

DRAFT ONLY. Without council review or approval.

Palouse City Council
Regular Council Meeting via ZOOM teleconferencing
September 8, 2020

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Cook called the Council Meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL: Council members present: Bill Slinkard; Tim Sievers; John Snyder; Jim Fielder; Steve Alred; Katie Cooper. Councilmember Sievers **MOVED** to excuse Councilmember Welcome's absence. Councilmember Slinkard seconded. Motion carried. Staff present: Police Chief Jerry Neumann; Public Works Supt. Mike Wolf; City Administrator Kyle Dixon; & Deputy Clerk Ann Thompson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilmember Slinkard **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of August 25, 2020. Councilmember Alred seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Supt. Wolf submitted a written report.

POLICE REPORT: Chief Neumann submitted the police log.
A reminder to watch for elementary kids walking to and from school.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Varela & Associates is finalizing our Wastewater Facility Plan for submittal to ECY later this week. A meeting is tentatively schedule for the 3rd week of September to discuss with us, Varela, and ECY to solidify path forward for design phase and application for funding.

CA Dixon is getting estimates for wireless water meter reading devices. Going wireless will provide a host of benefits to our system, but the conversion is costly. We will be investigating funding options with the hope to have the majority of the project funded by grants. The goal is to have enough information by the end of the year to develop a cost estimate for the 2021 budget.

The rail line that services the tracks through town was recently acquired by a new company (Spokane, Spangle and Palouse Railway). We have received complaints about the storage of the PROCOR tanks in city limits. CA Dixon has reached out to them and they confirmed that there is nothing in the tanks and that their plan is to have them removed by the end of the month.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ord. 994 - NWFiber, LLC franchise agreement: The city is authorized to grant non-exclusive franchises for the maintenance of fiber optic cable networks. This agreement is identical to First Step's agreement. It grants NWFiber, LLC, the right, privilege, and authority to construct, operate, maintain, replace, acquire, sell, lease, and use all necessary facilities for a fiber optic cable network in Palouse. Councilmember Sievers **MOVED** to adopt Ordinance No. 994 as written. Councilmember Cooper seconded. Motion carried.

Resolution 2020-05 Salary Schedule: Amends the 2020 salary schedule to reflect the changes to the Public Works Supt's pay, the Public Works Assistant's pay, and to add the Entry Level Public Works Assistant position and pay. Councilmember Sievers would like to perhaps change the position title. CA Dixon will look into it. Councilmember Sievers **MOVED** to adopt Resolution No. 2020-05. Councilmember Fielder seconded. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/REQUESTS:

Personnel, Chair Snyder- Working slowly and steadily on the compensation model. We will take to city staff for feedback and then present it to council.

Joint Fire Board, Chair Fielder- Multiple serious fires in Whitman County yesterday (9/7/2020). Marv Pillers reported on the various calls and Palouse responses to three different scenes at the same time. A total of 18 firefighters were either deployed or on call for 12 straight hours. During the Malden fire the water tender truck suffered a breakdown. In the last three weeks responded to 10 mutual aid fire calls. Last Saturday there were two fires. Our gratitude to all the firefighters and EMS.

OPEN FORUM:

GPFS student Christian Burt is seeking permission and funding to paint 17 of the city's fire hydrants as part of his Eagle Scout project. He will be painting all the yellow hydrants which are part of the city's color-coded hydrant

system, where the hydrant colors define the water pressure. He estimates \$500 to cover supplies and paint. Councilmember Alred **MOVED** to fund up to \$500 towards supplies to paint the 17 fire hydrants. Councilmember Sievers seconded. Motion carried. He will return any usable leftover supplies to Public Works.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Native Plant Walk is looking great and people have been seen enjoying it this week.

ALLOW PAYMENT OF BILLS: Councilmember Snyder **MOVED** that the bills against the city be allowed. Councilmember Cooper seconded. The motion carried.

The following checks are approved for payment:

Payroll Paid	8/31/2020	Ck. #11075-11093 & EFT	\$50,042.47
Claims Paid	8/08/2020	Ck. #11094-11112 & EFT	\$18,451.12

ADJOURN: Councilmember Sievers **MOVED** to adjourn. Councilmember Cooper seconded. The motion carried. The council meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

APPROVED: _____ ATTEST: _____