

**COLFAX CITY COUNCIL**  
**September 2, 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 Guenthner to approve the minutes from the August 18, 2025 Council meeting. Roll Call: All Yes.

**GOOD OF THE CITY:**

Chamber President Gary Young reported Executive Director Rachel Shad attended the State Chamber of Commerce Conference and was asked to join the Hospitality Association. Vice President Jennifer McCully has resigned, Tanner White is her replacement for the rest of the year.

Pool looks nice.

Perkins House is getting a much-needed facelift with painting and a new roof.

**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
#11087, 11093-11117 & EFT	#11079-11086, 11088-11092 & EFT
\$132,612.35	\$92,044.23

**GRAND TOTAL: \$224,656.58**

**CITIZENS REQUEST:**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**PRESENTATION/WORK STUDY:**

Whitman County Commissioner Candidate Chad Whetzel introduced himself and briefly spoke about his years in Whitman County. His experience includes his time as a farrier, which involved traveling all over the county, his time as a volunteer firefighter and his time on the Whitman

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County Planning Commission. He then took over the remainder of Michael Largent's term as Commissioner. Some of his goals are to grow responsibly, to provide a good lifestyle and encourage people to want to be here.

After being asked about the Colfax/Pullman trail, Whetzel stated the problem is mainly the dispute over property ownership, and he does not want taxpayers' dollars to be wasted on lawyer fees to resolve it. Whetzel also mentioned that if a private individual or individuals wish to pursue this, it would be acceptable, but he does not want to see the county take that on.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **Resolution 25-17 – City of Colfax Lodging Tax App:**

City Administrator Matt Hammer introduced the lodging tax application stating the funds will be used for state-required signage for special events such as the Winterfest and Concrete River Days including their parades. The signs included in the application packet meet the WSDOT specifications. Hammer stated the city is asking for the funds through lodging tax as the street department does not have a line item for facility or special events.

A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by Huntwork to approve Resolution 25-17 City of Colfax Lodging Tax Application. Roll Call: All Yes.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

#### **Police:**

Chief Michael Melcher reported they assisted with the drug takeback at the Farmer's Market August 21<sup>st</sup>.

Use of Force reporting is online today, each law enforcement agency in the state is required to report use of force incidents.

Melcher has completed leadership training and has one short webinar presentation left tomorrow.

Melcher stated Washington House Bill 2015 for public safety funding is an ongoing project. Melcher is working on updating policies and all the other requirements to apply for the grant.

Melcher reported calls over the weekend resulted in two felony assault arrests.

Thursday there will be a search of the river for a missing person cold case from 2016. The Attorney General has been conducting interviews and investigations in the Colfax area for several months.

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**Administration:**

Hammer reported the roof is in day 2 of the tear off phase. The first half was completed in 2 hours but the other part is covered in tar, which has slowed the progress. The contractor reported no water damage on the front, but there is some rot near the back. The contractor believes it is prior damage, resulting from the roof not being fixed in a timely manner. Hammer also stated that the insurance adjuster will be on-site tomorrow to examine the roof.

Hammer informed the council the river channel is close to being cleaned out.

Hammer attended a leadership training in Ellensburg at Central Washington University and found it to be very beneficial.

Hammer stated the pool liner installation is set to begin tomorrow, the fence contractor is on site, the lights have been installed and landscaping is ongoing.

Hammer informed the council that the 195-paving project has been delayed until Spring 2026.

Kramlich reported administration and department heads have started on 2026 budgeting. Utility bills were sent out today as well.

**COMMITTEE/BOARD/COMISSION REPORTS:**

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

**MAYORS REPORT:**

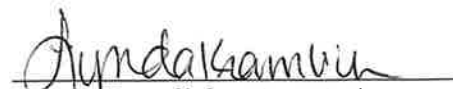
Retzer stated this is Whitman County Fair week and it will be very busy.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Retzer adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

  
Jim Retzer, Mayor

  
Lynda Kramlich, City Clerk