

**COLFAX CITY COUNCIL**

**May 3, 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 Golden to approve the minutes from the April 19, 2021 Council meeting. Roll Call: All Yes.

**GOOD OF THE CITY:**

There will be a small parade after graduation for the public to participate in to celebrate the 2021 Graduates. The banners of the seniors will also be placed downtown again this year.

New City Police Officer Tyler Paris was introduced and took the oath of office.

**BILLS AND CLAIMS:**

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

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<b>CLAIMS</b>	<b>PAYROLL</b>
6358, 6367-6404 & EFT	6359-6366, 6368-6372 & EFT
\$46,000.49	\$79,383.69

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**GRAND TOTAL: \$125,384.18**

**CITIZENS REQUEST:**

Hillary Hoffman, 1802 N Riverside Lane, wants to talk about chickens. Hoffman thanked all of the council members for all they do for the community. The Hoffman's previously lived in Spokane and had chickens, moving to Colfax they had to get rid of them. Hoffman stated it was a great experience for the family, they took care of their weed and insect problem and they didn't need to use chemicals on their lawn while they had chickens. Hoffman really hopes the council can vote them in, there are a lot of people that want chickens. The rules the city is putting forward are very reasonable and most pet owners are responsible.

Guenther appreciates Hoffman reaching out to speak with her regarding chickens.

Adam Hoffman, 1802 N Riverside Lane concurs with his wife.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Ordinance 21-02- Animal Code Update- CMC Title 6-

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Retzer stated the staff put together a survey for public comment regarding chickens in the city limits. The Facebook vote had 88 responses with 81.8% yes, 15.9% no and a small portion answered yes, but with limits.

Golden publicly thanked the Planning Commission for their work on all the items they bring forward to the council it is always thoughtful and professional.

Mackleit echoed Golden's statement and also thanked the city hall staff for the chicken poll they put together.

Golden stated he will vote in favor of the ordinance to include chickens. He stated property owners should have the right to enjoy their property as they wish as long as it doesn't infringe on their neighbors ability to enjoy their property. This addition to Ordinance 21-02 strikes that balance. Golden has heard arguments against chickens and doesn't think they outweigh people's rights to have chickens.

Kackman commented the people that have contacted him are saying chickens are farm animals and they don't belong in town. If you want farm fresh eggs there are honor egg refrigerators that citizens can get eggs. Kackman expressed concern this ordinance has no requirement for chickens to have their wings clipped and no minimum lot size. Kackman views chickens as farm animals, most people in town don't have enough space to adequately separate their impacts from their neighbors. Kackman is hoping his neighbors do not want chickens if this ordinance passes. He likes all the aspects of this ordinance except for chapter 6.14, the rest of the ordinance is good. Kackman does not want to see the chickens pass.

Huntwork had a long conversation with someone he respects and they are in favor of chickens. Huntwork does not want to be a bad neighbor to his neighbors and have to tell them their chickens are too loud or get the police involved. Someone is going to have to enforce all of this and will fall on the police to make sure all the rules are followed. Huntwork suggested getting a signed document from your neighbors agreeing they don't have an issue with their neighbors having chickens.

Guenthner agrees with this but, would this mean they are grandfathered in if your neighbor moves. Setting precedence if you have a dog or a cat and your neighbor doesn't want you to, that would set precedence that you would need to go to your neighbors for permission to have animals.

Guenthner also agrees with Kackman lot size should be thought about and maybe tightened up a bit, the setbacks are fine but add in the lot size. Guenthner stated she had a chance to speak with several citizens, a lot were in favor but she also had several that stated these are farm animals and do not want their neighbors having chickens.

A motion was entered by Kackman, seconded by Guenthner to approve City of Colfax Ordinance 21-02 Animal Code with the omission chapter 6.14 Chickens. Roll Call: Mackleit, Miller and Golden: No. Kackman, Huntwork, Guenthner and Christopherson: Yes. Motion passes.

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### NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 21-05 Confirm Appointment of Bob Krikac to the Board of Adjustment-  
A motion was entered by Kackman, seconded by Golden to approve the appointment of Bob Krikac to the Board of Adjustment. Roll Call: All Yes.

### DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

#### Administration:

Finance Director/City Administrator reported we have been hiring a lot of people. Mathis is also completing the annual report. Mathis thanked Deputy Clerk Amanda Link for putting up the poll on Facebook for citizens to vote on chickens.

Golden interjected he really likes the new city website; it is very functional and looks very nice. Mathis stated Building and Community Development Steve Bretveld and Deputy Clerk Amanda Link worked on switching our website to a new platform.

#### Police:

Police Chief Bruce Blood and Mayor Retzer drove to Tumwater and purchased the Chevy Tahoe. Blood stated it drove very well and they are in the process of prepping it for use with adding radar, computer and radio.

New officer Tyler Paris is on his 3<sup>rd</sup> day of FTO and is progressing very well.

#### Fire:

Chief Corbeill thanked Deputy Clerk Link for putting together the civil service packets for the interviews and all the work she has done for the hiring process. Tomorrow from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. they will be holding the Chief's interviews. The next step of the hiring process will be a background and a psychological evaluation.

Corbeill stated Thursday will be the Whitman County Chief's Association meeting. The topic of discussion for the meeting will be successful grant writing. This will also include a visit from the Executive Director from the Washington State Fire Chief's Association, Corbeill is looking forward to meeting them and showing them around our station. They will also be attending the Whitman County Chief's Association meeting with them at the fairgrounds.

Last week 3 or 4 people successfully completed the ropes course in Rosalia. The class was well received by everyone that took it.

Corbeill reported Colfax Fire assisted Rosalia with a trailer park fire last week, we sent 2 trucks along with personnel from our station.

Corbeill hopes to have the new hires completed and the department back up to full speed real soon.

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**MAYORS REPORT:**

Retzer invited the council to a Wellness Luncheon Thursday May 6<sup>th</sup> in the fire bay, this will be a time to welcome Tyler Paris and a going away for Steve Bretveld.

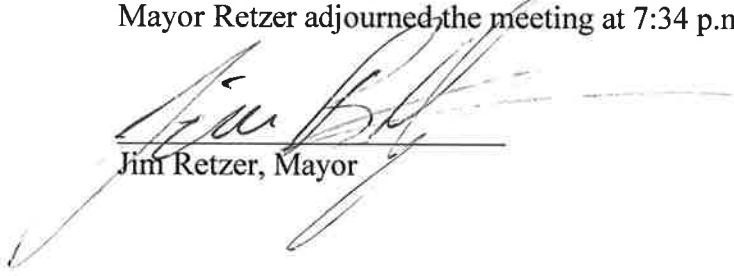
Retzer spoke about an email that was sent to council members stating it was from the him was a scam, it did not come from him. For the future he encouraged the council to make sure to check where the email came from. This particular one was sent from "councilman 19" which is not one of our members. Do not respond as these are phishing emails that if you open the email a few days later they send another with an attachment, if you open that then people are able to get into your computer.

We are in the process of getting the flags on Main Street down and cleaned. The American Legion is in the process of donating 60-75 flags for us to put back up on Main Street.

Retzer stated the police will be helping out with the parade for the seniors, Principal David Gibb asked for our participation.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Retzer adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.



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Jim Retzer, Mayor



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Lynda Kramlich, City Clerk