

COLFAX CITY COUNCIL
July 21, 2025

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 Mackleit, 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 7, 2025 Council meeting. Roll Call: All Yes.

GOOD OF THE CITY:

Downtown buildings have windows painted for the upcoming Concrete River Days.

80's reunion this Saturday July 26th at the Golf Course.

Harvest has started for several area farmers.

The Colfax School District track is getting refurbished this summer.

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

#10980-11003

\$87,933.68

PAYROLL

#10961-10979 & EFT

\$83,040.08

GRAND TOTAL: \$170,973.76

CITIZENS REQUEST:

PUBLIC HEARING:

PRESENTATION/WORK STUDY:

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Downtown Buildings:

The council received two sample ordinances for review pertaining to maintenance of vacant commercial buildings and dangerous buildings.

City Administrator Matt Hammer asked the council for clarification on the council's primary concerns, addressing buildings with structural issues or managing vacant properties.

The Medical Lake ordinance outlines general maintenance requirement, vacant commercial space registration, registry of all vacant buildings and fees for vacant commercial space registration. The Dangerous Building ordinance defines dangerous or unfit buildings, outlines enforcement procedures, and details the notice, hearing determination and the appeal process. Hammer asked which approach staff should pursue.

The City Council expressed concerns regarding downtown properties, including buildings falling into disrepair, structural issues and vacant buildings. Also, there was discussion about requiring "for rent" or "for sale" signs in windows. Concerns were also raised about the city's potential involvement in such actions and the possibility of infringing on property owners' rights.

Hammer stated the CDA or chamber may be a better route to help businesses with their storefront improvements, painting and overall aesthetics and the city can deal with the nuisance side of things.

We currently have codes that addresses nuisances and building maintenance.

Kramlich will email those codes to the council for review.

City Attorney Hannah Kimball questions the fees and the infringement of people's right to own businesses and stated the registration is a gentler approach.

Mayor Retzer mentioned that the city previously worked with the CDA and Chamber to identify an ordinance that could address various downtown issues. Due to board turnover, the work was not passed on to new members.

NEW BUSINESS:

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire:

Firefighter John Lautenslager stated the 4th of July was quiet.

They recently had a fire call up by the State Patrol office, but it turned out to be a BBQ.

WRSB Washington State Survey and Rating Bureau will be updated in September.

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Police:

Police Chief Michael Melcher reported he has been preparing for Concrete River Festival and has submitted all the paperwork for the parade.

Melcher stated the departments technical audit has been completed by the Washington State Patrol.

One of the candidates is still in the background process with Washington State Patrol.

The department is still conducting extra patrols on West Fairview, East Thorn and Cedar.

Melcher noted that House Bill 2015 focuses on improving safety funding and addresses the state's low ranking in law enforcement officers per capita. Melcher will attend a webinar for possible grant funding opportunities related to this.

Public Works:

Hammer reported continuing work on the water system plan.

There was a water leak discovered on Morton Street, affecting a line that had been decommissioned in 1986. Hammer arranged for extra care to be taken to ensure the patch is done very well.

Administration:

Finance Amanda Link has been working with the State Patrol and the background investigation on the Police candidate. He will be taking his polygraph tomorrow.

Link reported there are a couple new names on the Public Safety List.

COMMITTEE/BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS:

OTHER BUSINESS:

MPD Meeting: No Business

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

MAYORS REPORT:


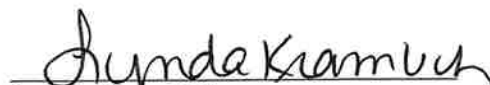
EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

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Mayor Retzer adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.


Jim Retzer, Mayor
Lynda Kramlich, City Clerk