

COLFAX CITY COUNCIL
October 6, 2025

CALL TO ORDER:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

Golden, McRae, Schaefer, Mackleit, Guenthner, Sevedge and Huntwork: Present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by McRae to approve the minutes from the October 6, 2025 Council meeting. Roll Call: McRae, Shaefer, Mackleit, Guenthner, Sevedge and Golden: Yes. Huntwork: Abstained.

GOOD OF THE CITY:

The pool has water in it.

Skatepark Reno looks good.

Homecoming was this past weekend. The Colfax Football team is ranked 2nd in 2B State.

Buck Canyon Fall Fest was another success.

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	PAYROLL
#11154, 11168-11208 & EFT	#11155-11167 & EFT
\$405,227.43	\$91,375.85

GRAND TOTAL: \$496,603.28

CITIZENS REQUEST:

PUBLIC HEARING:

PRESENTATION/WORK STUDY:

COLFAX CITY COUNCIL
October 6, 2025

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ann Street Discussion- Resolution 25-18 Solbrack City Street:

City Administrator Matt Hammer stated back in April the city approved with Resolution 25-08 preliminary plans for a proposed 20' wide non-conforming city street built to city standard on Ann Street. The Solbrack's are working with SynTier Engineering, have discovered that due to the steep grade on the sharp corners coming off of Orchard Street onto Ann Street, a wall will be necessary on each side of the proposed street. This would reduce the width of the street from the approved 20' to 18'.

For reference, 18' is half of what the current code requires for a city street. Other street widths in the city include: Park Street (18'), Deanway (12'), Cromwell (14'), Cherry (20'), and Orchard Street (20').

Hammer submitted the required turning radius for our fire trucks to SynTier but has not yet received confirmation on whether the turns will accommodate this.

Schaefer and Huntwork raised concerns about fire truck maneuverability due to a longer turning radius and Mackleit asked about inclines.

Hammer confirmed an incline from Orchard Street to Ann Street, within the city's 11% requirement. Hammer stated Solbrack's plan to pave through Ruble Street and create a cul-de-sac on Solbrack property.

Schaefer expressed reluctance to add another narrow street.

City Attorney Hannah Kimball clarified that the city has an ordinance for Safe Streets, which includes requirements for curbs, sidewalks, and gutter systems, and noted that a narrower section would leave no room for future additions.

Hammer stated the referenced Safe Street Ordinance is an encouragement, not a strict requirement, for extra modes of travel.

Golden suggested alternative solutions, such as purchasing land for a wider road from neighbors or the Solbrack's using their own land for driveway.

Sevedge confirmed that the previous resolution did not include sidewalks.

Hammer stated there is room on the proposed 20-foot street as the right-of-way is 40 feet.

Buckley confirmed that Ladder 3, with the longest tail swing, can navigate Deanway, but noted there are no retaining walls at corners or intersections.

Hammer also stated that any future expansion by the Solbracks would require a traffic study and city council approval, as the current plan is for one home.

Huntwork expressed interest in engineer verification of fire truck accessibility.

Mackleit raised concerns about the discrepancy between the 20-foot street in the previous resolution and a now shorter width. Golden noted that the need for a retaining wall was not initially known.

COLFAX CITY COUNCIL

October 6, 2025

Guenthner stated the longer this progresses the further downhill it is actually going, as stewards of the city thinking long term this is probably not the greatest idea.

A motion by Sevedge to approve Resolution 25-18 – Solbrack City Street, motion failed for lack of a second.

NEW BUSINESS:

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Police Chief Michael Melcher reported has been talking with the school district and would like to implement Handle With Care program. This program will allow law enforcement to notify schools regarding children experiencing trauma or other issues, enabling the school to provide support and help these children navigate their challenges.

Melcher stated the LETS (Law Enforcement Training Simulator) Trailer is here and they will be running through scenarios in the next week.

Colfax PD joined Whitman County Sheriff's Deputies in fire arms training, this met the standard qualifying requirements, included some combat training and good drills.

There are 7 or 8 on the Public Safety Testing list for entry level officer. Melcher hopes to pull a list and interview within the next couple of months.

Melcher is working with the sheriff's office, they are trying to coordinate with CJTC to host a 40-hour CIT class, this is the class we need to send 2 officers to for the city to qualify for grant money.

Melcher reported there has been several reports of semi-trucks stuck on the hospital hill, this has been an ongoing issue which results in property damage or the need for law enforcement to help guide them off the hill. Truckers GPS is directing them up the hill rather than continuing on 195 to get to the Pullman and Moscow area. Melcher stated maybe increased signage may help with this issue.

Hammer spoke to Brian Overton from WSDOT, he is going to contact Google to get that off their map.

Fire:

Firefighter David Buckley stated the brush truck recently responded to brush fire on South Palouse River Road, they were able to assist District #11 to knock down the fire and keep it from spreading rapidly.

COLFAX CITY COUNCIL
October 6, 2025

Administration:

Hammer reported the state is moving forward with the round-a-bout in 2026, it will go out to bid in April and work starting in summer 2026.

Remote water meter change outs are nearing the end with only 20 left to be switched out, the last few are the most difficult to change out. Once the remote collectors are installed reads will be available 24/7 without one of the public works employees going out in the field to get the read.

Huntwork asked Hammer to get a list of projects for his church group to tackle, a large group will be available for work on October 18th.

David Batterton and Hammer will attend the IACC Conference Tuesday through Thursday this week. They will meet with a tech team of several of the funding partners to try to figure out a way to fund Fairview Street upgrade. Hammer stated there is 2,000 feet of concrete which rough estimate to replace with asphalt is \$7 million. The infrastructure under the street is very old as well, there are 2 service lines up there one water line is from 1955 and the other line and sewer is from 1967.

Finance Amanda Link reported business as usual with a focus on the 2026 budget. This past week city workers attended training put on by the city's insurance CIAW on professional workplace and driving safety.

COMMITTEE/BOARD/COMISSION REPORTS:

OTHER BUSINESS:

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

MAYORS REPORT:

Retzer stated the pool is looking really good, they did an exceptional job on the decking. The lights are very bright and the fencing is up and the main highlight is the pool is holding water. Lyle Smith will be here next week to fire up the pumps and make sure everything is functioning correctly.

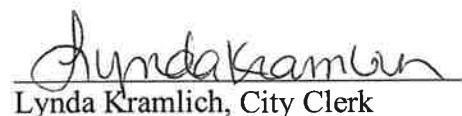
EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Retzer adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m.



Jim Retzer, Mayor



Lynda Kramlich, City Clerk