

**COLFAX CITY COUNCIL**  
**August 4, 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, Sevedge and Huntwork: Present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by McRae to approve the minutes from the July 21, 2025 Council meeting. Roll Call: McRae, Schaefer, Mackleit, Guenthner, Sevedge and Golden: Yes. Huntwork: Abstained.

**GOOD OF THE CITY:**

Concrete River Days went well.

Ice Cream Shop Two Scoops and a Byte opened.

Chamber President Gary Young reported a great attendance for Concrete River Days and plans to add a car show for next year.

The Chamber held a ribbon cutting for Two Scoops and a Byte today.

Young stated there are four Farmer's Markets left for the year. This coming Thursday will be the largest with 25 vendors.

There will be two more movies in the park, hosted by the Chamber.

This year the city-wide yard sale will be September 20<sup>th</sup>.

Young reported Chamber Executive Director Rachel Shad has been invited to the Executive State Chamber of Commerce Conference.

The August 21<sup>st</sup> Farmer's Market there will be a Drug Take Back Day from 4p.m.-7p.m.

**BILLS AND CLAIMS:**

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

<b>CLAIMS</b>	<b>PAYROLL</b>
#11004, 11013-11046 & EFT	#11005-11012, 11014-11018 & EFT
\$200,935.78	\$90,891.96

**GRAND TOTAL: \$291,827.74**

**CITIZENS REQUEST:**

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### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

### **PRESENTATION/WORK STUDY:**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

#### **Downtown Buildings:**

Attorney Hannah Kimball briefly discussed the memo sent to the council regarding potential issues with government regulation of private property use. Kimball highlighted concerns when such regulations significantly deprive the owner of its economic value or beneficial use. Kimball also addresses issues related to fees, clarifying that while cities have the authority to enact laws promoting public health and welfare, this authority does not extend the power to tax. Kimball stated while these types of ordinances have gained popularity for towns aiming to revitalize their downtowns, this specific topic has not been explored in Washington courts.

Huntwork asked the legal ramifications and at what cost the city could be liable for, the city has a limited budget.

Kimball stated a rough estimate of \$100,000.

Hammer stated we have ordinances on the books right now that can deal with health and safety under the nuisance codes, such as bricks falling off a building.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Resolution 25-14 – Vacate Portion of Mill Street:**

This is a resolution fixing a place and time for a public hearing to vacate a portion of Mill Street. Building and Community Development Shawn McSweeney stated that this portion of Mill has an existing garage on the property, located between Cooper Street and the flood control. Hammer stated the city has no use for the property and will still maintain the easements for utilities.

A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by Schaefer to approve Resolution 25-14 setting Public Hearing to Vacate a portion of Mill Street for September 15, 2025. Roll Call: All Yes.

#### **Resolution 25-15 – New Phone System:**

Hammer presented a proposal for a new phone system for the city. Currently the city pays \$1,300 a month for phone services. Hammer has narrowed down the options to “My Voice”. This proposal involves buying the necessary equipment and signing a 5-year contract for a total of \$22,000, which represents a savings of \$8,000. After the initial 5 years, the annual cost is projected to be \$1,200.

A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by McRae to approve Resolution 25-15 New Phone System. Roll Call: All Yes.

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**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Fire:**

Firefighter John Lautenslager reported that they had a booth at the Concrete River Days, located behind Wild Ember. They had about 100 kids go through the course.

**Police:**

Chief Michael Melcher reported the candidate in background check process has been disqualified. The city will start looking at producing another list of candidates to interview.

Melcher is in the process of updating policy and procedures for the police department.

**Administration:**

Hammer reported the fire department roof replacement will start September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Hammer also reported the pool renovations are moving along with plans to pour concrete August 11<sup>th</sup>.

Kramlich, Hammer and Amanda Link will attend Municipal Budgeting and Fiscal Management Workshop Wednesday and Thursday of this week.

**COMMITTEE/BOARD/COMISSION REPORTS:**

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

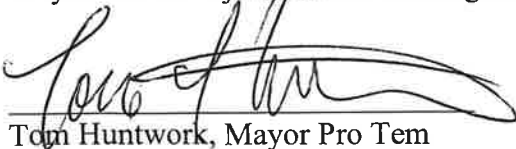
**CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

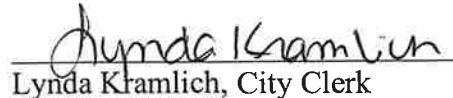
**MAYORS REPORT:**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Retzer adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

  
Tom Huntwork, Mayor Pro Tem

  
Lynda Kramlich, City Clerk