



City of Palouse
City Council Minutes
June 24, 2025
Palouse City Hall
120 E Main Street
Palouse, WA 99161

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Sievers called the meeting to order at 7 PM

Councilmembers present: John Snyder, Danny Mullendore, Leslie Sena, Rainy Anderson, Jacquelyn Huff

Councilmembers absent: Molly Quigley, Ann Barrington

City Staff Present: Deputy Clerk (DC) Stephanie Welch

City Staff Absent: City Administrator (CA) Misty La Follett

Councilmember Sena made a motion to excuse Councilmembers Quigley and Barrington from the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Anderson and unanimously approved. (Y-5 | N-0 | A-0).

PUBLIC HEARING: SIX-YEAR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN (STIP)

Mayor Sievers convened the public hearing on the STIP and provided a review of the document under consideration:

- On the recommendation of the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB), council discussed combining smaller projects into larger ones for funding efficiency.
- Two sidewalk projects were identified:
 1. From the bottom of Palouse Cove to the bridge crossing the Palouse River and continuing to downtown.
 2. From the F Street bridge to in front of Baggott Motors.
- Chip sealing was also discussed. Estimated costs: sidewalk projects at approximately \$600,000; chip sealing at about \$2 million total.
- The intention is to submit these projects to the STIP for funding by August; projects not included in STIP cannot proceed.
- Mayor Sievers noted that working with TD&H provides on-site supervision, ensuring projects meet specifications.

Mayor Sievers opened the floor to public comment regarding the STIP – no one wished to speak.

The hearing closed at 7:05 PM

The regular council meeting was convened at 7:05 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting – June 10, 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Snyder and approved (Y-3 | N-0 | A-2) (Sena and Huff).

OPEN FORUM

Chris Cook addressed the council in regards to a request of the tennis courts being converted into a track facility complex. Cook emphasized the importance of moving forward to ensure a safe facility for student athletes, noting strong community interest and safety concerns with current conditions, as well as expressing concern about project delays leading to another track season without improvements and urged the council to keep the project a priority. Cook also noted the school district's readiness to proceed and that over \$100,000 has been set aside for the project.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

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

Councilmember Huff expressed concerns regarding the annual oiling of the roads with potential environmental impacts and suggesting alternatives be considered.

Mayor Sievers suggested a continuing conversation and referred the matter to the Streets, Property & Facilities Committee for discussion and a recommendation back to council.

POLICE REPORT

Officer Anderson submitted a written report (attached).

CITY ADMININSTRATOR REPORT

Mayor Sievers gave an update in regards to the health-related grant application for Hayton-Green Park, with up to \$100,000 in potential funding to support playground improvements. The application is due June 30, and a final proposal is in progress.

(DC) Welch gave an update with the pool operations progressing well since opening and that equipment has been ordered through and MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with Whitman County. Items started showing up this week, with the remainder expected within the next week or two. Swimming lessons are nearly full, with only a few spots remaining in Session 2.

OLD BUSINESS

Notice of Intent for Fire Truck Loan - Councilmember Sena made a motion to approve the Notice of Intent for the Firetruck Loan. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Snyder and unanimously approved (Y-5 | N-0 | A-0).

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Anderson made a motion to adopt the Resolution 2025-02 approving the STIP (Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan). The motion was seconded by Councilmember Mullendore and unanimously approved (Y-5 | N-0 | A-0).

In regards to the Approval of the Ecology Funding Letter, Councilmember Snyder discussed approving a commitment letter for the Department of Ecology funding related to the sewage plant. He explained that the approval does not bind the city to any specific plan or require immediate spending, but secures lower interest rates and buys time for decision-making. Not approving the letter could lead to higher future costs and negatively impact relationships with state partners. Council clarified that no loan payments are required until funds are used, and matching funds from other sources will be needed.

Councilmember Snyder made a motion to approve the two commitment letters for the sewer projects. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Huff and unanimously approved (Y-5 | N-0 | A-0).

Councilmember Sena made a motion to adopt the amended contract with Varela, which included language stating that none of the funds would be used for lobbying. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Snyder and unanimously approved (Y-5 | N-0 | A-0).

Councilmember Anderson made a motion to approve the Phoenix Conservancy contract for the Native Plant Walk. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Mullendore and unanimously approved (Y-5 | N-0 | A-0).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget, Finance, Major Acquisitions, Chair Anderson – No report.

Streets, Property, & Facilities, Chair Mullendore – Met with Marissa of TD&H in regards to the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan, worked together and got a proposal. Will be getting in touch with Councilmembers Anderson and Huff in the coming weeks to discuss options.

Personnel Committee, Chair Leslie Sena – Had a good meeting where we went over priorities and things we think we should be taking on and following up on. Requests time to meet with the mayor about these topics.

Water & Sewer, Chair John Snyder – No report.

Policy & Administration, Chair Ann Barrington – Absent, no report.

Joint Fire Board, Chair Molly Quigley – Absent, no report.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Sievers had recent discussions with Chris Cook regarding the tennis courts and with Daniel at Varela about the water/sewer facility. He also met with the Water/Sewer Committee to discuss the sewer project and answer questions. A new date of Wednesday, July 23rd was proposed for council to meet with Daniel from Varela.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilmember Anderson moved to allow the payment of bills. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Huff and unanimously approved (Y-5 | N-0 | A-0).

Payroll Paid	EFT	\$7,724.56
Claims Paid	EFT + Check # 14610-14622	\$11,801.62
	Total	\$19,526.18

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Sena moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Mullendore and approved unanimously (Y-5 | N-0 | A-0). The meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.

APPROVED: _____

ATTEST: _____

DATE: _____