COLFAX CITY COUNCIL
October 5, 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 Guenthner to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2026 Council meeting. Roll Call: All Yes.

GOOD OF THE CITY:
Flower pots on Main Street have been cleaned out for the season.

Chamber Fall Fest had a great turnout for their first event.

Arbor Day tree planting at the school was a success.

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

CLAIMS	PAYROLL
#12141-12165 & EFT	#12131-12140 & EFT
$52,988.87	$100,523.79

GRAND TOTAL: $153,512.66

CITIZENS REQUEST:

PUBLIC HEARING:

PRESENTATION/WORK STUDY:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:
Resolution 26-19 – Chamber of Commerce Hotel-Motel Application

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Trecia Dekalaita is new to the position and reported on the previous funds the chamber has received from the city. Funds were used for Promotional & Marketing: produced three professional videos highlighting family focused attractions and events, printed flyers for festivals and redesigned the website.
Events & Operations: paid for event licensing, fireworks, Concrete River Days, candy for Trick or Treat Main Street and popcorn and water for Movies in the Park. Financial Management: Upgraded to a more efficient financial tracking system.

This current funding request will support local tourism events including Concrete River Days, Winterfest, Fall Festival, and the Farmers Market. Beyond these key events, the Chamber actively works to drive tourism to Colfax by promoting our local businesses and through their growing YouTube channel.

The requested funds will be directly allocated to event infrastructure, organizational and operational costs, and marketing efforts to promote the area.

Dekalaita hopes to restructure the Farmer's Market as this year it started out strong but dwindled with the summer heat. The location was not ideal for foot traffic and lack of shade for vendors.

Golden pointed out the approval of this request will require a budget amendment, as the Hotel Motel Fund has been spent down the last couple of years, less funding will be available in the future.

A motion was entered by Mackleit, seconded by McRae to approve Resolution 26-19 Chamber of Commerce Hotel-Motel Application. Roll Call: All Yes.

Ordinance 26-02 – Budget Amendment
Finance Director Amanda Link provided a brief explanation for this amendment, which reflects the updated beginning fund balances, the council-approved Critical Areas and Comprehensive Plan Update, and the purchase of two patrol cars omitted from the 2026 budget.

A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by Schaefer to approve Ordinance 26-02 Budget Amendment. Roll Call: All Yes.

Resolution 26-20 – Set Public Hearing for a Request to Purchase Land
Randy Daniels, 920 E Southview would like to purchase 30 feet of city property next to his residence.
City Administrator Matt Hammer stated that in order to sell the public land, we need to set a public hearing. The adjacent landowner, Daniels, has maintained weed control on this property next to his residence, and Administrator Hammer suggested the property value is approximately $8,000.

Also, the field owner will continue to have access through the easement on the remaining city property, and the city will retain access to the water tank.

A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by McRae to approve Resolution 26-20 Set Public Hearing for a Request to Purchase Land. Roll Call: All Yes.

Resolution 26-18 – CERB Grant Funding
Hammer stated council approved applying for the CERB Grant Funding was approved during the September 8th council meeting, this is just a formality for the grant application process.

A motion was entered by Guenthner, seconded by McRae to approve Resolution 26-18 CERB Grant Funding. Roll Call: All Yes.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:
Police:
Chief Michael Melcher reported Officer Ivan Martinez has one more week of Phase 2 FTO Training.

Officer Cody Johnson, his wife Katrina Johnson and Chief Melcher participated in the pie eating contest at the Chambers Fall Festival. Melcher mentioned that Katrina carried the team and they successfully beat the Fire Department.

LETS Training trailer is here for the week. Local law enforcement will participate in scenario training.

Melcher reported the tasers have arrived and he has submitted the paperwork for reimbursement.

Stats:
35- calls for service
44- traffic stops
8- citations
1- criminal citation

Fire:
OIC John Lautenslager reported they successfully extinguished a mattress fire inside a single wide trailer.

So far, call volume has reached 750 for the year, and it looks like it will meet the yearly projected 1,100 calls.

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Public Works:
City Administrator Matt Hammer and the Port of Whitman have met with WSDOT and WATCO regarding the idling train engine, they are willing to attend a council meeting to speak about the issue.
Council agreed that would be a good idea. Hammer will work out at a time for them to attend.

Hammer informed the council of a recent landslide that occurred below the big blue water tank. Divers inspecting and cleaning the tank ran the discharge hose over the hillside rather than into the storm drain, which caused a large mudslide. Hammer has been in contact with the company to have them return and clean up the mud around the apartment building located below the tank. This work was part of the normal maintenance the city conducts on the water tanks every 5-7 years.

COMMITTEE/BOARD/COMISSION REPORTS:

OTHER BUSINESS:

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

MAYORS REPORT:
Retzer thanked the council for the first session of budget workshops this evening.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:
Mayor Retzer adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

Jim Retzer, Mayor

Lynda Kramlich, City Clerk