

## **PALOUSE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**

Regular Council Meeting  
September 28, 2021 @ 7:00 pm  
Palouse Community Center

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Cook called the Council Meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Deputy Clerk (DC) Misty La Follett took Roll call

Councilmembers present Libby Akin, Tim Sievers, Katie Cooper, Bill Slinkard, Mary Welcome, and John Snyder.

Councilmember absent: Jim Fielder

Councilmember Cooper introduced a **MOTION** to excuse Councilmember Fielder, **MOTION** seconded by: Councilmember Akin. Council unanimously passed the **MOTION**.

City staff present: City Administrator (CA) Coughenour, Deputy Clerk (DC) Misty La Follett, Public Works (PW) Supt. Mike Wolf, and Police Officer Joel Anderson.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Councilmember Sievers introduced a **MOTION** to approve the minutes from the regular council meeting on September 16, 2021; **MOTION** was seconded by: Councilmember Slinkard. All other Councilmembers present approved, and the **MOTION** passed.

### **OPEN FORUM:**

No citizens addressed Council.

### **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:**

Supt. Wolf presented the Council with his written report.

Councilmember Sievers asked for further clarification on the issue with the lift pump. Supt. Wolf stated that the lift pump would need to be pulled to diagnose the problem, and he hopes to do that this week.

Supt. Wolf informed the Council of two residents that had significant water leaks that were detected and repaired. Councilmember Slinkard asked if the residents would be responsible for the large water bill due to the leaks, Supt. Wolf stated that the residents would be responsible for the hefty bill.

PW has been addressing a leak at the entrance to the park to the swimming pool. PW will need to order some supplies to complete this repair. There is also a leak at the entrance to the Busch gas station which will need to be repaired.

Councilmember Snyder asked for more information on the water sample testing. Supt. Wolf informed Council that this was something that is required once a year to remain in compliance. If two or more of the samples fail, our water will need to be tested monthly. These water samples must be from older homes with cast iron pipes and not the newer poly pipe.

\*PW report attached to the minutes.

### **POLICE REPORT:**

Officer Anderson presented his report to the city council. There were seven calls for service with two callouts.

Councilmember Slinkard thanked Officer Anderson for a job well done as it relates to the dog attack. The residents we very pleased with his actions.

Councilmember Slinkard also asked if the property damage in Officer Anderson's report was targeted or random. Officer Anderson could not recall the specifics of the property damage, but he will provide it to Council. He did state that he did not believe it was vandalism.

Councilmember Snyder thanked Officer Anderson for the prompt response to the call for the dead deer. He also thanked Walter, with PW, for the removal of the deer.

Councilmember Welcome complimented the cooperation within all of the departments.

\*Report attached to the minutes.

### **CITY ADMINISTRATOR/DEPUTY CLERK REPORT:**

CA Coughenour presented the Administrative Report to Council.

CA Coughenour informed the Council that he had been contacted by a resident who wants to install the Ferry Eye, that once was used to pull the ferry across the river, as a historical marker in the city. He would like to place this item as a monument by PD and Palouse Skate Park. The proposed location is the eye's original location. The ferry eye is currently located in the printing museum.

\*Report attached to the minutes.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

No old business.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Cities Insurance Association of Washington renewal coverage form needs to be signed and returned by Friday. This form lets them know that we will be continuing coverage. The City will not know their rates until October.

Jim Kuszniir from Inland Fiber Network presented the best practices for the street repairs caused by his company's micro trenching fiber installation under the roads within the City.

Mr. Kuszniir stated when he spoke with the former City Administrator, Kyle Dixon, in February of 2021, the City approved the micro trenching installation and the use of crack sealing to repair the roads. At this time, former CA Dixon stated that the City would prefer that PW complete the repairs to the streets. These repairs would be made by PW when they were repairing all of the other required streets before winter. The City would charge Inland Fiber Networks for the repairs.

After being contacted by the City, Mr. Kuszniir conducted significant research regarding the best method for these repairs. The best options are using a hot patch or crack sealing. After talking to several paving companies in the area, crack sealing was the recommended repair.

After Mr. Kuszniir explained the pros and cons of the road repair options, much discussion ensued by Council.

Mayor asked how long each option would last, and crack sealing was the option that would last the longest. Councilmember Cooper asked if PW had the time to make these repairs before the rains started? Also, if PW did the repairs, would the City be responsible if there was damage to Inland Fiber Network lines?

Mr. Kusznr said that Inland Fiber Network company is prepared to come in do the work themselves, and these repairs would take approximately one week.

After much discussion, Council decided to allow Inland Fiber Network to repair the roads using the crack sealing option.

Councilmember Akin thanked Mr. Kusznr and Inland Fiber Network for the information and expressed her appreciation for Inland Fiber Network installing the fiber network in Palouse.

Councilmember Akin introduced a **MOTION** to have Inland Fiber Network fill the micro trenches that Inland Fiber Network created within the City by crack sealing; **MOTION** was seconded by: Councilmember Cooper. All other Councilmembers present approved, and the **MOTION** passed.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Budget, Finance, & Major Acquisitions, Chair Welcome: Chair Welcome spoke with CA Coughenour, and she should have a preliminary budget to review by October 4, 2021.

Streets, Properties, & Facilities, Chair Sievers: No report.

Personnel, Chair Snyder: No report.

Water and Sewer, Chair Slinkard: No Report.

Policy & Administration, Chair Cooper: No Report.

Joint Fire Board, Chair Fielder: Chair Fielder was absent, Councilmember Akin gave the report. Councilmember Akin expressed the urgency to find a funding solution for the City's portion of a used firetruck, as we have missed several opportunities to purchase a used firetruck. It will be more challenging to find one in the future. The firetruck purchase has been on ongoing discussion for several months, and it is becoming more urgent. The JFB would like a timeline from the City when the City would be prepared to make this purchase. The JFB will continue working with Councilmember Welcome and the budget committee to help find funding solutions.

Councilmember Welcome recognizes the urgency of this matter, but it was just recently brought to her attention. She will continue to work with the JFB during this budget season to develop possible funding options.

The Mayor stated that we need to manage expectations because there are several other equally important priorities the City will need to address. Also, it is not just the purchase of the firetruck; it is also the additional cost to retrofit the truck to meet our specific needs. Councilmember Cooper stated that there would be no need to retrofit the new firetruck. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Akin would like clear communication from the City regarding the timeline to purchase the firetruck.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mayor called for an Executive Session at 8:01 PM and adjourned at 8:09 PM.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Cook stated that the Youth Advisory Board had their first meeting, and he was excited for what they would bring to the table.

Councilmember Akin noted that they were getting started, and they were allowing Youth Advisory Board to lead regarding how they will move forward. The only stipulation is that they need to report to Council, and Council should expect their first report shortly.

Councilmember Sievers was also excited for the way it was unfolding, as it was led by the Board and not the Council Committee.

Mayor Cook presented Council with his letter of resignation. His last day as Mayor of Palouse will be September 29, 2021.

Mayor Cook's letter of resignation is attached.

**ALLOW PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

Councilmember Cooper asked that any credit on the credit card bill be noted in the memo line.

Councilmember Welcome asked that any America Resecure Plan Act funds also be noted in the memo line.

Councilmember Cooper also asked about the need for signatures from Councilmembers on City documents, and DC La Follett will reach out to Councilmembers for missing signatures.

Councilmember Snyder introduced a **MOTION** to allow the payment of bills. Councilmember Slinkard seconded the **MOTION, MOTION** unanimously passed.

**ADJOURN:** Councilmember Welcome **MOVED** to adjourn; Councilmember Slinkard seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was passed. The council meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_ ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_