

COLFAX CITY COUNCIL
July 19, 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 and Huntwork: Present. Miller and Kackman: Absent. A motion was entered by Guenther, seconded by Golden to excuse Councilmen Miller and Kackman. Roll Call: All Yes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was entered by Guenther, seconded by Golden to approve the minutes from the July 6, 2021 Council meeting. Roll Call: Christopherson, Mackleit, Huntwork, Golden, Guenther: Yes. Huntwork: Abstain.

GOOD OF THE CITY:

Work is being done on some of the downtown businesses. These are funded through Storefront Business Grants from the Colfax Downtown Association that allow businesses to update and repair store fronts.

The pool seems to be very busy. Guenther and her family go most evenings and the pool is usually packed.

A new business is moving into the Bunyard Automotive location. Retzer confirmed an art studio type business was going into that location.

BILLS AND CLAIMS:

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

CLAIMS	PAYROLL
6641-6663 & EFT	6618-6640 & EFT
\$39,918.14	\$86,627.80

GRAND TOTAL: \$126,545.94

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Resolution 21-06 Accident Prevention Program- AWC Workers Comp Retro Program: Finance Director/City Administrator Chris Mathis stated this was introduced last meeting and asked if any of the council had any questions.

COLFAX CITY COUNCIL

July 19, 2021

A motion was entered by Guenther, seconded by Golden to approve Resolution 21-06 supporting Accident Prevention Program. Roll Call: All Yes.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Police:

Chief Bruce Blood reported as of July 25th Washington House Bills 1310 and 1054 regarding police reform will take effect. Blood has been reviewing the changes and making sure the department will be in compliance. He has been updating the department's policy and procedure handbook this past year as it had not been updated since Chief Bill Hickman. Blood is mirroring the policies of the Washington State Patrol as they have already updated a lot of their policies to be in compliance with the new laws. Blood received a training video from CJTC (Criminal Justice Training Commission) on how to implement these new bills. Beginning in August Blood will have training for the officers on Thursdays as a group to review policies, CJTC trainings, and updated house bills.

Retzer reiterated all law enforcement agencies have to abide by these new rules. It will be a huge liability if the procedures are not followed correctly. This will require more training for officers. Blood also added they will make changes as needed as they get more information from the Attorney General's office and larger law enforcement agencies.

Guenther asked how officers will respond to domestic violence calls or welfare checks. Blood responded that Colfax is unique due to the fact we have several other resources easily available to help out in those situations. The police are still required to respond if the individual is a threat to themselves or to others. Officers try to get individuals to comply with verbal commands and once at the hospital Palouse River Counseling can take over if needed.

Fire:

Fire Chief Craig Corbeill commented on the smoke in the air as a result of several Washington State fires. A little over a week ago, a crew from Colfax assisted Fire District 14 with a fire and then was requested to help with the Asotin Complex Fire. Corbeill read a nice post on the Colfax Fire Department Facebook page: "Worked with you guys outside of Clarkston Washington two days ago. You guys knocked down a lot of fire. You are aggressive and experts. You saved the day. You are a credit to your community!"

Corbeill reported there will be a district wide training at Mockenema which will give everyone involved a chance to tour the facility.

Corbeill has added a 3rd funeral home and is busier and getting spread pretty thin causing him to rely on his assistant chief's a lot more. At this time Corbeill has decided to resign as fire chief. In the VFI Bi-Laws the fire chief is allowed to appoint a replacement. At this time Corbeill will pass the fire chief position to Michael Chapman to fulfill his tenure through January 1, 2023.

COLFAX CITY COUNCIL

July 19, 2021

Corbeill went on to say he took over as chief January 1, 2017 and in his time they have added Engine 2 (the yellow fire truck with the bulldog emblem), a new ambulance and a new ladder truck. He is very proud of the people that he has been able to work with but has found he is just running out of gas, adding the new business he is called out almost every night. He will still be active in the department, just not as chief. Corbeill is asking the city's support in his appointment of Michael Chapman.

Newly appointed Fire Chief Michael Chapman stated he will try to live up to Corbeill's standards.

Mathis interjected Corbeill has done a lot for the department and thanked him for his service.

Public Works:

Public Works Director Matt Hammer stated all public works vacations are done and they will be working with a full crew again. They will be trimming trees and completing asphalt projects in the next couple of weeks. This week they are out reading meters, which usually takes each of them 2 days to complete.

Mackleit asked Hammer why a fire hydrant was moved 4-6 feet at the end of Pine Street. Hammer replied that the lot at the end of Pines Street was purchased and the hydrant was in their way for access to the property. Hammer stated he would rather move it than have it damaged.

MAYORS REPORT:

Retzer stated they will be keeping a close eye on the new legislative bills and what information coming out of the attorney general's office.

Retzer asked the council to be thinking of ideas on how to celebrate the 150th year celebration coming up for the City of Colfax in July 2022.

Retzer watched a clip on KHQ News about St Ignatius Hospital, Austin and Laura Storm were interviewed and are looking for donations. Some ideas they are thinking about are a community center or hotel. The ghost tours at St Ignatius are all booked up through the fall.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Retzer adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.



Jim Retzer, Mayor



Lynda Kramlich, City Clerk