

COLFAX CITY COUNCIL
October 21, 2024

CALL TO ORDER:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by Guentner to approve the minutes from the October 7, 2024 Council meeting. Roll Call: All Yes.

GOOD OF THE CITY:

Fall clean up has begun.

CDA has all the pots cleaned and picked up for the winter.

Super Colfax will host a fall drug take back Saturday October 26th at the Whitman County Library.

Friends of the Library is hosting an adult themed Halloween party at the library.

Pumpkin carving at the Eagles will be Sunday October 27th, sponsored by P1FCU.

P1FCU will also host the next Chamber meet and greet.

Trick or Treat Main will be Friday October 25th.

BILLS AND CLAIMS:

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

CLAIMS	PAYROLL
#10181-10201	#10150-10180 & EFT
\$152,857.73	\$67,000.79

GRAND TOTAL: \$219,858.52

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CITIZENS REQUEST:

WSU Master Gardener Barbara Amos distributed information about the Washington State University Extension Master Gardener Program. Amos wanted to introduce herself and get the word out about the Master Gardener Program and pitch an idea she has.

Amos stated there are programs in other communities, Pullman for example teach kids how to grow gardens and Community Action teaches people how to grow their own food. Amos would like to raise awareness of the possibilities we can do in our own community.

Amos attended a previous council meeting when the green space for the roundabout was discussed. Amos asked the council if that could be a test garden, using pollinators that are native to the Palouse. These plants would not require watering after the first year and be low maintenance thereafter.

Hammer stated this is something that we can look into.

Amos will host gardener classes at the Whitman County Library for public education. Amos has been working with the Palouse Conservation District, they received a grant to clean up the area below Red Tail Ridge and plant native Palouse prairie plants.

PUBLIC HEARING:

PRESENTATION/WORK STUDY:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 24-06 – Chamber Hotel Motel Application:

Chamber Executive Director Katrina Johnson presented the hotel motel application, stating the funds will be used for the fireworks and marketing for the Winterfest celebration.

A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by Mackleit to approve Resolution 24-06 Chamber Hotel Motel application. Roll Call: All Yes.

Chamber President Gary Young asked when the next Park Board meeting will be. Next Park Board will be November 18th at 5:30 p.m.

Resolution 24-07 – CDA Tax Credit:

The Washington Main Street Tax Credit program allows for the city's utility taxes to be paid directly to the CDA and the city receive a 75% tax credit for the following year. This allows the money to stay in the community.

A motion was entered by Guenther, seconded by McRae to approve Resolution 24-07 CDA Main Street Tax Credit. Roll Call: All Yes.

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Allie Cofer from the CDA stated they will be in charge of the Winterfest Parade again this year. The route will be the same as previous parades, line up will be at 6:00 p.m. with a start time of 6:30 p.m.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire: No report.

Police:

Interim Chief Perry Tate reported Cody Johnson is at the academy and doing well.

Tate also reported today is Bruce Blood's last day with the police department, he is fully retiring.

Golden asked that the Police help with traffic further down Thorn Street on the night of Halloween. Golden stated when cars clear the blocked one-way area at the top, many drive to fast down Thorn Street while kids are still trick or treating. Golden asked if a police car can be parked by F Street to hopefully slow traffic down.

Tate will place a car in that area with lights flashing to slow traffic.

Public Works:

Hammer stated the crews are busy sweeping up leaves and hauling bags of leaves.

Hammer spoke to the railroad about the haphazardly placed rail ties. They gave Hammer permission to haul the unused rail to a safer location.

COMMITTEE/BOARD/COMISSION REPORTS:

OTHER BUSINESS:

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

MAYORS REPORT:

Retzer attended the Greenway Project meeting at the library, the meeting went well and there were nice pictures of what the trail could look like.

Golden stated it was a nice time to hear from the public regarding the trail, the feasibility study is meant to let them know what the cost would be. Hopefully, we will come to a time when the legislatures will approve railbanking and allow a trail to be placed from Ace Hardware to Eells Park.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:


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ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Retzer adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m.



Jim Retzer, Mayor



Lynda Kramlich, City Clerk