

PALOUSE CITY COUNCIL
Regular Council Meeting
July 11, 2023, @ 7:00 PM
Palouse City Hall | 120 E Main St.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Tim Sievers called the Meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

ROLL CALL:

Deputy Clerk Kelsey Blair took Roll Call.

Councilmembers present: Sarah Bofenkamp, Bill Slinkard, Travis Deerkop, Robert Brooks, and Ann Barrington

Councilmembers absent: Leslie Sena, Samuel Brink

- Councilmember Deerkop introduced a **MOTION** to excuse Councilmember Brink's and Councilmember Sena's absence from the meeting, the **MOTION** was seconded by Councilmember Barrington. All council members approved, and the **MOTION** passed.

City staff present: City Administrator (CA) Misty La Follett, Police Officer Joel Anderson, and Deputy Clerk (DC) Kelsey Blair

City staff absent: Public Works (PW) Superintendent (Supt) Mike Wolf

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilmember Bofenkamp asked to amend the minutes, correcting the name Johnson to Johnston on page 3.

- Councilmember Bofenkamp introduced a **MOTION** to approve the minutes from the regular council meeting on June 27, 2023, as amended, the **MOTION** was seconded by Councilmember Brooks. All council members approved, and the **MOTION** passed.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Supt Mike Wolf submitted a written report for the Council.

CA LaFollett updated:

Pool:

- The shower and toilet in the ladies' room have been fixed.

Water

- Average usage is about a month ahead of where we usually are. We are in a moderate drought.
 - Total gallons pumped for the month of June:
 - Well #1: 4,070,000
 - Well #2: 4,630,700
 - Total: 8,700,700
 - Daily Average: 290,023

Waste Water Treatment Plant

- Walter Fealy is still waiting to hear from the Department of Ecology about when he can take the certified operator's exam. His application is still being reviewed.

Roads

- The gravel roads have been back-bladed and oiled.

*The full Public Works report is attached to the minutes.

POLICE REPORT:

Officer Anderson presented his report to the Council.

12 calls for service, 1 callout, 32 traffic stops, 1 criminal citation

- A traffic stop led to a female driver being arrested for driving on a suspended license. The car was impounded.
- Assisted with a flat tire.
- A gas smell at a local business, called a Fire/EMS volunteer with a measuring device for natural gas.
- Dead Deer was called into Whitcom. Public Works removed it the next morning.
- A neighbor complained about a house with overgrown weeds. The owner was contacted.
- Follow up to comment about dog bites: In Whitman County, animal control is the city's police department.
- Assisted an elderly man get tabs renewed.

*The full Police Department Report is attached to the minutes.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR / DEPUTY CLERK REPORT:

CA LaFollett reported:

Verizon

- Verizon would like to move forward with an easement or lease for a cell tower on city-owned property. CA LaFollett read an email to the council that stated Verizon is offering \$700 per month for a lease or \$42,000 for an easement. Council would like a more official proposal packet detailing what they plan to build.

Levies

- CA LaFollett provided Levy resolutions to the council. The Levy resolutions need to be voted on at the next council meeting to make the deadline for the county. The EMS Levy is a 6-year levy that is renewing the previous 6-year levy that is expiring. The Pool Levy is up to \$50,000 from \$47,000. The O&M Levy and the Streets Improvements and Street Oiling Levy are the same as last year at \$55,000 & \$50,000. CA LaFollett informed the council that Palouse citizens can do a "For or Against" statement on these levies.

Tourism Signs

- CA LaFollett provided a picture of signs that the Chamber of Commerce would like to put up at the 5 entrances into Palouse. Bev Pearce with the Chamber of Commerce addressed the council about the signs. Council had no objections to allowing the Chamber of Commerce to put up their signs.

TD&H - Revisions on the Cove Road Sidewalk

- Michelle Bly submitted the application for the Public Works Board loan for the Cove Road Sidewalk improvements. Council was provided a copy of the application in their packet.

Department of Ecology (DOE) - Wastewater Permit

- The DOE can meet with the Water and Sewer Committee on July 24th. CA LaFollett asked the Water & Sewer Committee members to let her know if that will work.

Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) grant for the St. Elmo feasibility study

- CA LaFollett and Councilmember Barrington will be traveling to Olympia to present to the CERB board for the grant application. CA LaFollett handout a request for proposal to the council, which needs to be approved by the next council meeting.

DC Blair reported:

Pool

- Swim lessons have started and are going well. So far, we have collected \$2767 in swim lesson fees, \$865 in admission fees, and \$300 in pool party fees. We have 10 lifeguards hired, 4 on duty at all times, 3 on the deck, and 1 in the office, rotating every 20 minutes. The highest head count so far is 50. The Youth Advisory Board's "Midnight Swim" is scheduled for July 21st. We have a private party requesting to pay more money for a pool party, if they can have it start at 6 pm, which would close evening night swim on a Friday night in August. DC Blair suggests not accommodating that request. DC Blair brought up the year-end closure date for the pool, suggesting it stays open until August 26th, and having Dog Day on August 27th. DC Blair also informed the council that during the three-and-half-hour open swim session from 1 pm-4:30 pm, the lifeguards are closing the pool at 2:45 pm for 15 minutes. DC Blair advocates we stop closing the pool during open swim and instead work out a system where the lifeguards still get a 15-minute break on a rotating system. There was some discussion amongst the council about the year-end closure date. There was consensus amongst the council that we do not accommodate closing the pool during public hours for a private party.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Levies

- There was a discussion about the pool, the levy, and the budget. The pool levy will bring in \$47,000 this year. The budget this year is \$103,000, that amount includes a \$50,000 line item for the repairs that have been done.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Policy & Administration - Chair Barrington:

- A draft Ordinance separating the consequences for the "potentially dangerous dogs" and "dangerous dogs" is being reviewed by the city attorney.

Budget, Finance, & Major Acquisitions - Chair Bofenkamp:

- No Report

Youth Advisory Board (YAB) – Advisor Bofenkamp:

- The YAB will be looking for new members. They are finishing up the mental health campaign. The Midnight Swim is scheduled for Friday, July 21st. It is a family event for all ages.

Streets, Properties, & Facilities - Chair Deerkop:

- No Report

Personnel - Chair Brink:

- No Report

Water and Sewer - Chair Slinkard:

- No Report

Joint Fire Board - Chair Sena:

- No Report

OPEN FORUM:

- Barb Hodson – Addressed the council about the tree that blocks the stop sign and red flashing light at the corner of Main Street and Bridge Street. A lot of people cannot see that sign and she has almost been hit several times. Mrs. Hodson suggests cutting the tree down or painting the word STOP on the pavement.
- Karen Peltier – Asked the council if there was going to be a petition about the task force so that the public can put their two cents in before the task force decides. Mayor Sievers addressed the question by reading a written statement aloud, that provided a recap of the task force's purpose. Mayor Sievers is going to send out the statement to the public. The statement is attached to the minutes. Mayor Sievers clarified that the task force will be an agenda item on a regular council meeting and we will specifically be taking public comment on that.
- Jerry Blair – Asked if there was an answer about turning around on the street between the Brewery and Bagott's. He wants to know if that is an intersection. Mayor Sievers answered that there is no definition of a proper intersection in the Palouse Municipal Code or the RCWs. Mr. Blair stated that he has seen many people make the same turnaround that he was told not, and he is worried that he will be the one to get a ticket in retaliation from Officer Anderson for speaking up at the council meeting.
- Angie Griner – Thanked Mayor Sievers for having a personal meeting with her. Mrs. Griner stated that the city has the power to make decisions about the streets within city limits. Mrs. Griner asked how many students can sign up for the YAB. Chair Bofenkamp explained that there are 5 sitting members usually they are juniors and seniors, but they are discussing opening it up to freshmen and sophomores, depending on the application pool. Mrs. Griner asked if the task force is going to put together some kind of spreadsheet or report that compares the cost of all the options being researched and can the public have a copy of it before the public meeting. Mayor Sievers answered yes.
- Dana Anderson – addressed the council about the Verizon tower. Mr. Anderson stated that he was involved with a Verizon tower being put on Boy Scout Land near Camp Grizzly, and he stated that he was disappointed that only \$700 was being offered by Verizon because it was almost triple that at Camp Grizzly. Mr. Anderson asked if the pool is supposed to stay open until 7 pm because he has seen them closing at 6:45 pm. CA LaFollett and DC Blair both told him that it should be staying open until 7 pm and that it will be addressed with the pool manager. Mr. Anderson informed the council that his son adores Officer Anderson and has seen Officer Anderson be engaged with students while at the school.
- Jesse Twigg-Harris – Thanked the council and the mayor for the communication and answering the questions she has had. Mrs. Twigg-Harris stated that she appreciates that Palouse has a police department and the response time that, that offers. Mrs. Twigg-Harris said that her experiences have been varied but Officer Anderson did help clarify a situation and she has been treated fairly. Mrs. Twigg-Harris asked, that if we continue with a single-person police force, are there trainings, and other ways to support that position?
- Kathy Wilson – Mrs. Wilson informed the council that she has lived in Palouse for 50 years and has seen a lot of police officers come through. Mrs. Wilson stated that Officer Anderson is horrible to work with and that he is disrespectful. She states that it depends on who you are in the community and what you do, as to whether he is respectful to you or not. Mrs. Wilson is glad the task force is looking into another officer and looking into Whitman County because they follow the rules. Mrs. Wilson thinks Officer Anderson has a heavy hand. Mrs. Wilson addressed the council about her niece reaching out to the mayor and leaving messages and getting no response.
- Mary Webb – addressed the council about a situation that Officer Anderson reported on. Mrs. Webb stated that Officer Anderson did not pull over her daughter; she had parked in a parking spot and got out of her car. She did not have plates on but did have temporary plates in the back of the car. Officer Anderson treated the daughter with disrespect, did not read her the Maranda rights, and put cuffs on her so tight that it left welts. Mrs. Webb reached out to the mayor and filed a formal complaint and is very upset that she received no response from the mayor or the council. Mrs. Webb is also very upset that the car was towed even though it was parked legally and the father Mr. Webb was nearby and, on his way, to get the car. Mrs. Webb said that Officer Anderson requested the tow company stop what they were doing to tow this car first. Mrs. Webb told the council that having a homeless person's car towed is illegal in Washington. Mrs. Webb claims she is owed the \$411 that the tow company charged. Mrs. Webb gave the council a packet of information.
- Bev Pearce – addressed the council about Officer Anderson, and said he helps her chase dogs down. Mrs. Pearce states that we need a cop in town that knows our kids, houses, dogs, etc.
- Nelson Duran – appreciates Officer Anderson. He can help quickly. Mr. Duran stated that he had someone taking care of his business and Officer Anderson stopped and asked him who he was because he did not recognize the person.
- Pam Duran – Advocates for maintaining police in town. She has had good experiences with Officer Anderson. He helped track down what she thought was a medical alert device alarm in her neighborhood.

- Andy Peltier – Voiced support for Officer Anderson. One situation in his neighborhood was when a sketchy car parked suspiciously. Officer Anderson was able to possibly stop something from happening.
- Jamie Gaber – Advocates for keeping policing in the community. Her experience with Officer Anderson is positive. He knows the community and is willing to adapt.
- Cheryl Sanders – Offered to help research anything that the council might need help with. Mrs. Sanders stated that when the pool levy started in the 90s, the agreement was that the pool would be open from the first weekend when school was out until the first weekend after the school opened. Mrs. Sanders suggested that if there is help needed with grants for the pool, the city should ask the public because there might be people willing to help. Mrs. Sanders asked the council if a grant writer has ever been looked into.
- Al Pancoast – Voiced support for Officer Anderson.
- Mike Allan – 36-year resident. Believes that we should have local law enforcement. When working gravel yard in Pullman he would see a Whitman County Cop, Sheriff Cop, and a City of Pullman Cop sitting in the IGA. Mr. Allan asked how long would the response time be if we only had Whitman County Cops. Believes local support is better than support from the outside. It will stop the drugs from coming through.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 8:20 pm, The council entered into an executive session to discuss personnel matters. The executive session adjourned at 8:37 pm

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Responding to a lot of emails
- Had a productive meeting with Mrs. Griner
- Happen to be at the pool when the light fell out.
- With Councilmember Barrington, finalizing a one-page document for legislators on the topic of the WWTP. It contains a lot of information from Varela.

ALLOW PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Councilmember Barrington introduced a **MOTION** to allow the payment of bills; the **MOTION** was seconded by Councilmember Brooks. There was a discussion about an invoice for street striping spray paint. All council members approved, and the **MOTION** passed.

The following checks are approved for payment:

Claims paid	Ck#13226,13246-13249, 13254-13270	\$31,015.37
Payroll paid	Ck#13227-13245, 13250-13253 & EFT	\$47,037.13

ADJOURN:

Councilmember Slinkard **MOVED** to adjourn; Councilmember Bofenkamp seconded the **MOTION**: All council members present approved, and the **MOTION** passed.

The council meeting Adjourned at 8:44 pm

APPROVED: 

ATTEST: 

DATE: 7/25/23

7-11-23

Public Works Superintendent Council Report

Date: July 07, 2023

(Keep in mind this is 5 days from each council meeting)

WATER:

We read meters last week.

ARTERIAL STREETS:

We prepped all of the roads this week. We had to back blade each of the longer roads as we were having problems with our grader.

BST came yesterday and oiled all of the roads.

NATURE PARK:

Monty Nearing has taken over the upkeep of the park the last 3 years. He is retiring from that so if anybody knows anyone that wants to volunteer to maintain the park would be a big help. Thank you Monte.

PARKS:

The ice cream social is this weekend.

John Bofenkamp power washed our playground equipment and the gazebo. Thank you John.

POOL:

We haven't gone a full week without the pool having some sort of an issue. Maybe this is the week.

A shower head is leaking in the women's locker room. Hopefully we'll fix it Monday before swim lessons start.

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The side light came out of the wall that Mike and Walter worked on the previous weekend. Walt, Kelsey and the mayor came up with a fix that should let us keep going without shutting the pool down.

STREETS:

Evan and Ella have been painting parking lines on Main Street when they have time. We will paint crosswalks and stop lines in August.

SHOP:

We got a new hydraulic filter housing put on the grader. Now it is blowing the gasket out of the filter. Mike will get it checked out sometime.

OTHER:

Mike will be on vacation the last week of July.

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Palouse Police Department report for Palouse City Council meeting July 11, 2023:

Twelve calls for service and one call out since last council.

Thirty two traffic stops resulting in one criminal citation.

230623-01 – While off duty and on call, I was at the Palouse PD completing some paperwork when I heard dispatch advise of a burglary alarm at State Bank in Palouse. I immediately called the local bank manager and confirmed with her the alarm was false as no one was inside the building and may have been due to employee error setting the alarm. Deputy Zehm was returning home from his shift and advised over the air he had driven by the bank and the bank was indeed secure.

230626-02 – While conducting traffic enforcement I stopped a vehicle for speeding, no visible front/rear plate, and failure to signal. As I walked up to the vehicle I observed the adult female get out of the vehicle quickly. The female initially refused to give her driver license instead wanting to give me her driver license number. After a couple minutes of trying to negotiate why she should not have to give her license she complied and gave me the license. A DOL check of the female revealed her driving status was suspended. A WACIC check of the female revealed she had an outstanding misdemeanor warrant for \$10,000 for Physical Control out of Snoqualmie PD. The female was arrested, cited for DWLS and released. The warrant was non extraditable from the east side of the state. The vehicle was impounded.

230626-03 – While on patrol I observed an elderly couple with a flat front tire and what appeared to be a very old jack that was too short to jack up the vehicle. The couple asked if I could find a larger jack. We were in front of the Public Works shop so I called PW Supt Mike Wolf and asked if Public Works had a jack in the shop he could get. Wolf responded, located an appropriate jack and we proceeded to change the tire for the couple. The couple was from Viola and thanked us for our assistance.

230630-01 – While off duty and on vacation, I received a call from a local business manager advising her employees and herself smelled a strong smell of natural gas emitting from the building. The manager advised she had called Avista but their response time was 45-60 minutes. I advised I would attempt to see if the Palouse FD had a measuring device for natural gas. I made a couple of phone calls and was advised Scott Beeson had such a device. Beeson agreed to go to the business and measure the levels. Avista arrived and determined the smell was coming from the kitchen fryer and flat top but did not reach dangerous levels. Avista suggested the doors remain open to air out the business.

230702-01 – While off duty and on vacation, I received a call from Whitcom advising a citizen was requesting a deed deer on her property be removed. I called the reporting party and advised I would make contact with Public Works Supt Wolf. Supt Wolf requested the citizen find a way to drag or move

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the deer to the edge of the property by the road so his crew could remove in the morning. The citizen was grateful for the service the city provided while advising it would be no problem to move the deer.

230706-01 – While on patrol I observed a vehicle parked in the 400 block of E Main Street with Nevada plates. A check of the plate revealed the registration was suspended. A few minutes later I observed the vehicle traveling westbound on Main Street commit a traffic infraction. I stopped the vehicle and contacted the driver. I suggested the driver park the vehicle at his residence until he resolved the suspended registration status of the vehicle with Nevada Department of Licensing. I was unable to cite him for the RCW that refers to suspended registrations because the Whitman County Prosecutor Office interprets the RCW to only apply to Washington plated vehicles.

230707-01 – While on patrol received a complaint from a neighbor about a house next door that has been unoccupied for years and the owner has allowed all of the property to become exceedingly overgrown. The neighbor was concerned about a fire hazard during the dry summer months as well as possible noxious weeds and rodent ordinance violations. I called the homeowner and relayed the concern his neighbor had. The owner is elderly and not entirely up for the physical demands to care for the property. I offered to call some residents in Palouse who I know do landscaping. The owner said that would be great and he would be glad to pay for the service to alleviate the problem.

Follow up to a citizen comment a month ago that dog bites are required to be reported to the Department of Public Health. I corresponded via email with WCPH Deputy Director Corrin McMichael who stated this is not true. McMichael states "Law enforcement is not required to report animal bites to WCPH." Furthermore McMichael states "animal control powers lie with the city police departments in Whitman County."

MPO Joel Anderson #603

Palouse PD

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07/07/23
13:19

Palouse Police Department
Law Incident Summary Report, by Responsible Officer

1100
Page: 1

Number	Time and Date	Nature	Address	Loctn	Dsp
Agency: Palouse Police Department					
Officer: Joel Anderson					
230623-01	17:13:29	06/23/23 Alarm Burglary	S3	PAPDA	INA
230626-01	10:27:51	06/26/23 Traffic Offense	N	PAPDA	INA
230626-02	12:50:09	06/26/23 Dwls	S5	PAPDA	CAA
230626-03	18:19:02	06/26/23 Disabled Vehicle	N1	PAPDA	INA
230628-01	11:08:52	06/28/23 Welfare Check	N2	PAPDA	INA
230630-01	11:44:33	06/30/23 Fuel Spill/Odor	S3	PAPDA	INA
230630-02	12:47:44	06/30/23 Animal Stray	N E	PAPDA	INA
230702-01	15:31:10	07/02/23 Animal Problem	N7	PAPDA	INA
230704-01	10:26:25	07/04/23 Harassment	S7	PAPDA	INA
230705-01	15:22:50	07/05/23 Parking Problem	N2	PAPDA	INA
230706-01	20:16:10	07/06/23 Traffic Offense	N E	PAPDA	INA
230707-01	11:12:07	07/07/23 Civil	N E	PAPDA	INA
Total Incidents for This Officer:				12	
Total Incidents for This Agency:				12	
Total Incidents for This Report:				12	

Report Includes:

- All dates greater than `12:00:00 06/23/23`
- All agencies matching `PAPD`
- All officers
- All dispositions
- All natures
- All locations
- All cities matching `PALOUSE`
- All clearance codes
- All observed offenses
- All reported offenses
- All offense codes
- All Circumstance codes

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