

COLFAX CITY COUNCIL
September 20, 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 and Kackman: Present. Miller and Huntwork: Absent. A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by Kackman to excuse Councilmen Miller and Huntwork. Roll Call: All Yes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was entered by Guenther, seconded by Golden to approve the minutes from the September 7, 2021 Council meeting. Roll Call: All Yes.

GOOD OF THE CITY:

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

6848-6975, 6897-6912 & EFT
\$108,336.97

PAYROLL

6876-6896 & EFT
\$60,604.64

GRAND TOTAL: \$168,941.61

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 21-07 Lodging Tax Application- Colfax Swim Team-

This is a request from the Colfax Swim Team for rental fees for the swim team, pool rental for Colfax league meets and the tri-county meet. Resolution 21-07 authorizes the \$3,000 expenditure from the Hotel-Motel Fund to the Colfax Swim Team.

A motion was entered by Kackman, seconded by Guenther to approve resolution 21-07 Swim Team Hotel-Motel Application. Roll Call: All Yes.

Set Budget Workshops-

City Administrator/Finance Director Chris Mathis stated this should be workshops they are not hearings. The last few years they have been scheduled before council meetings. Workshops will be held: October 4th and 18th at 5:30 p.m.

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DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Public Works:

Public Works Director Matt Hammer reported they wrapped up South East Street water line replacement, the street is paved and project is complete.

Two sewer manholes are scheduled for upcoming projects, one on South Mill Street by St Ignatius Hospital and the other is on South East corner of Hamilton Park. Hammer stated these are old brick manholes that have deteriorated beyond the point of repair.

Golden asked Hammer how the new vactor truck is was working out. Hammer stated it works great they are all really happy with it.

Mackleit asked about the new water meter readers. Hammer has been talking with the sales rep and we are going to start a trial run of 50 meters with the leak detection. The trial meters will be installed based on the age of the meters, likely the Hamilton Park area where there are a lot of old meters in a localized neighborhood.

Kackman informed the council that Hammer did run this by the Public Works Committee, it was a hard decision and in the end they felt they had the funding with the current rate structure to go with the best plan option.

Hammer stated the main benefits of the leak detection would be increased revenue and water conservation. With any of the meters they go with we will likely see an increase of revenue because they will be more accurate. Most of our meters are over 20 years old, they recommend meters be replaced every 20 years but optimal replacement is 10 years because they lose accuracy over the years.

Christopherson asked if old meters are calibrated on a certain rotation.

Hammer stated they are calibrated when they are first installed.

Golden is happy we are able to test these leak detection meters out.

Hammer stated this will be on a 3 year plan to get all the meters switched out throughout town. The three options to choose from are: a) drive by with a tablet, b) meters radio directly to City hall, (staff could pull them up whenever need be and can monitor for leaks on the customer side if a steady stream all the time it would set off an alarm), c) leak detection this option the whole system it is acoustic, the smart meters are listening to the vibrations in the pipes not only is it measuring what is going to the customer it is also listening to other pipes around where the leak detection and distribution comes through.

Mathis interjected the nice thing with the timing of this purchase is the American Rescue Plan Funds can be used for water sewer upgrades or infrastructure, but if it involves conservation it is even better. It makes bumping to best plan not be so painful.

Kackman said that if a customer calls the office asking about a bill increase the staff can instantly look and see if there is an issue. It will save a lot of public works time on going out for re-reads or checking for leaks.

Hammer pointed out that this would alleviate human error with the monthly readings as well.

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Police:

Mathis reporting for the Police, the department is implementing a new body camera system, they went with Motorola. So far the quality and the ease of use for the new system are exceptional. The old cameras became problematic and the customer service for repairs was nonexistent.

Administration:

Business as usual and working on the budgeting.

Fire:

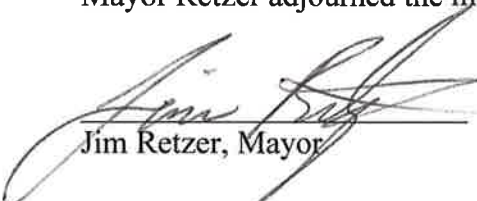
Fire Chief Michael Chapman reported things have been pretty quiet. One of the fire bay doors was recently repaired and the air compressor was fixed as well.

MAYORS REPORT:

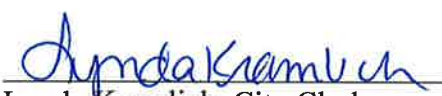
John and Elaine Burns wrote a letter of appreciation for Hammer and the Public Works crew for picking up several deer off of their property. Retzer went on to commend them for picking up all the deer all over town it was definitely not a pleasant job to do.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Retzer adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.



Jim Retzer, Mayor



Lynda Kramlich, City Clerk