

COLFAX CITY COUNCIL
July 17, 2023

CALL TO ORDER:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

McRae, Schaefer, Mackleit, Guentner and Huntwork: Present. Golden and Kackman: Absent. A motion was entered by Guentner, seconded by Schaefer to excuse Golden and Kackman. Roll Call: All Yes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was entered by Schaefer, seconded by McRae to approve the minutes from the June 20, 2023 Council meeting. Roll Call: All Yes.

GOOD OF THE CITY:

The Colfax Downtown Association has a Hometown Hero honored each month and Chris Mathis was chosen for the month of June.

Another kudos for the holes patched on Fairview Street.

Summerfest is this coming weekend, the Colfax Chamber is hosting Corks and Caps again this year. There will be a parade and sidewalk sales downtown along with a midnight swim.

The pool has been really busy and getting good use so far this summer.

BILLS AND CLAIMS:

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

CLAIMS	PAYROLL
#8809, 8828, 8852-8866	#8810-8820, 8822-8827, 8829-8851 & EFT
\$10,758.92	\$140,989.52

GRAND TOTAL: \$151,748.44

CITIZENS REQUEST:

PUBLIC HEARING:

PRESENTATION/WORK STUDY:

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Port Water Agreement Amendment- Resolution 23-08:

This updated agreement was brought before council June 5th council meeting. City Attorney John Kragt reviewed and approved the changes and is back for a vote tonight. The changes removed the city doing any maintenance and a few lawyer edits.

A motion was entered by Guenther, seconded by Schaefer to approve Resolution 23-08 Port Water Agreement. Roll Call: All Yes.

NEW BUSINESS:

New Hire Wage Discussion- Resolution 23-09:

City Administrator Chris Mathis stated in 2016 the city moved to performance based pay increases while most government agencies use scales for pay increases. Since this the city has used the 2015 scale for hiring resulting in a very low number of applicants to no applicants at all for posted positions. Due to this proposed new scale there will be increases to some existing employees to bring them up above new hires. Mathis went on to say the increase adds about \$66,000 to the budget for a year. This includes the pay and additional benefits paid into the state. A motion was entered by Mackleit, seconded by McRae to approve Resolution 23-09 New Hire Wages. Roll Call: All Yes.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Police:

Police Chief Bruce Blood reported he received a permit from DOT to hold the parade on Main Street for Summerfest. Blood will have additional officers on duty for traffic control for the parade.

Public Works:

Public Works Director Matt Hammer stated the prep work for crack sealing and asphalt work the county will be assisting with next week.

Hammer reported his crew has been busy with water leaks and changing out water meters.

Hammer was notified asphalt work will begin resurfacing 195 north of the landfill to the bridge on South Main Street.

The first of three speed signs has been installed on Fairview Street across from the hospital. They are testing the pole selection, height and location on the street for future sign placement.

Council expressed concerns regarding the recent runaway semi coming down State Route 272 and landing in the concrete river channel. Both Mayor Retzer and Hammer have contacted WSDOT regarding the issue. In the past there was a signal that would change north and southbound traffic light to red if a vehicle came down the hill at a high rate of speed. Hammer

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stated DOT will let us fund a solution but at this point the DOT doesn't want to put any money into it. With advances in technology there may be new equipment available. The council would like looking at options to remain a high priority.

Fire:

Firefighter John Lautenslager stated fire season has started.

On the 4th there was an apartment fire started by fireworks. There was a good turn out and the crews were able to hold the fire to the attic space.

Esther Rueb is a new part time firefighter that will be filling shifts for the city.

Firefighter David Buckley will be driving Wimpy in the parade for Summerfest, the Scout will be back up in case Wimpy is out of commission.

Mayor Retzer and the council received an anonymous letter requesting the ban of fireworks in the city.

Lautenslager stated since 2016 there have been 8 fires on the 4th of July, one structure and the rest grass fires. He went on to say there is an increase in risk of a fire with fireworks but there will be an increase of law enforcement to control if the ban was put in place. Juniper bushes played a big part of the apartment fire going up like it did.

Chief Blood stated the problem with enforcement of firework complaints or issues is proving who lit the firework.

The consensus of the council is to not ban fireworks and for citizens to use common sense and keep it safe.

COMMITTEE/BOARD/COMISSION REPORTS:

OTHER BUSINESS:

MPD Meeting: No Business

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

MAYORS REPORT:

Retzer encouraged everyone to enjoy Summerfest with the parade, shopping downtown businesses, Corks and Caps in the park and midnight swim.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Retzer adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

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Jim Retzer, Mayor



Lynda Kramlich, City Clerk