

**COLFAX CITY COUNCIL**

**March 20, 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 March 6, 2023 Council meeting. Roll Call: All Yes.

**GOOD OF THE CITY:**

Whitman County Landfill will begin the Spring Cleanup on April 8<sup>th</sup> with reduced fees for waste.

**BILLS AND CLAIMS:**

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

---

**CLAIMS**

#8519-8521,8528-8560 & EFT

\$191,978.99

---

**PAYROLL**

#8518, 8522-8527 & EFT

\$52,667.18

---

**GRAND TOTAL: \$244,646.17**

**CITIZENS REQUEST:**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**Ordinance 23-01 Whitman County Public Hospital District No.3- McGraw Annexation:**

Mayor Retzer opened the public Hearing at 7:03 p.m.

Hank Hanigan Whitman Hospital CEO stated the purpose of this annexation is to build an RV site that can house families visiting patients and also traveling staff that need a place to stay while they work their shifts. This will not be used for WSU game days it is meant to be a quiet place. The annexation will allow for city water and sewer access for the RV sites. This property is contiguous with the hospital property currently in the city limits. The proposed zoning for this is R-2, the hospital is currently in an R-2 zone.

Kackman had questions regarding the legal description and how this property lines up with the existing city limits. This has been a concern for Kackman as past annexations property lines may

## **COLFAX CITY COUNCIL**

**March 20, 2023**

not have been clear and at some point the city may need to know the city boundaries in a precise way. In the future the city may need to pay for a survey that can piece together all the deeds pertaining to city boundaries. This is something that can be dealt with in the future and should not hold up this annexation, Kackman wanted to make the council aware of this potential issue. Hanigan stated they would be happy to do a formal survey to get the boundaries precise. Guenther stated a full survey would be a great idea. Looking into the future this could be very important.

Retzer asked if there were any comments against the proposed annexation. There were none.

Retzer asked if there were any comments for the proposed annexation. There were none.

Retzer closed the public meeting at 7:17 p.m.

A motion was entered by Kackman to approve Ordinance 23-01 annexing the McGraw property owned by the hospital, seconded by Guenther. Roll Call: All Yes.

### **PRESENTATION/WORK STUDY:**

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

##### **Port and Whitman County Commissioner WSDOT Update:**

Mayor Retzer attended a meeting regarding the round-a-bout with the county and the port. There is good support from both the port and county commissioners they have the same concerns as the council. Retzer has not been able to contact the Coleman family regarding the Chevron station but has left messages. WSDOT will be beginning construction season and will not be holding any further meetings regarding the bridge project or have updates until this fall on the project.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

Administration:

Mathis started working on the annual report.

Public Works Director Matt Hammer is working on a TIB Grant with the county to do street repair and crack seal on city streets.

Police:

April 5<sup>th</sup> and April 11<sup>th</sup> polygraphs are scheduled for the two applicants, the background investigations are underway.

#### **COMMITTEE/BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS:**

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Golden was at Schmuck Park this weekend and stated the portable bathroom down there really did get a lot of use, it is a good thing to have at the park in the winter months.

**COLFAX CITY COUNCIL**

**March 20, 2023**

Mathis reported Parks Steve Larkin is working on getting bids to put heaters in the track/city bathrooms.

McRae asked about the empty storefronts downtown and if there is a plan to get businesses in them.

Retzer stated the CDA and the Chamber have both been working on plans for this.

Mathis interjected that the city can write ordinances that would address these issues and we have been doing research on what other cities have done that encourage business owners to be good Main Street building owners.

Retzer said it is being worked on and when there is something to bring before council we will do that.

Kackman stated we have a real dilemma when a downtown property owner buys buildings just to hold them.

Mathis stated there is a fine line we don't want to make it so cumbersome to detract businesses from coming in.

The Hyde Out is still a work in progress, many of their projects turned into bigger projects that have slowed them down financially but there is still work going on.

**CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

**MAYORS REPORT:**

Retzer stated today they heard that there is \$706,000 in the Senate budget for the pool. Now we are waiting for the House budget to be released. Retzer has been in touch with the representatives and thanked them for the support.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Retzer adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

  
Jim Retzer, Mayor

  
Lynda Kramlich, City Clerk