

COLFAX CITY COUNCIL
December 16, 2024

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Retzer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

Golden, McRae, Schaefer, Mackleit, Guentner, Sevedge and Huntwork: Present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was entered by Guentner, seconded by Schaefer to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2024 Council meeting. Roll Call: All Yes.

GOOD OF THE CITY:

Chamber President Gary Young introduced new Chamber Executive Director Rachel Shad. Shad thanked the city for their support with the Winterfest celebration. The Chamber held the first Christmas Lighting Ceremony at the Codger Park, Mayor Retzer turned on the lights this year. The fireworks after the parade were great as well.

Retzer thanked the Chamber for all their efforts for a great Winterfest.

Young announced it has been a busy year with the Chamber. Council on Aging will have 2 buses traveling between Colfax, Pullman and Moscow next year. The Chamber Mixers have been great at bringing the local clubs together to work toward common goals.

BILLS AND CLAIMS:

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

CLAIMS	PAYROLL
#10325, 10333-10373 & EFT	#10326-10332 & EFT
\$152,577.29	\$57,555.74

GRAND TOTAL: \$210,133.03

CITIZENS REQUEST:

PUBLIC HEARING:

Ordinance 24-07- 2025 Budget and Fee Schedule:

Retzer opened the public hearing at 7:07 p.m.

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City Administrator Matt Hammer stated the budget is the same as we went over previously. The main focus with the budget this year will be working to bring the Police Department back up to full staff, the pool renovations and the loan/grant for the water system.

Retzer asked for public comment for the 2025 Budget and Fee Schedule. No comments.

Retzer asked for public comment against the 2025 Budget and Fee Schedule. No comments.

With no additional comments Retzer closed the public hearing at 7: 08 p.m.

Golden asked if there will need to be a budget amendment for the police.

Retzer interjected the Police Guild and the City has come to an agreement on the wages for the next three years. Adding a sergeant position, and a sign on bonus with ½ paid out at time of hire and second ½ paid after they meet their probation period.

Huntwork asked if there has been a study of any Pullman or Moscow officers moving to the WCSO.

Hammer stated he has spoken to past city officers and the main reason for leaving is action, the city limits is small and with the county there is more opportunities.

Shaefer pointed out Colfax Police Department is a great place for someone starting their career or ending their career, at a small department.

Guenthner pointed out Chickens Coop fee was not added to the fee schedule. Staff will add into fee schedule.

Golden appreciates that Mayor Retzer and city staff have put together a good budget.

A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by McRae to approve Ordinance 24-07- 2025 Budget and Fee Schedule. Roll Call: All Yes.

PRESENTATION/WORK STUDY:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance 24-08- Amend CMC 12.16 Snow and Ice Removal:

Hammer introduced the amendment to CMC 12.16 Snow and Ice Removal; the main update is removing requirement for ash removal from Mt. St. Helens, prohibiting snow to be shoveled or plowed into the street and update the violation/penalty to correspond to the yearly fee schedule.

Huntwork asked where citizens are supposed to put the snow, some have no where to put the snow.

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Mayor Retzer stated within reason the city will work with residents.

Guenthner stated the language is ambiguous and contradictory.

Hammer stated it is a select few areas that cause problems, one such area is Main Street hill where residents blow their snow into the street, causing issues with cars and emergency vehicles navigating the hill.

A motion was entered by McRae, seconded by Mackleit to approve Ordinance 24-08 amending CMC 12.16 Snow and Ice Removal. Roll Call: Sevedge, Golden, McRae, Schaefer, Mackleit: Yes. Guenthner and Huntwork: No. Motion passed.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Police:

Interim Police Chief Perry Tate reported Cody Johnson received a 497 out of 500 in the firearm qualifications.

Administration:

Hammer reported public works is gearing up for snow, continuing to pick up leaf bags, putting up Christmas lights and preparing for new flooring at the treatment plant.

Kramlich reported staff has been busy with finalizing the budget and fee schedule, police guild negotiations, year-end wrap up and updating the comprehensive plan.

COMMITTEE/BOARD/COMISSION REPORTS:

OTHER BUSINESS:

Retzer adjourned the council meeting at 7:33 p.m. to enter into the Metropolitan Park District.

Retzer reconvened the council meeting at 7:38 p.m.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

MAYORS REPORT:

Retzer stated Washington State Representative Joe Schmick is present tonight.

Retzer stated the city's legislative priorities are:

- Maintain and increase funding for infrastructure projects and economic development through state run programs such as; Public Works Trust Fund, TIB, CERB, DOE and State Revolving Fund.

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- Continue to work with the state to promote support for shared roadways SR 195, SR 26 and SR 272 community safety and downtown revitalization around these roads.
- Continue to work with the state on the roundabout.
- Work with our State Legislatures on the Greenway project, repurpose and reuse the rails in the city limits for a recreational path for our citizens, to promote a healthy lifestyle.

Schmick commented that the Greenway this will require a rule change at the Federal level. Now that there are 2 bridges out on that line, there are 16 total bridges between Colfax and Pullman and many are at the end of their life.

Schmick suggested when we update our Comprehensive Plan, right now the Governor has the authority and ability to site a drug treatment center or a rehab home without any community input. If there is a clause in the comp plan that states you are required to have a community meeting over this, it would put a hurdle rather than just get run over and a home designated in our area. Schmick stated if we have questions to please contact him.

Schmick is also taking another run at the public records act, attempting to take the profit motive out. It will not change the substance of the rule of the records act but will change the profitability for certain people who have been out to attack many small entities.

Schmick's contact information: 509-879-2078

Retzer announced a volunteer opportunity for the council or anyone wanting to volunteer. The Whitman County Humane Society is putting on their annual fundraiser in February, they need help with serving. This helps fund the Humane Society for the year. If anyone wants to help out contact Retzer.

McRae also mentioned the Whitman Hospital Foundation Auction and Dinner in February as well.

McRae attended the Palouse Fair Foundation dinner last week, there were about 250 in attendance and they raised about \$100,000.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Retzer adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.


Jim Retzer, Mayor


Lynda Kramlich, City Clerk