

COLFAX CITY COUNCIL

July 6, 2021

CALL TO ORDER:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

Golden, Guenther, Christopherson, Mackleit, Miller and Kackman: Present. Huntwork: Absent.
A motion was entered by Guenther, seconded by Kackman to excuse Councilman Huntwork.

Roll Call: All Yes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was entered by Guenther, seconded by Golden to approve the minutes from the June 21, 2021 Council meeting. Roll Call: All Yes.

GOOD OF THE CITY:

Mayor Retzer thanked VFI for putting up the flags on Main Street for the 4th of July.

Real Life Church had an event at Schmuck Park Thursday July 1st with roughly 400 in attendance. They also rented the pool and had 160 to 180 enjoy the free swim.

PNW sponsored a midnight swim on Friday July 2nd with about 120 in attendance.

BILLS AND CLAIMS:

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

CLAIMS	PAYROLL
6578-6612	6556-6577, 6613-6617 & EFT
\$45,001.89	\$49,681.14

GRAND TOTAL: \$94,683.03

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 21-06 Accident Prevention Program- AWC Workers Comp Retro Program- City Administrator Chris Mathis introduced Resolution 21-06 explaining that AWC Retro basically manages our LNI claims, they are a cooperative group of governmental entities joining together to reduce the frequency and severity of workplace injuries through proactive claims. For 2021, the Retro Program has asked member organizations to focus on how they interact with city council, county commission and other governing boards. This relationship is often ignored as most workers' compensation and safety programs are handled on the staff level. AWC Retro feel strongly that there are substantial benefits to having safety discussed and reported on to these

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boards and councils. This reporting allows the governing body which sets priorities and budgets to fully understand the importance of safety for your organization. This reporting also assists in emphasizing management accountability for safety in organizations. They have asked everybody to pass a resolution confirming the city reports to their council. The city receives quarterly reports, basically a report card of our claims data from the previous quarter. It includes the number of claims, claim status and stay at work utilization. Kramlich will provide those to the council each quarter to let the council know how we are doing and where we are at claims wise. The first quarter of this year we had no claims. Our last time lost claim was in 2017. Mathis asked for the councils support on this resolution.

Guenthner asked if this is going to be more work for us or are we already doing this. Also, what if we don't pass it will there be a hand slap or a fine, what is the main benefit to passing an extra resolution.

Mathis responded, the main benefit is AWC would see it as the city being transparent with the city council. It isn't more work, we have LNI and we have LNI claims no matter what. In a lot of industries you will have a group to manage LNI, you get better experience rating and you pay less for LNI rates. They are a benefit to us because they save us money on our rates and manage our LNI claims. This is just one of the things we need to have in place to be fully compliant with AWC Retro.

Kackman asked if there is a written policy that should go along with this resolution.

Kramlich will send the policy out to council members.

Mathis stated this resolution doesn't bring new protocol.

By title on agenda we are approving an accident prevention program and wanted to make sure we know what we are approving, which looks like we do since we have been a part of it since 2015.

Kramlich stated this is a new requirement for the program.

Mathis agreed this is just a new hoop to jump through.

We will bring this back for next council after the policy is sent out to council.

Wellness Update:

Mathis reported one of the requirements for being a WellCity and receiving the 2% discount on insurance premiums is to regularly report to council as to what we are doing. We again received the WellCity award this year. A healthy workplace benefits your community; healthy employees can focus on the needs of your community and are more present, engaged and productive.

Everyone wins. The employees utilize a Health Central App that encourages employees and covered spouses to access their benefits information and participate in wellness challenges, view videos, track healthy activities, explore health information and more. They also offer a personal health coach, a nurse advice line, yearly health assessments and an Employee Assistance Program (EAP). We have regular wellness meeting, luncheons with educational information for all employees, and employees are encouraged to participate in fitness challenges throughout the year. Deputy Clerk Amanda Link heads up our wellness program. There is also a wellness team that includes members from the different departments that help plan activities and events for the year.

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DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire:

Fire Chief Craig Corbeill reported today Governor Inslee declared a state of emergency for the State of Washington and put a burn ban in place that will go through September 30, 2021.

Corbeill stated you can use briquettes with proper safety precautions in place. It prohibits any outdoor burning and the fire department will be watching that closely.

Corbeill stated it is a goal of his and the fire department to train members, if they desire, to have the ability to go out on state mobilized fires. If volunteers have their red cards they can go out to fires like the one happening at Cheney right now. He would also like to earmark a truck that would be set up to go to these state mobilizations. For the Labor Day fire the city received \$15,761 from the State of Washington for the use of the city fire truck on the Labor Day Fire. This is part of the state program Corbeill would like to work towards to be able to utilize going down the road for these fires cropping up all around the state.

Assistant Chief Michael Chapman reported they increased staffing to 2 full-time employees to cover the 4th of July. Engine 1 and 2 went out on patrol status and visited with several residents and handed out stickers for the kids. Chapman reported there were a lot of nervous patrons after Labor Day's fire event. There were 2 fires on the 4th, both resulting from fireworks. While out on patrol they were able spot one of the fires before it was reported out from Whitcom.

The annual fireman's picnic will be next Tuesday July 13th at Schmuck Park. The city donates the use of the pool for the event.

Mackleit asked if the city placed a ban on fireworks.

Corbeill replied there was no actual ban even though they were nervous about the dry conditions they never actually issued a ban. Corbeill posted on Facebook pages strong suggestions and the department had appropriate plans in place.

Chapman was pleased to see several people taking responsibility and placing their discharged fireworks in buckets of water and most were setting fireworks off in the middle of streets.

Police:

Police Chief Bruce Blood reported Officer Tyler Paris is in his final phase of FTO and will be out on his own August 1st. This will decrease the necessity to use the Sheriff's Office to cover shifts except for a couple of vacations coming up.

Officer Chase Kurtz will graduate August 6th and will begin his FTO training the following week.

Blood stated by winter we will be able to cover all shifts and have a spare to cover vacations.

Administration:

Mathis reported the Historic Commission applied for a State Grant and received a grant to do historic inventory on South Mill Street. The grant will pay to hire a professional to complete the

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inventory and will also require a lot of volunteer help from the Historic Commission. The presentation was online with the Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation, they were happy with the number of commission members who attended the online meeting.

Public Works:

Public Works Director Matt Hammer gave an update on the chlorine shortage. The Tacoma Branch is back in production but is still limited on distribution. The chlorine tabs they started using for the pool seem to be working good. At this time it looks like we have averted any kind of disaster with the chlorine and are able to keep the pool open.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Metropolitan Park District Meeting:

Retzer adjourned the council meeting at 7:29 p.m. to enter into the Metropolitan Park District.

Retzer reconvened the council meeting at 7:32 p.m.

MAYORS REPORT:

Retzer reminded everyone on the burn ban and encourages everyone to be careful with the dry conditions and also reminded everyone to keep hydrated.


Mackleit asked if we can go back to in person meetings.

Mathis responded new guidelines will allow for in person meetings, meetings will also be available online.

Mathis informed the council we have received one application for the Building Inspector position but the applicant did not meet qualifications. Steve Bretveld is still covering the job for us in doing inspections in the evenings and on weekends. Currently we are paying him by the hour for his time. Mathis suggested we can check with Whitman County once they have their position filled and possibly contract with them until we can fill our position.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Retzer adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.



Jim Retzer, Mayor

Lynda Kramlich, City Clerk