

COLFAX CITY COUNCIL
November 17, 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, Guenther and Huntwork: Present. Sevedge: Absent.
A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by Schaefer to excuse Sevedge. Roll Call: All Yes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by Huntwork to approve the minutes from the November 3, 2025 Council meeting. Roll Call: All Yes.

GOOD OF THE CITY:

Leaf bags are being picked up and the street sweeper is busy sweeping streets.

The Colfax High School Musical "White Christmas" is this week.

BILLS AND CLAIMS:

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

CLAIMS	PAYROLL
#11321-11339	#11297-11320 & EFT
\$226,667.97	\$69,663.44

GRAND TOTAL: \$296,331.41

CITIZENS REQUEST:

PUBLIC HEARING:

Levy Certification – Resolution 25-19

Mayor Retzer opened the Public Hearing at 7:03 p.m.

The purpose of the hearing is to approve the levy certification for 2026.

Finance Amanda Link stated this a 1% yearly increase on the regular property taxes that we have done the last several years and need the council's approval.

Retzer asked for public comment for the levy certification. There were none.

Retzer asked for public comment against the levy certification. There were none.

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Retzer asked for additional comments. There were none.

Retzer closed the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

A motion was entered by Schaefer, seconded by Mackleit to approve Resolution 25-19 Levy Certification. Roll Call: All Yes.

2026- Preliminary Budget

Mayor Retzer opened the Public Hearing at 7:05 p.m.

The purpose of the hearing is to discuss the 2026 Preliminary Budget

Hammer stated the budget remained the same, the only change was to the fee schedule adding the county filing fees.

Retzer asked for public comment for the 2026 preliminary budget. There were none.

Retzer asked for public comment against the 2026 preliminary budget. There were none

Golden thanked the staff for doing a good job putting the budget together, noting that the city has done a good job safeguarding its money. They make wise decision and always look for grants for and other sources of funding to augment what we get from citizens and taxes. For a small town of 2,800 we have a lot of nice things and we have good people taking care of it. Golden informed the audience the council has done a thorough review of the budget at a budget workshop in October.

Huntwork agreed and mentioned the budgeting process is now much smoother and better than it used to be.

Retzer thanked the staff, he knows the members of our staff have worked hard on this and with a lot of good input from the department heads.

PRESENTATION/WORK STUDY:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 25-20 Incarceration Agreement-

Hammer stated this is an interlocal agreement with the county to house our inmates if and when we have some, the increase is \$1,300. The option is to pay a contract or pay a daily rate when the city has someone in jail. The daily rate is \$110, Hammer stated they compared it to last years incarcerations and that would have exceeded this contract which makes it easier to budget for.

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Link interjected you just never know, the first part of this year we didn't have anything but the second half has been completely different.

Retzer stated there is no way to predict this.

A motion was entered by Mackleit, seconded by Schaefer to approve Resolution 25-20 Incarceration Agreement. Roll Call: All Yes.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Police:

Chief Melcher reported they have the departments Facebook page active again, after 6 years.

They interviewed two candidates for the entry level officer position.
Both will fill out a background packet that will be sent off for investigation.

Fire:

OIC John Lautenslager stated there were more police present than fire volunteers at the recent Trick or Treat Main event.

Lautenslager also reported he has been working with Hammer on a few things.

Public Works:

Hammer reported Christmas decorating will begin tomorrow.

Bid opening for the Water Improvement Project was last Thursday there were six bids submitted. The low bid came in at \$2.4 million; this is just for phase 1 of the water project.

Hammer, Link, Kramlich, and Lautenslager met with our city insurance carrier, CIAW, to discuss permitting a 19-foot road width. CIAW strongly cautioned that deviating from the 20-foot IFC (International Fire Code) recommendation could create city liability if fire issues arose and equipment access was hindered due to road limitations. They also noted that granting this variance would set a precedent for future street additions within the city.

CIAW Risk Management's clear recommendation is not to permit the 19-foot road. They stated that any road under the 20-foot width required by the IFC could place the city at significant liability risk.

Lautenslager met with Tom Stirling from Syn Tier Engineering, and they worked out a design they believed would allow fire trucks to navigate the corners. However, based on the IFC standards and the advice from CIAW Risk Management, the recommendation remains against allowing a 19-foot street.

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Hammer stated there is a resolution prepared that can be voted on tonight or next council meeting. Kramlich distributed the resolution for council's review.

Hammer read the last portion: "by the City Council of the City of Colfax declines to accept the proposed street identified as Old Orchard due to its failure to meet minimum fire apparatus access and public safety standards."

Huntwork stated this is a good thing to protect the city in the future as well. If we are to allow, which insurance company would insure the city.

Schaefer stated there are multiple narrow roads in the city and don't want to add to the list.

A motion was entered by Mackleit, seconded by Schaefer to approve Resolution 25-21 Meet International Fire Codes for this Street. Roll Call: All Yes.

Administration:

Finance Link reported they are finishing up pool project and currently working on getting the reimbursements for it. Also, Link is starting the year end wrap up.

COMMITTEE/BOARD/COMISSION REPORTS:

OTHER BUSINESS:

Retzer adjourned the council meeting at 7:20 p.m. to enter into the Metropolitan Park District.

Retzer reconvened the council meeting at 7:23 p.m.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

MAYORS REPORT:

Retzer reminded everyone of Winterfest scheduled for December 6th. There will be a tree lighting ceremony and the parade starts at 6:30.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Retzer adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.



Jim Retzer, Mayor



Lynda Kramlich, City Clerk