

COLFAX CITY COUNCIL
March 7, 2022

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, Kackman and Huntwork: Present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by Huntwork to approve the minutes from the February 21, 2022 Council meeting. Roll Call: All Yes.

GOOD OF THE CITY:

Both the Girls and Boys Basketball teams represented Colfax well at the state tournament, very well behaved and respectful. The school and coaches should be proud.

Liberty hosted a wrestling tournament on Saturday; there were 39 Colfax kids with 19 medaling. Next Saturday Colfax will host the tournament.

BILLS AND CLAIMS:

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

CLAIMS

7358-7395 & EFT
\$48,804.09

PAYROLL

7352-7357, 7396-7400 & EFT
\$80,224.11

GRAND TOTAL: \$129,028.20

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 22-07-Lodging Tax Application: Arts Council-

The Colfax Arts Council is requesting \$12,000 to paint a mural for the Celebration of Colfax 150 Birthday event and to seal the existing murals. CAC has contacted Harry Stinson of Wenatchee to paint a mural, he is currently researching Colfax history and historic photos for inspiration for this mural. Stinson is the artist who created the mural on the side of the Fonk's building. This mural will be painted on the side of the Whitman County Public Service building and will be completed by July 15th and presented on July 23-24 for the 150 Celebration. The funds will pay for his lodging, artist fee, prep and paint supplies and the UV protectant sealer for the murals.

A motion was entered by Kackman, seconded by Mackleit to approve Resolution 22-07-Lodging Tax Application from the Arts Council. Roll Call: All Yes.

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Resolution 22-08-Lodging Tax Application: Colfax Chamber of Commerce-

The Colfax Chamber of Commerce is asking for funds for operating costs for the year which include: 150th Birthday Celebration, Trick or Treat Main Street and the Winterfest in the amount of \$20,000. The Colfax Chamber of Commerce mission is to promote a vibrant and prosperous community and business environment through tourism activities planned throughout the year which include the above mentioned events. They intend to create outstanding events with the return investment being increased visitors to Colfax.

A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by Schaefer to approve Resolution 22-08- Lodging Tax Application from the Colfax Chamber of Commerce. Roll Call: All Yes.

Mackleit requested a breakdown of the funds that are in the Hotel Motel Fund and what has been allocated this year so far.

Mathis will send out the information for council review, we have budgeted to spend \$85,000 this year knowing the 150th Celebration was happening.

Business Licenses-

City Administrator Chris Mathis asked the council if they would be in support of requiring business licenses for Colfax businesses. There is an opportunity to partner with the state that would help track what businesses are in the City of Colfax. As a business signs up for their state business license they would be able to sign up for the city license at the same time. Mathis went on to say they say it's free, yet they just passed an additional fee of \$10 to process the license for cities. The benefit would be to know what businesses are in town. We have found that there are home occupations in town that are not necessarily allowed due to dangerous material in garages in residential zones. There will be a time to vote as we will need to jump through some hoops and change our code.

Kackman asked if we can have business licenses ourselves without involving the state.

Mathis answered until December 2022, if we have a business license in place the RCW states it has to be through the state and in the partnership with the Department of Revenue. Right now we are exempt from it because we don't require a business license.

Kackman stated it would be nice to know what businesses are in town or a new business comes to town, but he would rather keep no business licenses until the state requires it. The council agreed.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire:

Fire Chief Michael Chapman reported they had to delay repairing the brush truck, the damage was more severe than first thought and they will need to replace the entire bed of the pickup rather than just the quarter panel.

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MAYORS REPORT:

Retzer updated the council on bills that are sitting on the Governor's desk to be signed that have passed the House and the Senate: one clarifies less lethal and the other is use of force on behavioral health situations.

The mask mandate will end March 11 at 12:59. Businesses may still require masks.

Retzer cautioned the council on phishing emails, there has been an increase of such emails.

Retzer spoke with Representative Joe Schmick this evening and the bill regarding the Greenway has been kicked out. On the positive we have had support for the first time. Schmick has agreed to sit down at the table with the Greenway Committee and answer any question they may have and discuss future plans for the Greenway.

Golden spoke about the citizen group that is in support of the Greenway. Shaun Darveshi from the RTPO was in attendance at the last committee meeting and provided the committee with a lot of perspective and background. Darveshi recommended the RTPO work with the City of Colfax on a survey to gauge support for the Greenway and will work with us on an economic impact report. These two items can help with the grant process and taking it back to the legislators in the future to let them know this is something that the community really wants. Darveshi needs the City Council's support for him to work on these tasks.

Mathis stated this will be advantageous for us and will be helpful in the grant process.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Retzer adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.



Jim Retzer, Mayor



Lynda Kramlich, City Clerk