

COLFAX CITY COUNCIL
July 15, 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, and Huntwork: Present. Sevedge and Huntwork: Absent.

A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by Schaefer to excuse Sevedge and Huntwork. Roll Call: All Yes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by McRae to approve the minutes from the July 1, 2024 Council meeting. Roll Call: Schaefer, Mackleit Golden and McRae: Yes. Guenther: Abstained.

GOOD OF THE CITY:

Fonk's has a new sign up on the front of their building.

CDA's renovation of the WA Fed building is coming along, should be open the first part of August.

Coco Bee painted the front of their building.

Signs and Designs will be featured in a P1FCU commercial.

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

#9871, 9903-9904, 9916-9920
\$31,248.91

PAYROLL

#9872-9902, 9905-9915 & EFT
\$138,512.96

GRAND TOTAL: \$169,791.87

CITIZENS REQUEST:

Jenna Brozik – Superior Court Judge Candidate-

Introduced herself and distributed a flyer promoting her candidacy for Superior Court Judge.

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John Ward- 2002 N Palouse River Rd-

Expressed concerns of the North Palouse River Road and stated it needs attention: proper rock, police presence, close to heavy equipment, no trucks down Cedar Street.

Taylor Jacob- 3836 Red Tail Ridge-

Has concerns with the upkeep of North Palouse River Road and the lack of snow plows during storms.

Charles Amos- 112 Rolling Hills Dr-

Expressed concerns with speeding on North Palouse River Road and the amount of beer cans in the ditches.

Tonya Marcum- 204 Red Tail Ridge-

Asked that the North Palouse River Road be better taken care of and spray hemlock on the sides of the road.

Jenny Weathered- 3002 N Palouse River Road-

Expressed concerns about the semi-trucks traveling the N Palouse River Road, any work the city does the heavy trucks come through and its back to where it started.

Mayor Retzer appreciated all the comments this evening and encouraged the residents to come out during our budgeting workshops in October.

PUBLIC HEARING:

PRESENTATION/WORK STUDY:

North Palouse River Road- Staff Report-

Public Works Director Matt Hammer asked the council if they had any questions for him.

Golden wanted to confirm with Hammer the city's annexed area, Red Tail Road is a private road and North Palouse River Road is the city's responsibility. Golden asked about the agreement we have with the county as far as maintenance goes.

Hammer stated it is like a checker board out there for the city limits, we take care of the North Palouse River Road from McDonald Park to the end, about ½ mile south of Glenwood. We take care of the county portions of this road and the county takes care of Hilty Road.

Golden has trouble understanding how we can block the big trucks from coming through this road. Golden confirmed the trucks come through and continue on Cedar.

Hammer does not know the legality of doing something like that.

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Hammer reported they graded the road May 5th, June 5th and July 8th. Each time we grade it is about an 8-hour timeframe; to fill up the grader is 43 gallons at \$3.89 a gallon. We grade the road about 10 times a year.

Mackleit stated he drove that road this evening, he has lived in Whitman County his entire life and has driven almost every gravel road with his work. As far as Mackleit is concerned the road is in great shape for a county road.

McRae asked if Hammer had a cost comparison between taking care of Hilty Road and North Palouse River Road.

Schaefer asked if the city oils the road.

Hammer stated we oil in front of the 2 city residents that live out there and a couple of streets in town.

Guenthner asked how many tax payers live at Red Tail Ridge.

Hammer stated 15 city residences are out there.

Street department revenue from property taxes for the entire city is \$145,000. Sales tax \$186,000 and motor vehicle fuel tax adds another \$49,000.

In 2021 the city purchased \$20,000 of 1 ¼ rock, in 2021 we put down 1,200 tons with no complaints of tire issues. This year we put down 300 ton of the same rock, with 3 complaints of flat tires. The rock is from the same crusher and quarry.

Hammer stated we are using that size of rock to build up the base, there are a lot of areas we are down to the bed rock. We have made the swing back to 5/8's minus, which is the same that the county uses on their roads. Hammer stated we will not put anymore rock out there until we get some moisture this year. The 1997 road grader we purchased from the county currently has 13,000 hours and is getting the job done.

Hammer stated the majority of the rock went on the far north end of the road this year.

Golden asked when we talk budget in October if there is anything that we can improve out there.

Hammer stated there isn't a line item for specifically for the river road. We could add to supplies.

Maintenance of our roadways we have:

\$5,000 maintenance

\$9,000 snow and ice supplies

\$6,000 repair and maintenance snow equipment

\$8,000 fuel

\$25,000 insurance

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\$111,000 salaries

So, as you add this up the money for streets doesn't go far. To inflate the streets budget we would have to take away from other departments such as the parks, police, fire and city hall. They all come out of the general fund.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Roundabout Buffer Discussion:

Hammer stated WSDOT is about to the 30% mark on design for the roundabout. They have asked the city what material the city would want as a barrier between the sidewalk and the street in the roundabout. Whatever they put in there it will be up to the city to maintain. It would be curb then buffer before sidewalk. WSDOT suggested rock, gravel, bark or grass. Hammer's concerns with some of these would be weed control, they battle that on Fairview.

Retzer would like something that is appealing to the eye, we don't want dead grass there.

Guenthner suggested clover.

Schaefer suggested a synthetic grass. Schaefer stated at WSU this material holds up really well.

Retzer asked that WSDOT include options in their design so we could actually visualize what it would look like.

Hammer stated they are still hoping to begin the project in 2025.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Police:

City Administrator Chris Mathis reported calls for service have been up lately for the police.

Public Works:

Hammer stated Motley & Motley will begin paving Morton Street tomorrow.

Hammer does not know when contractors for OTTA Seal will be back to sweep the extra rock off the streets.

The week of the 23rd Whitman County will begin the chip seal project on Thorn, Valleyview, Southview, Cooper, South Mill and East Street.

COMMITTEE/BOARD/COMISSION REPORTS:

Park Board:

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Golden reported for the Park Board met tonight, quick update on the pool hoping for August 1st start date for construction and hopefully wrap up by next June. The city will begin with pre-work to tear out concrete, that will make things go smoother when construction crews get on site.

Abraham Hoffman a Colfax Skatepark user presented to the Park Board regarding upgrading/repairing the Skatepark. He did some research and received quotes from ARC (American Ramp Company), to update/repair what we currently have would be \$35,000, to expand into the tennis court area would be \$163,000 on top of the \$35,000. Golden stated Abraham is Hillary and Adam Hoffman's son, a young man who did a great presentation to promote repairing the skatepark.

Golden also reported adding wayfinding to the disc golf course at Schmuck Park. Mayor Retzer is working with a drone operator to get distances of the course. The park board talked about creating a QR code that would give a map of the course for the direction to play the course.

Next Park Board meeting will be September 16th at 5:30 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS:

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

MAYORS REPORT:

Retzer reiterated he appreciates the North Palouse River Road residents that came and spoke tonight. The city will do our best at making improvements to the road. Retzer encouraged the residents to come to the budget workshops this October. We will do the best that we can as the budgets are tight.

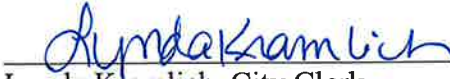
Retzer stated the city is working on hiring in the police department. We have one candidate that will have his psychological evaluation on July 25th and hope to get him into the August academy. Retzer went on to say it is a struggle to hire officers nationwide.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Retzer adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.


Jim Retzer, Mayor


Lynda Kramlich, City Clerk