

COLFAX CITY COUNCIL

March 17, 2025

CALL TO ORDER:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by Schaefer to approve the minutes from the March 2, 2025 Council meeting. Roll Call: Schaefer, Guenthner, Sevedge, Golden and McRae. Yes. Huntwork: Abstained.

GOOD OF THE CITY:

The Masquerade Ball was a success with more people in attendance than last year. The auction brought in \$13,000 with most of that going to stuff the bus, this will purchase school supplies for students throughout Whitman County.

Colfax Boys Basketball placed 5th at state.

BILLS AND CLAIMS:

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

CLAIMS	PAYROLL
#10595, 10604-10637	#10596-10603 & EFT
\$89,805.91	\$65,999.49

GRAND TOTAL: \$155,805.40

CITIZENS REQUEST:

PUBLIC HEARING:

PRESENTATION/WORK STUDY:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Resolution 25-07 Public Works Trust Fund Loan: (corrected resolution # from 25-08 to 25-07 scrivener's error)

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City Administrator Matt Hammer stated this is a rehash from the 2023, council had approved the city to apply for a loan through the Public Works Trust Fund for 6,000,000. The loan plus a grant we received brought the total to \$6,106,500. Hammer stated we are \$425,000 short for all the work we would like to complete which includes:

- Rehab Clay Street booster station
- Thorn street booster station improvements
- Replace pressure reducing valve on Fairview
- Replace main transmission line for big blue
- Put in a 16-inch line at Fairview Reservoir
- Replace water main across North Main Street bridge by Rosauers
- Replace water main at the proposed roundabout
- Replacement of approximately 8,700 of cast iron mains
- Replacement of 250 galvanized iron service lines

The additions bring the total to \$6,531,900.

Hammer wants to make sure council is good with going forward with the additional funding request.

A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by Huntwork to approve Resolution 25-07 Additional Funds from Public Works Trust Fund Loan to complete the above projects. Roll Call: All Yes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 25-06 Xpress Bill Pay Solutions-

Kramlich explained this is a platform that city customers can view utility account, pay, set up auto pay and receive the bill via email. Reconciling for staff will be much easier as well. The fee for credit cards now is 2.5%, the fee for this will be 3% and \$2.00 EFT transfer fees.

A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by McRae to approve Resolution 25-06 Xpress Bill Pay for accounts receivable options. Roll Call: All Yes.

Ordinance 25-04 Alarm Systems- (corrected ordinance not resolution scrivener's error)

Hammer stated this is an update to our code that will make it easier for enforcement as the current code is obsolete. This update states we will follow the International Fire Code and gives the city more enforceable action on false alarms. This sets fines for false alarms for repeat offenders and hope to encourage them to fix their systems.

A motion was entered by Schaefer, seconded by Huntwork to approve Ordinance 25-04 Alarm Systems. Roll Call: All Yes.

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DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Police:

Chief Melcher reported Officer Tate and Officer Johnson moved to the nightshift today. Tate and Johnson are continuing with Johnson's FTO training.

Melcher stated there are 6 candidates for the Oral Board exams that will be held next week.

April 7th – 8th staff from the Attorney General's Office will be here following up on the Michael Garcia missing person case.

Fire:

OIC Firefighter John Lautenslager stated they responded to a vehicle fire.

The newly reimplemented cadet program is going great, they have 4 cadets. Lautenslager stated other volunteers from the department are attending the trainings along with the cadets, giving everyone a better chance to learn.

Public Works:

Hammer reported clean up is still underway from the rain and quick snow melt.

Whitman County asked Hammer if the city could assist them with the Vac Truck. With the recent flooding they had damage to a bridge on Steptoe Canyon Road. Hammer stated they will meet with them and assess the situation.

Hammer presented a new proposal to the council from Dennis and Diane Solbrack. This new proposal has the Solbrack's agreeing to a 20-foot paved city street. Discussion ensued and the council agreed to have Solbrack come present his new proposal to the council at the next council meeting.

Hammer reported the air quality testing for the City Hall and Fire Department came back as nothing found.

Hammer also stated there has been no new updates on the roof.

COMMITTEE/BOARD/COMISSION REPORTS:

OTHER BUSINESS:

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

MAYORS REPORT:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Retzer adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.



Jim Retzer, Mayor

Lynda Kramlich, City Clerk