**City of Palouse**

**City Council Minutes**

**April 8, 2025**

**Palouse City Hall**

**120 E Main Street**

**Palouse, WA 99161**

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

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

Councilmembers present: John Snyder, Leslie Sena, Molly Quigley, Rainy Anderson, Robert Brooks

Councilmembers absent: Ann Barrington

City Staff Present: City Administrator Misty La Follett, Deputy Clerk Stephanie Welch

Councilmember Sena moved to excuse Councilmember Barrington. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Anderson and it was unanimously approved.

**ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE**

Mayor Sievers administered the Oath of Office for the position of Deputy Clerk to Stephanie Welch.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilmember Sena moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting – March 25, 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Snyder. Councilmembers Brooks and Anderson abstained and the motion passed.

**OPEN FORUM**

Steve McGehee addressed the Council in regards to the police department.

Cheryl Sanders addressed the Council about when a final decision would be made regarding the police department.

Laura Aichele addressed the Council looking for progress on the Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) policy.

**COUNCIL SEAT #2 APPOINTMENT**

Mayor Sievers and councilmembers interviewed and appointed council seat 2 position. Two applicants applied (Daniel Mullendore and Jacqueline Huff). Discussion ensued and questions were asked to both applicants.

The Council convened in executive session at 7:24 PM for a 10-minute session.

Mayor Sievers and councilmembers returned from executive session at 7:34 PM.

Councilmember Anderson moved to appoint Daniel Mullendore to Seat 2. Councilmember Sena seconded the motion with a unanimous approval.

**ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE**

Mayor Sievers administered the Oath of Office to Daniel Mullendore for the position of Seat 2 on the Palouse City Council. Councilmember Mullendore then joined the remainder of the council meeting.

**PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

Public Works Superintendent Wolf submitted a written report (attached).

Mayor Sievers discussed how there has been vandalism in the public bathrooms and soap being dispensed out of the dispensers wastefully. Brainstorming ways to address it. We want to encourage citizens to be respectful of facilities.

**POLICE REPORT**

Officer Anderson submitted a written report (attached).

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

CA La Follett spoke with Kayla Johnston regarding the Shady Lane tree removal update and said we are hoping to have road graded and the property replanted in May, while the slash piles will be burned this fall.

CA La Follett expresses a huge shoutout to the awesome residents who answered the city’s call with the flood cleanup in February and March. Thank you for your efforts! See attached list of members.

Erin and Toni T.

Travis & Lisa, and Family

Monte N.

Dennis G.

Nancy and Cark Kubo

Les S.

Steve O.

Katie M. and Family

Tommy C.

Jay I.

Cheryl S.

Chuck S.

John and Chris Bofenkamp

Cindy P.

Charlotte O.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mayor Sievers presented a proposal to council from Whitman County Sheriff Brett Meyers for supplemental policing services in Palouse. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Sena expressed concern with the insurance and our one officer in town. Discussion ensued.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Personnel Committee, Chair Leslie Sena – We have had turnover and significant problems with maintaining staff. If people are truly concerned about retaining staff. We need to treat them with respect and dignity.

Joint Fire Board, Chair Rainy Anderson – Councilmember Quigley inquired if the new email has been setup. Discussion ensued.

**COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS**

Councilmember Anderson brought up the idea of moving the meetings up earlier.

Councilmember Quigley inquired about the recall effort took place in the community.

Mayor Sievers completed course of work through the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) and informed councilmembers that they can also earn credits and take courses and trainings.

Councilmember Brooks inquired about the Dept. of Ecology and meetings. They are continuing on a quarterly basis via Zoom/Microsoft Teams.

Mayor Sievers made a statement urging residents and councilmembers to put their differences aside and find ways to work together and listen to each other because we all love Palouse and want it to be a great place to live, work, and raise a family, and we need to center our purpose in that direction.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

The Public Works Assistant position has been filled by Dominick Johnson, who started on April 7, bringing them back to a full staff.

Mayor Sievers will be attending an Inland NW Partners meeting all day in Colfax on April 9 to look for more strategies for the community to grow and thrive.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Councilmember Sena moved to allow the payment of bills. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Brooks and unanimously approved.

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| Payroll Paid | Check #14460-14464, 14465-14472 | $19,748.38 |
| Claims Paid | EFT + Check #14465, 14473-14492 | $30,444.64 |
|  | Total | $50,193.02 |
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**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Snyder and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.

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

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

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_