

COLFAX CITY COUNCIL
February 3, 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, Guenther and Huntwork: Present. Sevedge: Absent. A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by McRae to excuse Sevedge. Roll Call: All Yes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by Schaefer to approve the minutes from the January 21, 2025 Council meeting. Roll Call: All Yes.

GOOD OF THE CITY:

Another shout out for the Yield sign at the bottom of South Main Street hill.

BILLS AND CLAIMS:

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

CLAIMS	PAYROLL
10478 VOID, 10479, 10487-10515 & EFT	10470-10477, 10480-10486 & EFT
\$150,251.26	\$87,325.74

GRAND TOTAL: \$237,577.00

CITIZENS REQUEST:

PUBLIC HEARING:

PRESENTATION/WORK STUDY:

FEMA Presentation:

Kara Jacobacci, reminded everyone that they will have the open houses next week, they will be in Colfax, Wednesday February 12th at the county from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Jacobacci is a Risk Analyst who is attached to this FEMA project. This project has been going on for years, the current flood plain mapping for this area is from 1978-1979 which means Colfax is very overdue for an update. Now, compared to the 70's, they use lidar topography that is more accurate. There is a 26% chance of a flood happening in a 30-year mortgage.

The biggest concern for Colfax is the Colfax levy system, the levy is not accredited through the FEMA Standards and cannot be shown as protection on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps. It was

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provisionally accredited in 2007 which would have expired in 2009. Due to this they had to leave the levy as not providing protection. There are about 100 structures in Colfax that will be affected, most will be north of the river in the area of Colfax 4 neighborhood. Jacobacci wants to get the word out for those affected so they are aware and can come and ask questions at the open house.

There will be several different stations set up at the open house with staff, residents will be able to zoom in on their specific residence and will see the old mapping vs. the proposed new mapping and see the changes that are coming.

At the open house there will be flood insurance liaisons, engineers, the people who did the modeling and the conservation district to discuss wildfire. The Risk Map Program FEMA update will be a multi hazard update.

The timeline for this project:

- 2023 first draft maps unveiled at Flood Risk Review meeting
- Maps are at preliminary stage
- Open House
- Appeal period- 90 day.
- Letter of Final Determination: hoping by the end of this year
- 6-month timeline for entities to adopt the flood map by ordinance.
- 2026 new regulatory maps of flood plain

Community Building and Development Shawn McSweeney stated certification of the levy is a huge expense and also could cause other problems.

Hammer stated we wouldn't know until we have it certified, the outcome could be as bad or worse.

Jacobacci stated there are regional service staff that can answer questions if we are considering pursuing the accreditation. The levy certification project would not be completed before maps go into effect; those changes would need to be done after the fact.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 25-03 Confirming Michael Melcher as Police Chief:

Retzer introduced Michael Melcher as the new City Police Chief.

Melcher thanked Mayor Retzer for this opportunity and also thanked Perry Tate for keeping things afloat for the past 6 months. Melcher has been in law enforcement for 17 years, started as a deputy in Garfield County and then worked for WCSO before going to Walla Walla County. He is from Yakima came up here to attend WSU, his wife is from Endicott and they will be happy to get back to the area for family and friends. Melcher is excited and anxious to get to work.

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A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by Schaefer to accept Resolution 25-03 Confirming Michael Melcher as the new City Police Chief. Roll Call: All Yes.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Police:

Interim Chief Perry Tate stated the Tahoe is in the shop with a cracked radiator.

Tate went on to say, Officer Cody Johnson graduated from the academy and has started his 4-months of FTO (Field Training Officer).

Fire Department:

Firefighter David Buckley stated they recently revamped their cadet program; they reviewed the policies to make sure they lined up with what insurance requires. They have three cadets waiting to begin the program. This has been a successful program in the past, cadets often stay on after they turn 18 and family members of cadets have joined as well.

Public Works:

Hammer updated the council regarding the Hotel/Motel Funds for the COAST Bus request. Attorney Hannah Kimball researched and these funds are for tourism to fund nonprofits, what the bus provides it does not fall under this category. The Golf Course and MacDougall Invite are good examples of what these funds are for. To put heads in beds and bring people in to town from over 50 miles away.

Hammer reached out to a place that will come test the air quality in City Hall, we are waiting on a proposal.

Public Works is working with Merrick Engineering to finalize construction plans for our water project. Some construction will begin in 2025 and continue through 2026. They are prioritizing where they will get the most hydraulic capabilities and also looking at the oldest pipes in town.

COMMITTEE/BOARD/COMISSION REPORTS:

OTHER BUSINESS:

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Attorney Hannah Kimball is continuing to work on a few things, nothing to report on tonight.

MAYORS REPORT:

Retzer wanted to welcome Melcher as the new Police Chief, he will start on February 12th.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Retzer adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m.



Jim Retzer, Mayor



Lynda Kramlich, City Clerk