

COLFAX CITY COUNCIL
April 6, 2026

CALL TO ORDER:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by Mackleit to approve the minutes from the April 6, 2026 Council meeting. Roll Call: All Yes.

GOOD OF THE CITY:

Palouse Brewery opened March 28th.

Masquerade Ball was March 28th everyone in attendance had a great time, numbers were down a bit from last year because of multiple events in the area.

BILLS AND CLAIMS:

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

CLAIMS

#11635-11672 & EFT

\$90,105.73

PAYROLL

#11625-11634 & EFT

\$97,911.50

GRAND TOTAL: \$188,017.23

CITIZENS REQUEST:

PUBLIC HEARING:

PRESENTATION/WORK STUDY:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

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DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Resolution 26-08 Whitman County Humane Society Contract:

City Administrator Matt Hammer had Attorney Hannah Kimball review the Whitman County Humane Society Contract, she confirmed she was good with the contract as presented. Amy Griffiths from the Humane Society is also in agreement with the updates as well. Hammer stated we brought it back before council for a vote.

A motion was entered by Guenthner, seconded by McRae to approve Resolution 26-08 Whitman County Humane Society Contract. Roll Call: All Yes

Police:

Police Chief Michael Melcher reported new officer Ivan Martinez-Garcia started April 1st, he has been getting his computer logs in all set up and riding along with Melcher and Officer Cody Johnson. He starts the academy April 14th and he will be there through August 18th.

Melcher stated that CJTC clarified some requirements on House Bill 2015, they now are saying funds can't be used to supplant or replace locally funded positions or equipment. Melcher spoke with Attorney Hannah Kimball regarding what options we have moving forward, he would not be surprised if we do not withdraw our application.

Melcher reported stats:

52 calls

83 traffic stops

34 citations/infractions

4 criminal cases 3 of which ended with arrests

Fire:

OIC Firefighter John Lautenslager reported Brush 1 assisted in a technical rescue, a motorhome was teetering on a hillside.

They are at 260 calls for service as of today.

Public Works:

Hammer reported the construction project is going well, despite a few minor hiccups.

Hammer had signs made for a couple of businesses to make their entrances more obvious during construction.

The water line under the north bridge is rotted out and is currently being replaced to reconnect a loop line. The new water line will no longer be suspended under the bridge; it will rest on the walls of the concrete river channel.

Hammer announced the construction traffic pattern will change a couple more times before project is complete.

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Administration:

Kramlich reported this week they will be working with HD Fowler getting the new radio towers and remote meters connected. This will eliminate the need for public works to drive by to get the reads from the meter.

Mackleit stated the city hall carpet and painting looks really good.

Retzer commended city staff for all the hard work during the process, from painting and removing old carpet to moving furniture for carpet installation and then moving everything back in. Retzer pointed out that these efforts demonstrate the dedication of our workers.

COMMITTEE/BOARD/COMISSION REPORTS:

Park Board:

Golden reported from the park board meeting, the slide that was purchased for the pool is no longer allowed in Washington State, as WMS indicated that code changed this past year. The next approved slide option is nearly double the price, costing approximately \$140,000 compared to the original \$80,000. WMS has proposed two alternatives: a climbing wall and a basketball hoop. The consensus of the Park Board was to decline the climbing wall. They were open to the basketball hoop but maybe a lower price point than proposed by WMS.

Other suggestions were expanding on the inflatable course purchased by the Friends of the Parks, sun shades and lounge chairs.

The city has hired a pool manager and has received 10 lifeguard applications.

Hammer will coordinate with WMS for pool equipment start up, as the pumps have not been run in two years.

The Chamber of Commerce has funds left from their fundraising efforts for the skatepark renovation project. The park board agreed to use these funds to move the skatepark entrance gate from the grass side to the parking lot side and repair sections of the fence that are currently in disrepair.

Touch up painting also needs to be done after the renovations last fall. The American Ramp Company has hired a local painter to handle that work.

Elaine McClintock has requested to place a bench along the river side of the McDonald Park walkway. This bench would me in memory of Bones McClintock and will be purchased using the memorial funds received in his honor.

OTHER BUSINESS:

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

MAYORS REPORT:

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Retzer stated the 9th District Representatives will be in Pullman April 14th, anyone wanting to attend can contact Pullman Chamber to sign up.

Retzer will speak at the Chamber Luncheon tomorrow.

April 9th he will speak at the Rotary Luncheon.

April 15th he will speak with the Special Education kids at the Colfax High School.

Asotin County has a program that provides employment supports for individuals with developmental disabilities and will be working with the students from Colfax.

Retzer announced a scheduled cleanup at St Ignatius Saturday April 11th. Volunteers will have the option to purchase burgers from Humble Burgers van.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Retzer adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.


Jim Retzer, Mayor


Lynda Kramlich, City Clerk