

COLFAX CITY COUNCIL
August 21, 2023

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by McRae to approve the minutes from the August 7, 2023 Council meeting. Roll Call: All Yes.

GOOD OF THE CITY:

The Save our Pool Fundraiser held August 18th was a success. Hamburgers and hot dogs were served to about 250 people in attendance and \$10,000 was collected for the event. Mayor Retzer still has a few leads on donations coming in. This was a great community event and well attended. The food was provided by P1fcu and cooked by Colfax Fire and VFI.

The pool has been down a few days this last week due to mechanical issues. Parks Steve Larkin has been working hard at keeping it going to the end of the season.

Mackleit announced the Whitman County Commissioners approved the .09 funds application for a new scoreboard to be placed on the softball field at McDonald Park. Mackleit thanked Whitney Bond, Chris Mathis and Michael Largent for their help with the process.

BILLS AND CLAIMS:

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

CLAIMS	PAYROLL
#8954-8960, 8980-9009	#8931-8953, 8961-8979 & EFT
\$152,598.90	\$78,852.47

GRAND TOTAL: \$231,451.37

CITIZENS REQUEST:

PUBLIC HEARING:

COLFAX CITY COUNCIL

August 21, 2023

PRESENTATION/WORK STUDY:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Trees on Main Street:

Public Works Director Matt Hammer asked the council for their opinion on the trees on Main Street. They are extremely large, block signs for businesses and directional signs, not uniform and are raising some of the sidewalks. Hammer stated he would like to replace existing trees with trees that would work better for our downtown. Hammer suggested taking out every other tree to start the replacement process. Council was concerned about that process, the trees would be planted different years and would not be uniform, which is a complaint for the existing trees. There is a concern of how the public would take removing all the trees at once and then go through to plant new ones in their place at a later date. The downtown would be very bare if the city takes this route. It was suggested that the public could be notified of the plan ahead of time to alleviate this issue.

Mill Street trees were also brought up, this year the trees are dropping plums and making a mess under the trees. Hammer stated it is the homeowner or business owner's responsibility to keep sidewalks clear, just as it is for snow removal.

The council is good with Hammer coming up with a plan for the downtown trees.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Public Works:

Hammer reported they have been busy crack sealing and fixing water leaks.

Fire:

Firefighter John Lautenslager stated we are in full on fire season. We had two major fires in the area, one at Dusty and the other at Winona.

The department volunteers cooked the hamburgers and hotdogs for the Save the Pool Fundraiser.

The new part time firefighter Esther Rueb is close to pulling shifts, she will work with

Firefighter Buckley one more shift then will be on her own.

Administration:

City Administrator Chris Mathis reported the council will be seeing code updates coming before them in hopes to correct some of the code discrepancies.

Mathis stated she will be gearing up for the upcoming budgeting process.

Mathis also informed the council she checked with MRSC regarding if committee members need to be made of city residents. She found that council is who sets this requirement. Mathis went on to say if the Greenway Committee ever wanted to be a city committee they could if council approves of committee members living outside city limits.

COMMITTEE/BOARD/COMISSION REPORTS:

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OTHER BUSINESS:

MPD Meeting: Bills and Claims

Retzer adjourned the council meeting at 7:23 p.m. to enter into the Metropolitan Park District.

Retzer reconvened the council meeting at 7:25 p.m.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

MAYORS REPORT:

Retzer informed the council Officer Joey McCollum will be back next week after being deployed in Guam.

Retzer has been working with Lyle Smith from WMS on the pool project.

Joe Schmick and Mary Dye were in town today getting updates on the fires in the area.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Retzer adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.


Jim Retzer, Mayor


Lynda Kramlich, City Clerk