

PALOUSE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Public Hearing – Amending the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan
Followed by Regular Council Meeting
June 14, 2022 @ 7:00 pm
Palouse City Hall 120 E. Main St

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Sievers called the Public Hearing to Amend the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan and Palouse Council Meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

ROLL CALL:

City Administrator Misty La Follett took Roll Call.

Council members present Sarah Bofenkamp, Leslie Jo Sena, Samuel Brink, Travis Deerkop, and Robert Brooks.

Councilmembers absent: Bill Slinkard and Ann Barrington

Councilmember Deerkop introduced a **MOTION** to excuse Councilmembers Slinkard and Barrington; the **MOTION** was seconded by: Councilmember Brink. All other council members present approved, and the **MOTION** passed.

City staff present: City Administrator (CA) Misty La Follett and Police Officer Joel Anderson.

PUBLIC HEARING: To amend the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan, add the Cove Sidewalk extension.

There was no comment from the public, and the hearing was closed at 7:03.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilmember Deerkop introduced a **MOTION** to approve the minutes from the regular council meeting on May 10, 2022; the **MOTION** was seconded by: Councilmember Brink. All other council members present approved, and the **MOTION** passed.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Supt. Wolf could not attend the meeting and provided Council with his written report.

Mayor Sievers stated that there was an error in the PW report, the cart for the tarps at the pool was painted, and it is expected to last several years, not months, as stated in the report.

Councilmember Brooks asked about the repairs to the F Street Bridge, and CA La Follett stated that we are waiting for TD and H to present an engineering report and cost estimate to Council. After that, the project will go out to bid. The company doing the looping main upgrade is expected to bid on this project, and we hope to complete both projects simultaneously.

*PW report attached to the minutes.

POLICE REPORT:

Officer Anderson presented his report to the Council. There were fourteen calls for service and one call-out.

*PD Report attached to the minutes.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

CA La Follett presented to Council the complete Annual Report for the City of Palouse, which was completed and submitted to the State Auditors before the deadline of May 31, 2022.

CA La Follett stated that we have enough lifeguards to open the Palouse pool, but there will be no swim lessons this year. The opening of the pool was delayed due to the recent flooding

YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD REPORT:

*YAB Report attached to the minutes.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Sievers stated that the comment period had ended regarding the building permit for the Palouse Brewing Company, and there were no objections from the public. CA La Follett noted that the comments on the permit from the Department of Ecology were all general comments. CA La Follett did talk to one person with one concern regarding the discharge, but the applicant spoke to Ecology and resolved the issue. Council had no further questions or concerns, and CA La Follett will sign the building permit.

Daniel Cowger with Varela Engineering, the wastewater plant engineering firm, addressed the Council regarding the status of several ongoing issues.

The most pressing issue to resolve is the effluent temperature reduction (TMDL), and the deadline given to us by the Dept. of Ecology (DOE) is 2024. The deadline for the City to resolve the nitrogen issue is 2030.

In the past, Varela drafted a facilities plan for DOE. Several options have been discussed on how to address the TMDL issue, and one option was to store the waste for the five hottest months and allow the weather to cool it down. The cost to build storage lagoons was \$18.5 million. The DOE gave the City a grant to have a value planning study (VPS) done to determine if there was a more cost effective way to resolve the TMDL.

One option from the VPS was to pump the sewage to another municipality for treatment to resolve the nitrogen issue and to resolve the temperature TMDL issue, they suggested using a geothermal chilling system.

Varela had also evaluated the headworks screen in 2021 to address the ongoing issues.

Mr. Cowger met with the City staff, and Mayor Sievers asked for an Engineering Scope and Cost Worksheet to address these issues.

Mr. Cowger stated that if the City chooses to have his firm prepare a preliminary assessment on pumping the waste to another municipality, it will help with funding the project as the lender will see that the City has explored all possibilities to resolve the nitrogen issue.

The VPS suggested using a geothermal chilling system to resolve the TMDL issue. Mr. Cowger stated that this type of system had not been used within the State of Washington. The numbers supplied in the VPS were a very rough estimate, and the City would need a feasibility study to see if this is a viable option.

Mayor Sievers stated that the headworks also is an urgent matter.

The Council and Mr. Cowger discussed these issues and possible options in more detail.

The Council decided to proceed with the Engineering Scope from Varela as listed and proceed with signing a contract for their services.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Sievers presented to Council an Eagle Scout project from Andy Link. Mr. Link would like to put in a terraced rose garden by the police station next to the stairs. Mr. Link has the support of the "Rose Ladies" for this project. The proposed project would be 21' x 10' and consists of 3 boxes made from pressure-treated lumber. There would be no cost to the City for this project.

Councilmember Bofenkamp introduced a **MOTION** to allow Mr. Link to proceed with his Eagle Scout project; the **MOTION** was seconded by: Councilmember Sena. All other council members present approved, and the **MOTION** passed.

Mayor Sievers introduced a resolution to approve the spending of the American Rescue Plan Act.

Resolution 2022-03 - American Rescue Plan Act Funding: The \$150,400 the City received has been spent as follows:

- a. \$71,000 to community and public services, non-profits, to joint fire board, fire/ems, Palouse community center, Palouse print museum, Palouse library, and educational programming
- b. \$60,000 to business relief microgrant redistribution to businesses (chamber of commerce)
- c. \$19,200 other/infrastructure (City Of Palouse), PPE for public and city use, Palouse cove, sidewalk project, and Palouse community pool

Councilmember Bofenkamp introduced a **MOTION** to approve Resolution 2022-03; **MOTION** was seconded by: Councilmember Brooks. All other council members present approved, and the **MOTION** passed.

Resolution 2022-04 – Amending the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan for 2020 – 2025: The City shall Amend Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan for 2020 – 2025, adding the Palouse Cove Sidewalk extension.

Councilmember Sena introduced a **MOTION** to approve Resolution 2022-04; **MOTION** was seconded by: Councilmember Bofenkamp. All other council members present approved, and the **MOTION** passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Policy & Administration, Chair Barrington: No Report, but Councilmember Sena asked if there were any standards or rules around a City Council meeting being canceled and being rescheduled. Mayor Sievers said that there was not, but a policy needs to be drafted.

Budget, Finance, & Major Acquisitions, Chair Bofenkamp: No report

Streets, Properties, & Facilities, Chair Deerkop: No report

Personnel, Chair Sam Brink: Conducted a Deputy Clerk interview, and we were unable to fill the position. There are more applicants to review and possibly schedule interviews.

Water and Sewer, Chair Slinkard: No report

Joint Fire Board, Chair Sena: No report

OPEN FORUM:

No residents present addressed the Council.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Sievers has been working with City Staff to keep all the ongoing projects moving forward. These projects include the upgrade requirement from DOE at the wastewater treatment plant, the F Street bridge, the loop main water upgrade, and the flood clean-up at the park and pool.

Councilmember Bofenkamp asked if there were any issues with the public helping to clean up Hayton-Greene Park after the flooding, and Mayor Sievers said there were not. Councilmember Bofenkamp volunteered to organize a park clean-up day for the community.

John Bofenkamp would like to add a circle driveway to his residence, which will require the City to work with the State to approve this.

He also stated that the Public Works is doing a great job of staying on top of all the projects in town.

Councilmember Brooks asked if we could park the extra police vehicle around town to discourage speeding, and Council all agreed it was a good idea.

ALLOW PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Councilmember Bofenkamp introduced a **MOTION** to allow the payment of bills. Councilmember Brooks seconded the **MOTION**; the **MOTION** passed.

The following checks are approved for payment:

Payroll		Ck. #12389-12418	\$91,141.78
Claims Paid	06/14/2022	Ck. #12419-12446	\$32,221.50

ADJOURN: Councilmember Brink MOVED to adjourn; Councilmember Bofenkamp seconded the **MOTION**; the **MOTION** passed.

The council meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

APPROVED: _____ ATTEST: _____