

COLFAX CITY COUNCIL
July 20, 2026

CALL TO ORDER:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

GOOD OF THE CITY:

Ribbon Cutting at the Colfax Municipal Pool was a success. State Representative Joe Schmick and Dave Buri were in attendance.

P1FCU served over 90 attendees with their BBQ.

The Duck Dash sponsored by the Colfax Chamber of Commerce was also held at the pool, there were some great prizes awarded to the winners.

Demolition of the Port of Whitman property on North Sumner has started. There is a lot of clean up to come to get the property prepared for building.

Retzer stated this is a huge benefit for the Port doing this project, even if the daycare idea doesn't come into fruition. Retzer went on to say there are talks of the long warehouse next to the Roger's Seed building becoming an indoor sports court.

Meadow Street was paved today and several crosswalks around town have been restriped.

BILLS AND CLAIMS:

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

CLAIMS	PAYROLL
#11934-11937, 11950-11981	#11927-11933, 11938-11949 & EFT
\$576,080.36	\$79,059.42

GRAND TOTAL: \$655,139.78

CITIZENS REQUEST:

COLFAX CITY COUNCIL

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PUBLIC HEARING:

PRESENTATION/WORK STUDY:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Police:

Chief Michael Melcher stated Ivan Martinez will be graduating in a month.

Call stats:

22- calls for service

39- traffic stops

15- infractions

6- criminal cases

Public Works:

City Administrator Matt Hammer distributed pictures of the trees that were removed by Jennings Elementary. The pictures show hollowed-out tree branches. Due to safety concerns after the trees lost branches over the last few years, Hammer had them inspected and the results showed they were in bad shape.

The trees were in the city right-of-way. The street has an 80-foot right of way, which is 40 feet each way from the center of the street.

WSDOT will be coming to do some repair work on the rail of the Highway 26 Bridge that was damaged from being hit by a service truck last year.

The round-a-bout bridge replacement is slated to begin 2029.

Wednesday July 22nd there will be a community outreach meeting at The Center regarding the Main Street Improvement Project funded through TIB Complete Streets. Complete Streets projects are designed to safely accommodate all modes of transportation.

Hammer also discussed the sidewalk in front of the Warwick Building. Federal bridge funding is coming out and Hammer will meet with WSDOT, the Corp of Engineers, Palouse RTPO and the abutting property owners to hopefully find a route to fix it.

COMMITTEE/BOARD/COMISSION REPORTS:

OTHER BUSINESS:

COLFAX CITY COUNCIL

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CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

MAYORS REPORT:

Mayor Retzer briefed the council on his speech he gave at the pool ribbon cutting. Key highlights include that the pool is open approximately 70 days per season and previously leaked 32,000-35,000 gallons of water daily out of the 265,000-gallon capacity. This renovation has resulted in significant water conservation. The pool was unmetered for years, making total historical water loss unknown.

Hammer noted the 1996 flood likely caused the initial deck heaving and water loss. The concrete joints were sealed in 2016, high-volume water leaking resumed within a few years.

Retzer thanked the legislatures and representatives for their project support, P1FCU for the BBQ donation, Jennifer Cooper's high school students for the post construction cleanup, and Charlotte Deleon for her sea creature painting. He also mentioned that Joe Schmick appreciated seeing the finished project.

Retzer gave kudos to Public Works for receiving the 2025 WWTP Outstanding Performance Award.

McRae requested that staff have hotel motel fund applicants come back sooner rather than later to give council a full report of how the funds were used. The goal is to hold applicants accountable after their projects are complete.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Retzer adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.


Jim Retzer, Mayor
Lynda Kramlich, City Clerk