU is celebrating 5 ½ years anniversary, June 6<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., they will be serving lunch.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

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**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Retzer adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

  
Jim Retzer, Mayor

  
Lynda Kramlich, City Clerk