



City of Palouse
City Council Minutes
September 23, 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 7:00 PM

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

Councilmembers absent:

City Staff Present: City Administrator (CA) Misty La Follett, Deputy Clerk (DC) Stephanie Welch

Mayor Sievers read aloud Councilmember Barrington's resignation letter effective immediately.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilmember Sena moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting – September 9, 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Huff and approved (Y-6 | N-0 | A-0).

OPEN FORUM

Carmen Bolyard thanked Officer Anderson and Mayor Sievers for assisting with the Palouse Days dunk tank and expressed concerns about out-of-town water rates and the municipal code.

Paula Fealy reiterated concerns about differences between ordinances and resolutions and the process of setting water rates.

Cheryl Sanders addressed the city's challenges, noting the benefit of new community members and their energy, and the importance of staying on budget.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

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

POLICE REPORT

Officer Anderson submitted a written report (attached).

Mayor Sievers reported that Officer Anderson requested residents call if a dying deer is found on their property, and that the city will try to dispose of such animals when able. Discussion followed with the emphasis on the need for prompt reporting to prevent issues, and suggestions of sending a notification to residents about proper reporting procedures.

CITY ADMININSTRATOR REPORT

(CA) La Follett reported that a down payment was made to replace the damaged headstone at the cemetery.

(CA) La Follett reported on the pool grant, noting a \$24,000 bill from Hemphill that must be paid upfront before reimbursement. Hemphill indicated a two-month lead time for equipment, and ordering now would help avoid delays for the pool season. A cultural review will be required and can be done through the small works roster; recommendations are being requested. A solution for the wheelchair lift is still needed, with examples from other cities being sought. Councilmember Quigley inquired about the grant match; La Follett explained it is a 1:1 at \$68,000 each, but costs are exceeding estimates despite padding the budget. Apex Roofing is ready, and work on the changing room can be done over the winter to stay on schedule.

(CA) La Follett reported the city audit is underway, with weekly meetings and an expected duration of about 10 weeks. The audit team is currently in the information-gathering phase. La Follett noted needing some personal time to move back into her house, with Councilmember Anderson offering to provide assistance on Fridays, starting this week.

OLD BUSINESS

Resolution 2025-13: Electric Charging Station Rate:

Mayor Sievers reviewed rate comparisons provided at the last meeting, noting other communities charge more and suggesting options at \$0.21 or \$0.25 cents that would allow the city to generate some revenue. He asked for feedback on appropriate rates. Discussion followed, with preference expressed for a flat rate rather than a range. This will be included in the annually reviewed Fee Schedule.

Mayor Sievers read aloud Resolution 2025-13 with a possible rate of \$0.35 cents/kWh. Councilmember Quigley inquired about the City's Transportation Electrification, to which Mayor Sievers responded that the resolution and the provision of a charging station address this initiative.

Councilmember Anderson made a motion to pass Resolution 2025-13. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sena and approved (Y-6 | N-0 | A-0) at \$0.35 cents/kWh.

Vision to Action:

Mayor Sievers reminded everyone about the Vision to Action workshop on Thursday, September 25, from 6-8pm at the Palouse School Library, and would love to see everyone there. Community Feedback from Palouse Days will be included, and the event will gather input on potential downtown revitalization. The workshop is funded by the EPA and the Center for Creative Land Recycling at no cost to the city.

NEW BUSINESS

APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR PRO TEMPORE:

Mayor Sievers explained the role. Councilmember Huff asked for clarification of the role of the position. Councilmember Sena made a motion to appoint Councilmember Huff as Mayor Pro Tempore. Councilmember Anderson seconded the motion. The motion carried (Y-5 | N-0 | A-Huff). The appointment terminates 12/31/2025, subject to reapproval.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Streets, Property, & Facilities, Chair Mullendore – The water leak on Bluff and Culton is getting substantial right now and flooding the neighbors' yard and getting close to his house, and would like to see it repaired.

Personnel Committee, Chair Leslie Sena – No report.

Water & Sewer, Chair John Snyder – Gave a brief report. A water sample has been sent for testing, and results will help determine possible alternative treatment options. Once results are received, the committee will compile information for the city's review and input on next steps.

Policy & Administration, – Councilmember Sena reported ongoing efforts to audit and clarify the municipal code, noting it has been amended piecemeal over so many years, which creates confusion, particularly when fees are embedded in the code. She emphasized that updating and republishing code sections is costly and time-consuming but necessary for clarity. Examples included dog tag fees and questions over water rates for out-of-town customers. She expressed appreciation for the work done by the committee despite challenges and noted sadness in Ann's departure. Councilmember Quigley suggested posting water and sewer rates on the fee schedule for clarity.

Joint Fire Board, Chair Molly Quigley – Reported that Kelsey Blair has resigned as joint secretary. Discussion followed regarding the new fire truck, with the main added cost being approximately \$35,000 in sales tax on the \$400,000 purchase, plus \$4,000 for the hose mount. Efforts will be made to obtain a waiver under HB 1047, which supports rural fire districts, as the city/county joint board may qualify. (CA) La Follett reminded members that the city is responsible for all fire department spending and any audit findings, urging awareness and caution in budgeting. Councilmember Sena expressed continued support for the truck purchase and emphasized the importance of communicating both the audit responsibility and waiver request. Mayor Sievers thanked Kelsey for her service.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Sievers reported attending various meetings over the past weeks, including pre-audit and risk assessment meetings, along with Palouse Days.

Mayor Sievers had a meeting today with Jody Ophiem of Rural Partners, expressing appreciation for their collaboration.

Mayor Sievers reported that Sarah Bofenkamp proposed a library lighting retrofit through an Avista program, which could include a city building walkthrough in early to mid-November with Tim, Mike, and Sarah participating.

Mayor Sievers reminded council of the Vision to Action workshop on Thursday, September 25, from 6-8pm at the Palouse School Library.

Mayor Sievers noted that former Councilmember Barrington's IACC conference ticket is available and to reach out to (CA) La Follett if interested.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilmember Anderson moved to allow the payment of bills. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Huff and unanimously approved (Y-6 | N-0 | A-0).

Payroll Paid		\$0.00
Claims Paid	EFT + Check # 14803-14813	\$45,280.89
	Total	\$45,280.89

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Sena moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Mullendore and approved unanimously (Y-6 | N-0 | A-0). The meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

APPROVED: _____

ATTEST: _____

DATE: _____

Palouse Police Department report for Palouse City Council meeting September 23, 2025:

Twenty four calls for service since last council with seven ordinance related.

One criminal citation issued for license fraud and three infractions issued.

One callout.

250731-02 – While working patrol I opened a license fraud investigation after observing a Palouse citizen driving and renewing out of states plates since January 2023. The registered owner has lived and worked in Palouse for the last 2 ½ years and has failed to register her vehicle with Washington license plates as required by RCW 46.16A.030.6. It is a gross misdemeanor for a resident to register a vehicle in another state, evading the payment of any tax or vehicle license fee imposed in connection with registration. I made contact with the registered owner at her residence at the end of July and advised they would have until 9-1-25 to come into compliance or I would be forced to issue the criminal citation. I gave the registered owner my cell phone numbers in case she needed extra time to come into compliance after making any good faith attempts at registering the vehicle. I have conducted well over a hundred license fraud investigations in my career to include 30-40 in Palouse and have never had a registered owner not take advantage of a verbal warning and timeframe to get into compliance with Washington State law. I waited until 9-12-25 before issuing the citation after not hearing from the registered owner.

250905-03 – While working pro-active traffic enforcement I stopped a pickup with defective brake lights. Investigation determined the driver did not have a license or proof of vehicle insurance. Issued two infraction citations for NVOL w ID and No Vehicle Insurance.

250908-01 – While working patrol I was contacted by multiple citizens advising an elderly male was driving on the rim of his front right tire. The citizens advised they all offered to assist the male in changing the tire but were told to “F*** off and mind your business.” I am familiar with the male and have worked closely with his adult son to solve issues that come up with his father. Driving on the rim can cause damage to the public roadway. I text the son and advised it was imperative that he respond and make arrangements to get his father’s tire changed so as to avoid any further damage to the public roadway. The son was responsive as always and stated he had ordered a tire that would arrive the next day. The next day I spoke with Charlie Chappell at Chappell Motors who confirmed he had successfully gotten the vehicle tire changed and the problem was solved. Thank you to the patience of the citizens who took the verbal abuse and tried to help.

250911-01 – While off duty and on call I received a call from Fish and Wildlife Biologist Reagan Harris requesting I check the area of McKenzie RD and Palouse Cove RD for an injured or sick elk. Harris advised she was enroute from Spokane but needed an officer to respond capable of euthanizing the elk if it was clearly in distress prior to her arrival. I put on my uniform and drove to the area. While enroute Harris text to say another reporting party was standing by with an updated location of Mader RD west of Palouse Cove RD. I arrived and contacted the RP who pointed to the elk in a field. I drove near the elk and observed the elk standing lethargically, hunched over with labored breathing. I took pictures and video of the elk and sent it to Harris. After a few minutes the elk began to walk in circles. It was clear the elk had no broken bones. After walking in circles 3-4 times the elk then began to walk towards Mader RD. The elk did not have the energy or strength to clear the small incline from the field to the road. The

elk then stood there hunched over. I re-contacted Harris and advised of the elk's exact location. I had to clear to handle another call. About two hours later Harris called to advise she had determined the elk was beyond help and euthanized the cow elk. Harris made arrangements for the elk to be transported to WSU Animal Science Department for testing. On 9-18-25 I received a follow up text from Harris advising the elk tested positive for EHD (Bluetongue disease). Harris advised Bluetongue is running rampant in Spokane and Whitman County. Mortality rate for deer is very high but other species are usually less severely affected. Harris has requested if any Palouse citizen finds a dead deer in their yard to call Palouse PD so I can contact her in order for her to arrange to get a tissue sample for collection.

250911-03 – While off duty and on call I received a text from a citizen advising they believed there may be a homeless person living in the woods/brush in the 300 block of S River RD. The citizen advised they were walking their dog the day before, heard some rustling in the bush, saw a pair of jeans on the ground nearby, and thought she heard a cell phone ding. She found it odd her dog refused to go near the area. I was already out handling a sick elk call so I drove to the area and entered the wood/brush area. I observed the jeans but they appeared to have been in the same spot for weeks. I walked the entire gravel connector from S River RD to E Union. There was no evidence of encampment.

250912-01 – While working patrol I heard Whitcom dispatch aid to assist a male "not feeling right with a cardiac history." I knew the occupant of the address and responded. I arrived before EMS and asked preliminary questions to include health history to relay to EMS upon arrival. Upon arrival of EMS and Pullman Paramedics I provided scene security. The male was transported to the hospital for evaluation. About eight hours later I received a call from the male thanking me for arriving so quickly and helping. He advised it was a false alarm but was very concerned at the time. The next day both his adult son and adult son's friend contacted me in person and via text thanking me for my response time and assistance.

250913-01 – While working Palouse Days I received a call from an elderly male who wanted to report suspicious activity with his bank account. The male advised he was on his computer and got a scam alert telling him to call a phone number to speak to his WSECU bank rep. The male called the number and was told \$40K was deposited into his bank account. The male on the phone told the victim he needed to withdraw the money, take it to a bitcoin depot (located in Moscow or Lewiston) deposit \$100 bills into the bitcoin depot in order to get his account unfrozen. The male took \$15K and went to Stinker Gas Station in Moscow but the attendant told him it was a scam and not to do it. The victim was undeterred so he went to Lewiston and deposited the \$15K, \$100 bill at a time, into the bitcoin machine. The male repeated this two days later. The male insisted the money that had been deposited then withdrawn to be turned into bitcoin was not his to begin with. After the second deposit the male believed he was being used as a pawn for some kind of money laundering scam. This is the first scam where the reporting party indicated money was actually deposited into his account ahead of time. The victim confirmed with his bank that none of this money was taken. I called the phone numbers the victim said he called and both immediately go to voicemail – indicative of a scrambled number from an unknown location. Palouse PD reminds all citizens to NEVER call any number that pops up on your laptop or cell phone. Furthermore, your bank will never call you or have you call them and tell you to remove money from your bank account to buy GIFT CARDS or TRANSFER MONEY INTO BITCOIN.

250913-03 – While working Palouse Days I was taking down road closure barriers at E Main St and Hall when I heard then observed a purple vehicle squealing its tires causing a massive amount of gray smoke to emit from the rear for about two blocks in the area of the 300 block of W Main Street. I watched as

the vehicle then did a u-turn and returned to the entrance of Hayton Green. I drove two blocks closer to remove the barricades at E Main St and SR27 when I heard then observed the same purple Dodge Charger peeling out, squealing its tires causing large amount of gray smoke for about two blocks. I got into my patrol vehicle and activated a traffic stop in front of the vehicle. I made it clear to the male that behavior and reckless driving was unacceptable on Palouse city roadways. I advised him losing traction with the roadway is a textbook definition of Reckless Driving and at any moment he could lose control of the vehicle causing the vehicle to crash into parked cars on the south side of the road or the crowd of people at the Lion's Club that was cheering him on. The male was in his mid-sixties, said he had never been in trouble in his life but was being egged on by the Lion's Club crowd so he went with it. I told him I was being egged on by the citizens three blocks away demanding I take him to jail and impound his vehicle for driving so irresponsibly. The driver appeared to understand the seriousness of the violation. I issued the driver a gross misdemeanor criminal citation for Reckless Driving. I advised if I observed him driving in that manner again he would be booked into jail and vehicle impounded. The next day I observed peel out skid marks on W Main Street that measured 115 feet, 104 feet, and 90 feet in length. It appears the hiring of an off duty officer to monitor the driving behavior of the car show crowd will be necessary for future Palouse Days. Destroying and/or damaging public property is unacceptable and drivers will be held accountable.

250914-01 – While off duty and on call I received a text with a picture of a sick doe sitting in their yard. The citizen was concerned the deer had been struck by a car. The citizen advised there was a fawn pawing at the deer trying to get it to get up. After a few minutes the deer got up and walked around then laid down again. It was clear the deer had no energy and was lethargic – symptoms of Bluetongue Disease. I consulted with Fish and Wildlife Biologist Reagan Harris who stated it is best to err on the side of giving a doe with babies as much time as possible before euthanizing. I advised the citizen since the deer was walking and had no broken bones we would give it until the morning light to see if it was able to move on. The next morning the deer was gone.

250917-01 – While off duty and on call I received a picture text from an off duty WCSO Deputy showing a Ford F150 pickup back up to the Palouse Grocery Store dumpster and throw three large black plastic garbage bags into it then leave. The amount of garbage would rise to the level of a misdemeanor crime per RCW 70A.200.060. I advised I would attempt to locate the vehicle in the morning. The next day the deputy was now in service and had taken it upon himself to rip open the garbage bags and found a piece of mail showing the address where the garbage came from. The deputy drove by the address and saw the same pickup parked in front of the vehicle. Armed with indisputable evidence, I drove to the residence after school patrol and made contact. The adult male stated he was told to throw the garbage in the Palouse Grocery dumpster by an older male family member of the residence. That male came outside and said, "I work there, it's no big deal." I told this male I had already spoken to the Palouse Grocery Store Manager who stated she gave no one permission to use her dumpster and they wanted the suspects held accountable. I further stated the manager told me the dumpster was now overflowing and they would be charged overflow excess garbage fees by WM. The male was defiant and said "Mary wouldn't care." I told the older male he was turning a warning that would have required them to just go to the dumpster and remove the garbage bags into a bigger deal. The male was unmoved and continued to be belligerent, argumentative, confrontational and would not take accountability for their actions. The younger adult male who physically illegally dumped the garbage was detained on the misdemeanor crime. Upon the male being detained the older male drove to the dumpster and removed two of the

bags. I told the younger adult male he would be receiving an illegal dumping citation in the mail and was released. I called the Palouse Grocery Store Manager and advised the suspect was told the dump the garbage in their dumpster by his family member who is a store employee. I later learned the store employee drove to the store, removed the third garbage bag, and apologized for his behavior. Dumping garbage bags or other trash/junk/debris onto or into someone else's property (garbage can, yard, driveway, etc) is at the minimum a \$237 ticket and at the maximum a crime requiring a mandatory court appearance and fine. Huge thank you to Deputy Handley for bringing the incident to light and helping hold people accountable.

On 9-13-25 I worked Palouse Days. I was able to convince WCSO Sheriff Myers to lead the parade while two other deputies handled traffic control at the busy intersection of SR27/E Main St so parade participants could disperse safely. I brought up the rear of the parade and handled all road closure set ups. Thank you to Public Works Department for setting out all the necessary barriers and signs I needed to make sure there was no doubt what roads were closed and where the detours were located. For the third consecutive year Palouse PD participated in the Vikotics Palouse Days fundraiser involving the dunk tank. I led off the long list of volunteers to get dunked. I am confident I got dunked more this year than the two previous years combined. It was my experience that the youth of Garfield/Palouse have unusually accurate arms, hitting the dunk tank bullseye with alarming consistency at an above average percentage – to my dismay. I was told by a representative of Vikotics leadership it was a record year for most money raised during dunk tank.

09/18/25
10:59

Palouse Police Department
Law Incident Summary Report, by Incident Number

1100
Page: 1

Number	Time and Date	Nature	Address	Loctn	Dsp
Agency: Palouse Police Department					
250905-01	11:37:58 09/05/25	Traffic Offense			INA
250905-02	11:41:34 09/05/25	Civil			INA
250905-03	13:04:47 09/05/25	Traffic Offense			INF
250905-04	14:40:50 09/05/25	Suspicious			INA
250906-01	19:22:37 09/06/25	Fraud			INA
250906-02	19:23:19 09/06/25	Animal Problem			INA
250908-01	10:59:17 09/08/25	Traffic Hazard			INA
250908-02	11:49:34 09/08/25	Fraud			INA
250908-03	13:58:42 09/08/25	Fraud			INA
250909-01	08:14:32 09/09/25	Animal Problem			INA
250909-02	14:36:48 09/09/25	Parking Problem			INA
250911-01	11:16:38 09/11/25	Animal Problem			INA
250911-02	11:42:38 09/11/25	Suspicious			INA
250911-03	11:49:17 09/11/25	Suspicious			INA
250912-01	09:30:20 09/12/25	Unconsciousness			INA
250913-01	08:51:07 09/13/25	Suspicious			INA
250913-02	14:17:37 09/13/25	Parking Problem			INA
250913-03	16:16:05 09/13/25	Traffic Offense			CAA
250913-04	19:35:45 09/13/25	Citizen Dispute			INA
250914-01	17:46:24 09/14/25	Animal Sick			INA
250914-02	17:51:11 09/14/25	Found Property			INA
250915-01	14:19:50 09/15/25	Disabled Vehicle			INA
250915-02	14:41:56 09/15/25	Animal Problem			ACT
250917-01	08:22:20 09/17/25	Littering			INF
Total Incidents for This Agency:				24	

Total Incidents for This Report: 24

Report Includes:

All dates greater than `11:00:00 09/05/25`
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

*** End of Report /tmp/rptllmAwb-rplwisr.r3_1 ***

Public Works Superintendent Council Report

Date: September 21, 2025

WATER:

We will read meters on Thursday and Friday this week.

We will replace some meters this week and start working on a couple of leaks.

SEWER:

We have been working to clear up the clarifier cloudiness. Sam came on Tuesday to make some minor changes to help with the cloudiness.

STREETS:

We swept streets for Palouse Days.

ARTERIAL STREETS:

Chad back bladed a couple of roads that were getting rough.

SNOW:

We filled up the shed with dry sanding gravel for the winter.

PARKS:

Mike lowered the tie off cleat on the flagpole in the park so we can access it from a ladder, so we don't have to have Nick from Avista to raise and lower the flag.

POOL:

We drained the pool last Wednesday.

HAUNTED PALOUSE:

We spent part of last week cleaning up at Dominick's shop and the 2 bays under the police station.