

COLFAX CITY COUNCIL

June 7, 2021

CALL TO ORDER:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

Golden, Guenther, Christopherson, Mackleit, Miller, Kackman and Huntwork: Present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by Miller to approve the minutes from the May 17, 2021 Council meeting. Roll Call: All Yes.

GOOD OF THE CITY:

Retzer reported Graduation went well and thanked the Police and Fire for their help with the parade for the graduates. He also received a lot of compliments about the Fire Department's display of the flag off of their ladder truck over Main Street.

BILLS AND CLAIMS:

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

CLAIMS

6461, 6464-6465, 6471-6514
\$69,854.59

PAYROLL

6451-6460, 6462-6470 & EFT
\$93,324.06

GRAND TOTAL: \$163,178.65

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Niehenke Park:

Mayor Retzer excused the public for an executive session regarding Niehenke Park at 7:03 p.m. requesting 15-minute duration.

City council reconvened at 7:21 p.m.

A motion was entered by Kackman, seconded by Huntwork to proceed with the purchase of 10,200 square feet of property adjacent to Niehenke Park for the price of \$3,000. Roll Call: All Yes

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire:

Fire Chief Craig Corbeill reported the Fire Department has 2 new hires, John Laughtenslager will begin working June 1st and Dean Walker will start July 1st.

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Corbeill informed the council fire season is underway across the state due to the dry weather this spring. Washington Department of Natural Resources implemented some burn bans, so far the city has not issued one.

A Pierce Tech will be here this week to service the 3 Pierce firetrucks.

Corbeill also reported a small fire at a house on South Main their refrigerator overheated and burned the floor. There was also a fire behind the Hyde Out, someone put a cigarette in a flower pot which caught fire and ignited a bench as well and both were a total loss.

Police:

Police Chief Bruce Blood reported things are going good.

Tyler Paris has completed the first portion of FTO training and will be moving on to train with another officer.

Kackman asked Blood about the \$11,800 payment to the Whitman County Sheriff's Office for coverage.

Blood explained they normally like to keep that down between \$3,000 to \$6,000, it was larger this time around due to trainings. Blood and Officer McCollum were both out a week for training. Blood went on to say he is working with Mathis to put in for a grant for \$28,000 for salary reimbursement for the time Tyler Paris was in the academy.

Kackman just wanted to bring this to Blood's attention to keep an eye on.

Administration:

Finance Director/City Administrator filed the Annual Report for the City and the Metropolitan Park District in May.

We are still advertising for the Building Inspector position and so far we have only had one semi-serious inquiry. Bretveld was back in town last week for the week and was able to complete plan reviews and inspections.

Kackman suggested contracting with someone who is licensed until we find someone to fill that position. He will send Mathis some contact information.

Mathis reported she has contacted the county for assistance but they are losing one of their inspectors the end of June. She also reached out to one of the area small towns to see if their inspector would like to help us out and they were not interested.

Golden suggested we scale back the advertisement, finding an inspector with IT capability may be difficult.

COMMITTEE/BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS:

Park Board:

Golden reported the Park Board met tonight before council:

- The pool will open Thursday with the same pricing as 2 years ago.

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- The repair work at the pool went well. The pool is leaking more this year, staff is able to capture most of it and recycle back through.
- The Park Board is working on updating the Park Comprehensive Plan
- Working on standardized park signage for city parks
- Next meeting is set for August 16, 2021.

Mackleit asked if there are long term goals for replacement of the pool. Golden stated that conversation dominates most Park Board Meetings. Golden went on to say the Park Board would like to get into a position like Garfield and receive a grant to replace or overhaul.

MAYORS REPORT:

Retzer is looking at different avenues for our pool situation.

Christopherson asked if the city was covered for ransomware attacks. Mathis responded our IT people are on top of it as well as the City has coverage from our insurance company. Mathis will check with our insurance to find out our exact coverage. Currently our staff is aware to be on the lookout for suspicious activity. Mathis went on to say city hall gets calls often asking for our copier information and that is a way hackers get into computer systems.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Retzer adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.



Jim Retzer, Mayor



Lynda Kramlich, City Clerk