

COLFAX CITY COUNCIL
February 5, 2024

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, Sevedge and Huntwork: Present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was entered by Guentner, seconded by Schaefer to approve the minutes from the January 16, 2024 Council meeting. Roll Call: All Yes.

GOOD OF THE CITY:

McRae reported the Hospital Foundation was a success, they served 170 plates and raised \$141,000 from the auction.

Both the Colfax Boys and Girls Basketball teams are headed to District Playoffs.

BILLS AND CLAIMS:

The final payment was made on the 2005 Sewer loan.

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

CLAIMS

9427, 9435-9461
\$83,355.95

PAYROLL

9421-9426, 9428-9434 & EFT
\$97,055.42

GRAND TOTAL: \$180,411.37

CITIZENS REQUEST:

Colfax School Levy Presentation- Wes Claassen-

Wes Claassen from Citizens for Quality School spoke about the upcoming Enrichment Levy. This levy will provide for school staffing such as a nurse, art teacher, counselors, custodians, maintenance, attendance secretaries, school nutrition/meals, supplements special education and title 1 programs and extracurricular student activities and sports. Claassen encouraged everyone to get out and vote. Claassen also thanked the city for allowing the signs to be put up at each end of town and thanked Colfax businesses that allowed them to hang up the flyers in the businesses windows or advertised on reader boards.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Ordinance 24-03 - Water Use Efficiency Goals-

COLFAX CITY COUNCIL

February 5, 2024

Mayor Retzer opened the Public Hearing at 7:12 p.m.

Public Works Director stated every 6 years we are required by Department of Health to update our Water Master Plan and approve Water Use Efficiency Goals. Along with the goals we have to have measures as to achieve those goals. Hammer and the consultant agreed these are the most attainable goals that will help conserve water for Colfax.

Mayor Retzer asked for public comment for the proposed Water Use Efficiency Goals. No comments.

Mayor Retzer asked for public comment against the proposed Water Use Efficiency Goals. No comments.

Mayor Retzer closed the Public Hearing at 7:15 p.m.

Guenthner asked if there are repercussions for using water outside prescribed timeframe.

Hammer stated that would be up to council to set those limits. The document states it is modeled around the following concepts. Pullman

Golden stated this would start a conversation then the council would vote on an ordinance to set guidelines.

A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by Mackleit to approve Ordinance 24-03 Water use Efficiency Goals. Roll Call: All Yes.

Ordinance 24-02 – Vacate Alley Lower and Upper A Street-

Mayor Retzer opened the Public Hearing at 7:19 p.m.

Building and Community Development Shawn McSweeney stated this alley is between Lower and Upper A between lot 10 block 3 and lot 1 block 4 of Avenue Addition. Hammer and McSweeney stated there are no utilities in this alley, no use of the alleyway. There is a fence down the middle of the alleyway and the alleyway is 20 feet wide by 140 feet long.

Mayor Retzer asked for public comment for the proposed Alley Vacation. No comments.

Mayor Retzer asked for public comment against the proposed Alley Vacation. No comments.

Mayor Retzer closed the Public Hearing at 7:19 p.m.

A motion was entered by Schaefer, seconded by McRae to approve Ordinance 24-02 Vacate Alley between Lower and Upper A Street.

Huntwork asked if before the fence was put up the neighbors did their due diligence and had the land surveyed to know if the fence was on their property or city property.

McSweeney stated he looked for a survey and couldn't locate one.

COLFAX CITY COUNCIL

February 5, 2024

Hammer stated the fence has been up for years.

Huntwork has a hard time giving away city property it is not a good precedence to set.

Mackleit asked if this is a fair assessment of the property and asked if the property owners are present.

McSweeney stated he worked with the Whitman County Assessor to come up with that number. Scott and Jamie Steiger are present and had not received the assessment.

There was discussion on how to proceed due to the owner not notified of the price to vacate. Jamie Steiger mentioned there is an alleyway in their neighborhood that has already been vacated.

Golden wants to make sure the landowners are comfortable with price.

McSweeney stated each property owner would get 10 x 140 which is 1400 square feet and at \$1.20 a square foot that comes out to \$1,680. RCW allows for council to set any price they see fit.

The Steiger's are still willing to vacate with the proposed dollar amount.

City Attorney John Kragt advised the council from a practical and procedural standpoint it will be hard to pull back once it is passed.

There has been a motion and a second, Mayor Retzer asked for a roll call.

Roll Call: Guenthner, Sevedge, Golden, McRae, Schaefer and Mackleit: Yes. Huntwork: No.

PRESENTATION/WORK STUDY:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ordinance 24-01 – Vacate Ann Street-

Retzer stated councilmembers have had time to think this over and asked if there were any questions.

A motion was entered by Golden to accept Ordinance 24-01 Vacation of Ann Street, no second was offered, the motion failed.

NEW BUSINESS:

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Public Works:

Hammer stated they have been busy sweeping up the gravel that has been laid down for the slick road conditions this winter.

Hammer also mentioned North Palouse is really rough but the road will need to dry out before they can grade it.

Police:

Police Chief Bruce Blood stated they are down one officer.

COLFAX CITY COUNCIL

February 5, 2024

At the end of April he will step down as Chief and will be rehired as part time to help out through the transition. Another officer is probably going to be leaving this summer as well. February 20th they will hold Oral Boards for the open officer position, they have 4 applicants and hope to get 2 out of this process.

Administration:

Mathis stated the audit has started and should go through the rest of the month. Kramlich has been doing the 2023 year end wrap up.

COMMITTEE/BOARD/COMISSION REPORTS:

OTHER BUSINESS:

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Kragt has been working on a couple of things with Mathis and Retzer. The council tackling tough issues with vacations they are always complex, the council talked through that well tonight.

Kragt feels for Blood, Ritzville is in the same situation as Colfax on trying to hire on new officers.

MAYORS REPORT:

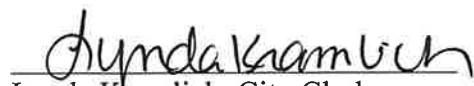
Retzer appreciates all the hard work the city departments have been putting in.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Retzer adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.


Jim Retzer, Mayor


Lynda Kramlich, City Clerk