



**City of Palouse
City Council Minutes
October 14, 2025
Palouse City Hall
120 E Main Street
Palouse, WA 99161**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

In the absence of Mayor Sievers, Mayor Pro Tempore Huff presided over the meeting.

Mayor Pro Tempore Huff called the meeting to order at 7 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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilmember Sena moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting – September 23, 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Anderson and approved (Y-5 | N-0 | A-0).

OPEN FORUM

Mayor Pro Tempore Huff read a letter from Faris Paxton (see attached).

Michael Echanove expressed thanks for progress on the waste treatment facility and suggested exploring possible technical solutions to address the issue.

Cheryl Sanders commended staff for their dedication to city projects, emphasized the importance of taxpayer funds in sustaining city operations, and expressed appreciation for employees' extra efforts beyond work hours.

Bruce Pemberton expressed strong support for Officer Anderson and mentioned his connection to the Paxton family. He discussed Shady Lane, noting it is currently inaccessible due to Haunted Palouse decorations and urged equal dedication to clean up after the event. He raised safety concerns about power tools left out during setup and overfilled trash bins, but acknowledged the organizers' significant efforts and encouraged others to visit during the upcoming weekends.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

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

(CA) La Follett reminded residents to please not flush items down toilets that should not be flushed – as it impacts the lift stations and has been causing damage.

Councilmember Huff inquired about the recycling bin and the status of when it will be swapped out.

(CA) La Follett suggested sending out a reminder communication to the residents of Palouse about the Text My Gov alerts.

POLICE REPORT

Officer Anderson submitted a written report (attached).

CITY ADMININSTRATOR REPORT

(CA) La Follett noted her recent attendance at a conference and current focus being on the audit. Auditors have begun their work, with an initial bill of \$11,000, and are conducting a comprehensive review covering three years of financial and accountability information.

(CA) La Follett reported the grant from the pool is moving along.

OLD BUSINESS

Resolution 2025-14 – Interfund Loan Approval for FD Truck: (CA) La Follett consulted with the attorney and they are awaiting Mayor Sievers' return for further discussion with council. The item was removed from the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget, Finance, Major Acquisitions, Chair Anderson – Budget discussions have begun. Each department is preparing a wish list for council review, with plans to include reasonable requests. A budget spreadsheet reflecting a 3% adjustment is being developed, with the goal of completing the process by mid-November.

Streets, Property, & Facilities, Chair Mullendore – No report.

Personnel Committee, Chair Leslie Sena – No report.

Water & Sewer, Chair John Snyder – Attended the IACC (Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council) meeting to explore sewer plant funding options. He noted funding will be tight but opportunities still exist, with potential savings if the Clear Creek Systems option proves viable. He plans to work with his committee, the mayor, and others to develop a proposal for city and council consideration, aiming to establish next steps before December.

Policy & Administration, – Councilmember Sena – No report.

Joint Fire Board, Chair Molly Quigley – No report.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Pro Tempore Huff reported attending the IACC (Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council) conference on behalf of both the Port and the City Council. She highlighted the event's value, the quality of presentations, and the range of funding and project options presented. Despite the USDA's absence due to the shutdown, sessions were well managed. Huff attended the same sewer-related meetings as Councilmember Snyder and expressed optimism, noting the dedication and expertise of those working to find practical solutions for the city's wastewater challenges.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

Payroll Paid	EFT + Check # 14821-14834	\$36,259.11
Claims Paid	EFT + Check # 14835-14867	\$50,946.72
	Total	\$87,205.83

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Sena moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Anderson and approved unanimously (Y-5 | N-0 | A-0). The meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM.

APPROVED: _____

ATTEST: _____

DATE: _____

From: [Merilee Paxton](#)
To: [Palouse Mayor](#)
Cc: [City Admin](#)
Subject: Subject: Letter of Appreciation for Officer Joel Johnson
Date: Monday, October 13, 2025 3:45:36 PM

October 13, 2025

To the Mayor and Members of the Palouse City Council,

I am writing on behalf of my family to express our deepest gratitude and sincere appreciation for the exceptional service of **Officer Joel Johnson** of the **Palouse Police Department**.

Recently, one of our family members—who lives far from the rest of our family—experienced a distressing situation. Officer Johnson responded not only with prompt professionalism, but with a level of care, patience, and personal kindness that far exceeded the expectations of his duty.

He ensured our loved one's immediate safety and stayed engaged well beyond the initial call, offering reassurance, follow-up, and heartfelt support that brought immense comfort to both our relative and our family. Officer Johnson became a trusted presence and protector, treating our loved one with the same compassion and dignity we would have hoped to give ourselves.

His actions reflect the highest standards of law enforcement and exemplify the very best of what it means to serve a community. Officer Johnson's presence in the Palouse Police Department brings great credit to your city and speaks volumes about the values you uphold.

Please include this letter of commendation into the public record at the city council meeting by your city administrator at the October 14 city council meeting.

With heartfelt thanks and respect,

Faris Paxton

On behalf of the Paxton Family

Public Works Superintendent Council Report

Date: October 12, 2025

WATER:

We read meters at the end of last month.

We replaced 4 meters.

The chlorinator at well #1 seems to be working fine now after some new parts were sent.

We are in the middle of repairing a leak at Culton and Bluff Street. We found the leak quickly but the way it was installed years ago was the incorrect way. The main was tapped wrong, so we have to retap the main to correct the problem. We had to wait for parts, and we will hopefully have it together by Thursday.

SEWER:

Chad took a 3-day training class last week.

Western States did their annual electrical load test and servicing of the generator.

At the Beeson lift station, a rag jammed our lift pump again.

SHOP:

Durango got serviced, new brakes, and the AC repaired.

Mike did some maintenance on the backhoe.

COMPOST:

We hauled more truck loads of compost to Well #3.

PARKS:

Dominick repaired a leaking irrigation valve by the restrooms.

CEMETERY:

We had 1 urn burial and WSU had their WAMI ceremony at the end of September.

RECYCLING BIN:

The recycling bin did not get picked up last week due to mechanical failure with their truck.

Palouse Police Department report for Palouse City Council meeting October 14th, 2025.

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

One warrant arrest.

Two call outs.

250921-01/250924-02250927-01 – Over the past couple weeks the citizens of Palouse have been instrumental in being the eyes and ears for the community. This includes calling in door to door salesman in violation of the Green River Ordinance that Palouse recognizes. Uninvited and unwanted door to door solicitation is not allowed in Palouse as it violates Palouse Municipal Code 9.56 if the salesman does not obtain a Palouse Peddler's Permit after submitting themselves to a Palouse PD background check and pay the fee. The above referenced case numbers involved solicitors selling solar panels and/or roof inspections. I made contact with all of these solicitor violators and informed them of the ordinance. I ordered them to cease and desist if they refused to obtain the permit.

250926-02 – While off duty and on call I received a text from a citizen who advised they had just returned from vacation to find a large deceased deer in her backyard. The citizen requested help in finding resources to remove the deer as the smell was beginning to be unbearable. I advised I would make contact with Palouse Public Works and request they remove it as the city offers this service to Palouse citizens as of a couple years ago. Public Works Supt Wolf advised they would remove it the next day even though it was a weekend and not a scheduled work day. I followed up with the citizen who confirmed it was removed and was appreciative of the customer service she received.

250928-01 – While off duty and on call I began receiving multiple texts/calls about the railroad crossing signs and bells being activated on the east end of town blocking traffic. I was out of the city and called Whitcom requesting an eta for a representative response from Palouse Railroad to remedy the situation. Whitcom called me back with a 30-45 minute eta. I requested a deputy respond to help with any traffic control needed as well as check on a school bus that had become disabled while waiting for the railroad crossing sign to lift up. The situation was solved within an hour of the original call. No further incidents.

250929-01 – Received a complaint from a middle school parent about a juvenile fight that had occurred at the high school football game two days earlier involving her son. The parent was concerned about a video of the fight taken by other juveniles that was circulating via social media. I determined who the other juvenile fighter was as well as other juveniles who took the videos or watched the fight unfold. I reached out to those parents to make sure they were aware of what had occurred and to relay the concerns of the reporting party. I was able to get the parents in contact with each other so they could problem solve and discuss further steps to avoid these types of situations that can lead to criminal charges if they were to escalate as the juvenile boys get older. Based upon the totality of the circumstances to include the video and parents preference not to assist in prosecution, there was no assault charges filed.

250930-01 – While on patrol I received a complaint from a citizen about a neighbor allowing a family member to live in a camper on their property in violation of Palouse Municipal Code 17.04 covering the

zoning and single residential district use. I made contact with the property owner who admitted his adult son was living in the camper to eliminate a longer work commute between Sandpoint, ID to Moscow, ID. I advised they had until 10-10-25 to come into compliance by eliminating the occupancy of the camper and removing the camper from the property. Follow up will occur next week.

251001-02 – While on patrol I observed a pickup and camper I am familiar with on the property of another resident. In November of 2024, I had spoken with the pickup/camper owner as he was living in the camper on another resident's property in violation of PMC 17.04 zoning ordinance for single residential district use. I explained the ordinance at that time to the subject but he was now violating the same ordinance again. I contacted both the property owner and the owner of pickup/camper and advised of the violation, that each were subject to fines of \$300 per day and that I would give them until 10-10-25 to come into compliance by removing the camper from the property. Follow up will occur next week to guarantee compliance has been achieved.

251002-01 – While on patrol I received applications for two peddler permits for Dabella Siding salesmen. While conducting the background check I determined one of the applicants had two outstanding misdemeanor warrants for Driving While License Suspended for \$1200 bail out of Lincoln County SO. I called Lincoln County SO records and asked if they would confirm the warrants. On that day I was told their jail was too full to transport from Whitman County Jail. Three days later, the Dabella reps were going door to door when I called Lincoln County SO again. This time they stated the jail had space and they would transport. I located the adult male, placed him in custody for the warrants, and transported him to Whitman County Jail. It should be noted that having misdemeanor warrants or having been convicted of a misdemeanor does not preclude people from qualifying for a peddler permit. Felony convictions DO exclude people from getting a peddler permit.

251003-01 – While off duty and on call I received a picture text sent from a citizen showing a red Dodge Challenger with a broken out window in the parking lot of the city park. I was able to read the license plate in the picture. A check of the plate through WACIC/NCIC determined the vehicle was NOT stolen. I advised the citizen I would respond to the location when I returned to the city. A couple hours later I received another picture text showing a female standing outside the vehicle folding a blanket. I got back into the city and responded to the area but learned the vehicle had departed. Further investigation revealed the female in the picture was the registered owner, had a good license, no warrants, and was well known to local law enforcement for being homeless and living out of her vehicle. I was later made aware of another local resident spreading false information via social media that the vehicle was stolen and the woman in the picture was a car thief. AGAIN – THIS WAS NOT TRUE. I appreciate citizens continuing to be pro-active in reporting suspicious persons/vehicles/circumstances. It is vital to maintain the safety and quality of life in Palouse as it allows Palouse PD to investigate and determine if there is a threat to the community. I would caution in labeling people criminals without evidence of a crime.

251005-01/251006-01 – While off duty and on call I received a request for a welfare check on an elderly male who had text a friend he needed fresh water and his legs were swollen not allowing him to walk. I responded to the location and spoke with the male. The male requested I feed/water his cats, fill up three large water bottles with water out of his fridge and refill the large water bottle in his fridge. I asked the male if he felt he needed EMS to respond. The male wanted to give his legs another day to relieve the swelling. I called the reporting party and updated them on the male's health. I advised he needed assistance and confirmed the reporting party would respond early the next day to help care for

the male. The next day I drove by the residence during school patrol and confirmed the original reporting party was at the residence. It was determined the male needed a medical evaluation and I requested EMS/Pullman Paramedics respond for transport to Pullman Hospital. I located a phone number for an adult sibling and advised them of the situation, gave the sibling the friend's phone number so as to collaborate on a game plan to help the elderly male.

Palouse PD WADEPS reporting tool for reporting any and all use of force is up and running. WADEPS requires monthly reporting of all use of force investigations by every law enforcement agency in the state. This is part of the most recent legislature change for documenting use of force cases. While only required to report from September 2025 forward, I backdated and reported from January 2025.

Palouse PD successfully mailed off the EIGHTH package of expired/unused prescription medication via the Med-Project drop off bins to be incinerated/destroyed as part of the Big Pharma settlement with the government a few years ago. I urge people NOT to drop off bottles of supplements or vitamins as those can go into your residential garbage. Only prescription meds are to be deposited into the receptacles at the bottom of the PD stairs and inside the PD.

On 10-9-25 I participated in Washington State Patrol sponsored Law Enforcement Training Simulator for the fourth year in a row. This training puts law enforcement officers into simulated real life scenarios where officers need to make use of force decisions. Most scenarios involve decision making based upon recent legislative changes to use of force affecting what officers can and cannot do when confronted with instances involving the use of lethal and non-lethal options. WCSO arranges for the WSP trailer to conduct the training one week a year in Colfax.

Palouse PD will be working security for the Haunted Palouse Kids Spooktacular and nighttime events. I have arranged for 1-2 deputies to work each night event as well.

10/09/25
10:52

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					
250921-01	16:31:52 09/21/25	Code Violations	S		INA
250921-02	16:33:00 09/21/25	Animal Problem	N		INA
250924-01	17:13:44 09/22/25	Accident Noninj	N		ACT
250924-02	15:55:27 09/24/25	Code Violations	S		INA
250926-01	11:05:43 09/26/25	Communications	N		INA
250926-02	17:30:29 09/26/25	Animal Problem	N		INA
250927-01	18:17:37 09/27/25	Code Violations	N		INA
250928-01	13:14:00 09/28/25	Traffic Hazard	S		INA
250929-01	08:31:20 09/29/25	Juvenile Prob	N		INA
250929-02	11:08:16 09/29/25	Juvenile Prob	N		INA
250930-01	11:41:18 09/30/25	Code Violations	N		INA
250930-02	16:55:23 09/30/25	Trespassing	S		INA
251001-01	15:54:24 10/01/25	Suspicious	N		INA
251001-02	15:55:52 10/01/25	Code Violations	N		INA
251002-01	15:44:05 10/02/25	Warrant Arrest	N		INA
251003-01	09:57:53 10/03/25	Suspicious	S		INA
251004-01	16:00:36 10/04/25	Suspicious	S		INA
251005-01	15:17:21 10/05/25	Welfare Check	N		INA
251006-01	08:34:31 10/06/25	Sick Person	N		INA
251007-01	08:43:52 10/07/25	Suspicious	S		INA
251008-01	10:03:44 10/08/25	Safety Hazard	S		INA
251009-01	10:32:28 10/09/25	Communications	N		ACT
Total Incidents for This Agency:					22

Total Incidents for This Report: 22

Report Includes:

All dates greater than `00:00:00 09/19/25`
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

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