

COLFAX CITY COUNCIL

April 7, 2025

CALL TO ORDER:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

Golden, McRae, Mackleit, Guenthner, Sevedge and Huntwork: Present. Schaefer: Absent.

A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by Mackleit to excuse Schaefer. Roll Call: All Yes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by Huntwork to approve the minutes from the March 17, 2025 Council meeting. Roll Call: All Yes.

GOOD OF THE CITY:

It is nice to see the city officers out and about.

Golden reminded candidate filing for open council positions starts May 5th. Golden went on to say he will be running for another term.

CDA held an open house for their Airbnb Downtown Heights, located above Annie Ruth and The Celler.

BILLS AND CLAIMS:

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

CLAIMS	PAYROLL
#10650-10696	10638-10649 & EFT
\$371,429.15	\$93,115.35

GRAND TOTAL: \$464,544.50

CITIZENS REQUEST:

Dennis and Diane Solbrack-

Dennis and Diane Solbrack 510 W Moller Road, Colfax, sent a new proposal to the city requesting another look at building a 20' street on the 40' platted Ann Street. The Solbracks' are proposing a 20' wide non-conforming paved street that includes clearance for height of fire trucks. This proposal will go around existing structures without harm and provides needed setback requirements and will be built to city standards. Solbracks have hired an engineer firm and will have a traffic study done.

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Benefits of this 20' non-conforming street are:

- Matches the width of the available street on Orchard.
- Minimizes any potential problems with neighbors' property
- Provides the ability to get title insurance
- This does not require removal of existing structures and will allow access to Gass' building and Krikac lots. Does not require removal of existing fences or embankments
- This minimizes any potential issue with water drainage to properties below the street
- This proposal leaves the door open for future improvement of the non-conforming street

Hammer stated the traveled portion is not all on city right of way, so there will need to be property line adjustments if built on the traveled portion. The street can be built without neighbors' agreement or property line adjustments, it would just take a lot more construction for the Solbracks and would be built on platted Ann Street.

Before the Solbracks approach the neighbors, they asked for something in writing from the city that gives them the go ahead to move forward with building a city street. Solbrack stated they think it is in the best interest of everyone to stay on the traveled way, but they can build the street on the right of way if needed.

The consensus of the council; they are in support of new plan, they asked for an engineered to city standard street and the Solbracks are working towards that.

Building and Community Development Shawn McSweeney will send out notification to neighbors within 300 feet of proposed roadway work and boundary line adjustment if needed.

Hammer stated there will need to be a SEPA completed and there will be several times for public comment during this process.

A motion was entered by Guenthner, seconded by Sevedge to pass Resolution 25-08 agreeing to the preliminary plans for the Solbrack road construction. Roll Call: All Yes.

PUBLIC HEARING:

PRESENTATION/WORK STUDY:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

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DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Public Works:

Public Works continues to work on replacing water meters with the new remote readers.

Hammer stated the water meter has been installed at the airport for the Port of Whitman water right agreement, they will be charged for basic usage and then anything over 5,000 gallons a day.

Hammer will meet with FEMA, Corp of Engineer and the Department of Ecology this week.

Fire:

Firefighter David Buckley stated they are starting to receive the upgraded air packs.

Police:

Mayor Retzer reported five interviewed for the police entry level position, four were sent off to start the background process. Retzer heard today that one of the applicants has already accepted an offer with another agency.

The city was able to purchase a 2017 Ford Explorer for the police at a very good price.

COMMITTEE/BOARD/COMISSION REPORTS:

Greenway Update- Blaine Golden-

Golden spoke about the feasibility study for the Colfax Greenway Path. The study was paid for by private funding after the groups attempt at a grant was unsuccessful. The study identified the current state of the rails and what the path could look like. The study displays a "cadillac plan" and comes in at an estimated 3.2 million, this can be scaled back to varying degrees and also be a work in progress as funds come available. Golden stated rail banking could be an option, if the rails were removed, allowing for interim use as a trail and land would be preserved if the rails would ever need to go back in.

OTHER BUSINESS:

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

MAYORS REPORT:

Retzer asked council members if they would like to attend the Inland Northwest Partners Spring Meeting this Wednesday April 9th at the Colfax Golf Course, featuring speaker Rebecca Udem-Of Growing Small Towns. Udem will speak on Places We Love to Call Home, bringing ideas on how to recruit volunteers, learn about generational trends that impact workforce and civic engagement. Retzer has a flyer and a registration form for anyone wanting to attend.

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Retzer reminded the council the legislation is in the last 3 weeks of session. He can email the list of bills being addressed if anyone is interested.

Retzer had a drone fly the disc golf course at Schmuck Park. His plan is to create a QR Code for a map of the course making it more user friendly for folks using the course.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Retzer adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.


Jim Retzer, Mayor


Lynda Kramlich, City Clerk