

COLFAX CITY COUNCIL
April 19, 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, Miller, Kackman and Huntwork: Present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was entered by Guenther, seconded by Kackman to approve the minutes from the April 5, 2021 Council meeting. Roll Call: Guenther, Christopherson, Mackleit, Miller, Kackman and Golden: Yes. Huntwork: Abstain.

GOOD OF THE CITY:

The Palouse Empire Fair is a go for this year.

The senior class will be putting up banners on Main Street again this year.

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	PAYROLL
6328-6357 & EFT	6292-6327 & EFT
\$52,908.57	\$61,307.07

GRAND TOTAL: \$114,215.64

PRESENTATION/WORK STUDY:

Agenda Bill 21-02- Animal Code Update- CMC Title 6:

Building and Community Development Steve Bretveld introduced Agenda Bill 21-02 Animal Code update. Bretveld stated the commission went through and updated the animal code with the addition of chickens. Bretveld reminded the council one of the planning commission members asked the council permission to have the commission look at chickens again. They got the green light so they essentially added the chicken code that was presented back in 2015. Concerning the dog license they are changing the annual license to a lifetime license and require owners to update the rabies vaccination record with the city as needed. Bretveld worked with Chief Bruce Blood and Officer Perry Tate regarding animal biting and noise complaints and they came up with good language that makes the code enforceable.

Huntwork expressed concern that the chicken topic is coming before council again. He remembers it being asked for more investigation not added to an ordinance.

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Bretveld understood it to be a green light to pursue and present to council after a Planning Commission member attended council to ask if they would entertain the possibility of chickens. At that time two council members spoke in favor of revisiting chickens.

Golden interjected he would like to see it added to the ordinance.

Miller would also like to look at the addition of chickens as well.

Huntwork has concerns who will police it, it states citizens will be obligated to report neighbors if there are violations. Now we will have our neighbors policing us. If we had animal control he could see this going through.

Retzer stated that is what citizens are doing with dogs now they call the police for those issues.

Mathis stated there will be a coup permit required making a way to track the owners and confirm compliance with the code. Mathis went on to ask if the council asks staff to take it to planning commission for further review and the planning added to ordinance, what does council mean when they direct us to send for further review.

Mackleit confirmed this is just an introduction tonight.

Golden suggested we split the ordinance into two pieces as the chickens are a controversial piece. The dog language is really good with how to treat animals, dog license and biting.

Kackman agrees with a lot of Huntwork's concerns but also agrees with Golden. In preparation for tonight he was going to vote no to this because of the chicken part but does want to vote yes on the dog part.

Guenthner asked if she could make a motion to have this split and bring the chickens as a separate bill.

Mathis asked if they wanted to vote on it separately because it is presented as one ordinance, we would have to rewrite the ordinance and there is a cost each time we have ordinances published.

Kragt seems this is an introduction and due to some council members not sure if they are ready for the chicken part but like the action on the dog part. Due to it being an introduction there does not need to be a vote tonight. The direction that should come out of this is to go with the dog portion and bring it back next meeting.

Guenthner stated she loves the dog portion of this ordinance but she would have to vote no on the chicken part.

Mathis again stated that this was brought up to council by the planning commission and this is not a staff decision to bring chickens back to council for a vote.

Kackman remembered Golden stating there has been turn over on council and maybe sentiment has changed, while he hopes it hasn't, maybe it has. Kackman stated ultimately they would like to do what the planning commission recommends in most cases but it doesn't always happen.

We'll have a parliamentary procedure and will decide if there is a motion and a second and a majority.

Mathis stated it will be fine if we separate them and just do the dog but before we go through the expense of updating our code with Code Publishing she would like to have the chicken portion put to rest.

Mackleit suggest we put it to a vote tonight.

Guenthner would like the two weeks to visit with constituents and to see how the community feels.

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Golden agreed most bills are introduced one night and voted on the next meeting. Also give council members to look through the ordinance again and speak with citizens.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lodging Tax Application- Rotary:

Steve Larkin Public Works Park spoke about the application from the Colfax Rotary Club in the amount of \$5,000 for rotary field renovations. The total cost of the project is \$14,500 which will include building a new backstop and add fencing. The Rotary Club will fund \$3,500, Youth League \$3,500, Colfax Fastpitch Softball \$2,500 and with the Hotel Motel funds they will complete the funding for the project.

Kackman stated he can think of no better way of spending this money and will be fully supporting.

Retzer agreed they are doing some really nice upgrades down there for our youth.

Christopherson noticed the application was not complete, it doesn't state how they will promote tournaments.

Larkin stated these are club teams that come from all over and the tournaments are promoted on the ASA Softball website.

Kackman suggested promoting our hotels and amenities on the application to participate in these tournaments. He would also like feedback from these activities and see what the money has done for Colfax.

Mathis added last year with baseball they did send out information on where to stay in town and local amenities.

Larkin stated Rotary is the one that filled out this application as it is their field, the ones that ran the tournaments aren't the ones completing this application. They may not know exactly how tournaments were promoted.

Guenthner asked if this is on the private Rotary field.

Larkin stated the Rotary fields are used by all the youth leagues and open for public use.

Huntwork interjected he has worked with the youth league for years and the Rotary has always allowed the public to use their fields and don't charge fees. He has never been turned away from any of the fields even for family use, it is not like McDonald Park where you are not allowed yet those are public fields. He has no problem giving them the money to update their field.

A motion was entered by Kackman, seconded by Golden to approve the request for funding for the Rotary Field update. Roll Call: All Yes.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Police:

Police Chief Bruce Blood reported this week the department has two officers in training, Blood is completing middle management training and Officer Joey McCollum is attending FTO training.

Tyler Paris graduated from the academy today. It was a closed ceremony to family only. He will begin his FTO training April 29th.

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Blood presented options for vehicles replacement, the Crown Vic is a 2005 with 112,000 miles on it and is in poor condition and does need to be replaced. The other two vehicles are in good shape the Blazer will have the fuel pump replaced and will be good to go and dependable. The Charger we acquired from the county is in good shape with great maintenance history. Blood has looked at several replacement options and would like to solicit the council's opinion to see which direction to go.

1. A new car- \$40,000 purchased next year- advantage would have 5 year warranty
2. Chevy Tahoe from auction facility with 82,000 miles has all of the equipment installed- we would need to add a radio- \$13,800
3. Ford Explorer acquire from the State Patrol- they come out of State Patrol use with an average 130,000 miles- \$7,000 to \$7,500

Miller asked how many vehicles Blood would like in the fleet.

Blood would like to see an officer have a take home car if they lived in town, which can help with response times for after hour calls. If we acquire one of these cars we would have 4 and that would allow for Officer Perry Tate to have a take home car where he would be able to respond for any situations after hours. They are trying to look forward to when they get both new officers fully operational. Another benefit is if one of the cars needs maintenance they would still have 3 operational cars for service.

Mathis asked if they purchase a new vehicle they would not retire the Crown Vic.

Blood stated we would make use of it as a back-up until it is no longer operational.

Huntwork asked how many miles are put on the vehicles each year.

Blood responded not very many miles due to the area of service is not very large.

Retzer looked into that and on an average it is about 3,000 a year. The Tahoe they are looking at was a federal vehicle 80,783 miles on it. The federal Government maintains vehicles very well. It is fully equipped with radar, partition, light bar, push bar on the front and all-wheel drive. We do have the money in the police budget.

Huntwork would rather see the purchase of the Tahoe rather than a vehicle with 130,000 miles on it.

Golden agreed the Tahoe sounds like the most prudent and would defer to staff to finalize purchase.

COMMITTEE/BOARD/COMISSION REPORTS:

Parks:

Golden reported the Park Board met earlier, topics that were discussed:

- Hamilton Park retaining wall condition- Public Works Director Matt Hammer placed markers to make sure wall is stable and it appears to be- at this point it is more of an eyesore issue
- The city received a \$75,000 grant that will be finalized in July to update the mechanical room at the pool
- Jill Cocking from Friends of the Park attended the meeting, looking for ideas for their fund raising efforts. Two options discussed: help out with an indoor pitching building at McDonald Park or a disc golf course

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- Valve work is being done at the pool this week and the pool is scheduled to open at the end of the school year

Next meeting will be June 7th.

There was discussion about the location of the indoor pitching facility, at this time there is not an exact planned location.

MAYORS REPORT:

Retzer reported there has progress on the old Pete's building; there is a sign in the window encouraging people to follow them on Facebook as they go through the process to open up as a restaurant.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Potential Real Estate Acquisition-

Potential Litigation-

Mayor Retzer excused the public for an executive session regarding potential real estate acquisition and potential litigation at 7:55 p.m. requesting 15-minute duration. City council reconvened at 8:12 p.m.

A motion was entered by Kackman, seconded by Huntwork to proceed with the settlement. Roll Call: All Yes

MAYORS REPORT:

Mayor Retzer notified the council he has received a letter of resignation from Steve Bretveld Building and Community Development effective Friday May 7th. Bretveld stated in his letter this has nothing to do with the position, pay or the people it is solely on his families desires. He went on to say he is grateful for all of confidence and support he has received with his position. He is willing to help out if needed on any unfinished business. Retzer stated we will be moving forward with finding his replacement.

Mathis added the Bretveld family is moving to Idaho.

Kackman stated good for Steve we are going to miss him and thanked him for his service.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Retzer adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.



Jim Retzer, Mayor



Lynda Kramlich, City Clerk