



City of Palouse
City Council Minutes
September 9, 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, Jacquelyn Huff

Councilmembers absent: Rainy Anderson, Ann Barrington

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

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

Councilmember Quigley requested to add discussion of a letter sent to Councilmember Mullendore regarding concerns with maintenance of city-owned property and water leaks to the agenda. Council agreed to add the discussion under New Business.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Sievers read a letter to council to correct the minutes from August 26, 2025 in regards to an oversight before being approved.

Mayor Sievers asked council to amend the minutes to strike out the reference language in the Open Forum "including reports of" to the end of the sentence. Councilmember Sena made a motion to strike the last half of the sentence. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Huff and unanimously approved. (Y-5 | N-0 | A-0).

Councilmember Sena made a motion to approve the amended minutes of the Regular Council Meeting – August 26, 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Snyder and approved (Y-4 | N-0 | A-Quigley).

OPEN FORUM

Janet Barstow and Paula Echanove addressed council to request the return of the parking spaces in front of 100 E Main (Cultivated), which were removed due to a stop sign WSDOT requirement.

Andi Edwards addressed council in regard to serious parking shortages near new and existing businesses, which will worsen with the opening of the new six-unit apartment building. She noted safety concerns for elderly clients, especially in winter.

Carmen Bolyard expressed concern about municipal code changes, inaccurate code, inaccurate charges for county water users, and urged greater transparency and proper legal procedure.

Paula Fealy expressed concern about the city's compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) and public records requirements as well as the manner in which water and sewer rates are adopted. She urged the council to update the municipal code for transparency.

Barb Hodson expressed opposition to annexation without a public vote, citing the south end developments such as Amber Ridge and Harvest Loop. She voiced concerns that adding more housing and accessory dwelling units will strain the city's already limited water and sewer capacity.

Councilmember Quigley made a motion to extend the Open Forum for one more speaker. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Mullendore and unanimously approved. (Y-5 | N-0 | A-0).

Michael Echanove addressed council with information regarding a potential technological option for wastewater treatment from Clear Creek Systems and urged council to pursue this technological solution immediately.

Mayor Sievers read aloud a letter from Kevin Taylor and from Nate Rowe. (See letters attached.)

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

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

Councilmember Snyder noted that the fire hydrant and repair on the corner of Alder & G has been done extremely well and thanks the city for fixing it.

POLICE REPORT

Officer Anderson submitted a written report (attached).

CITY ADMININSTRATOR REPORT

(CA) La Follett reported that the city audit has been tentatively rescheduled to early October due to a requested extension. Materials have been submitted to the auditor, and preparation is ongoing. La Follett will meet with the mayor to review expectations.

(CA) La Follett reported that the city's T-Mobile grant application last quarter was unsuccessful, but has since been revised with assistance from Partners for Rural Washington and resubmitted. If not awarded this time, La Follett suggested pivoting to pursue a basketball court grant and has begun reaching out to gather contractor estimates for potential park upgrades.

(CA) La Follett reported that the pool grant process has begun, but a cultural review will be required, which may extend into early next year. This creates concern about meeting deadlines before the pool's opening. Vendors, including roofers and Hemphill's, have been contacted for project estimates. If the cultural review is completed by January, the pool should still open by June. Due to grant conditions, accessibility lifts are being investigated.

(CA) La Follett provided an update on Avista's gas line project, originally planned after flooding threatened the line located on the SR 27 bridge over the Palouse River. The proposal involved directional drilling under the Palouse River through the park and up to McGregor's. Due to economic changes, the project has been tabled indefinitely and will not proceed in the foreseeable future.

(CA) La Follett reported that the Phoenix Conservancy's park work is progressing well, with Jamie Gaber gathering help, despite the absence of AmeriCorps support. If the city is awarded the TIB sidewalk grant, the chipped path will be replaced with a proper sidewalk, creating a more direct route. There is discussion of plant walk signage identifying the garden's plants in the future.

Councilmember Mullendore inquired about the Whitman County "State of Emergency" for poison hemlock and if we could get funding to get more people hired for the project. Discussion followed.

Mayor Sievers inquired about the cultural review required for the pool grant. Discussion followed including information that any building older than 45 years requires a cultural review.

OLD BUSINESS

Resolution 2025-13: Electric Charging Station Rate:

Mayor Sievers presented data on the city's EV Charging Station, noting usage, costs, and rate comparisons with other communities. Since February, there have been 94 charging sessions averaging 2 hours 22 minutes each, with a total electricity cost of \$207. Current usage accounts for about 18% of Heritage Park's energy bill, but the \$25 monthly (per kWh) base fee is not fully covered, resulting in a small loss of approximately \$4.50/month.

Discussion followed on setting a per kWh rate (example: 25 cents), to ensure cost recovery or a small margin, as well as the issue of cars potentially charging overnight. Councilmembers discussed equipment limitations, possible account fees, notification of customers, and future adjustments depending on FLOs charges. The consensus was to keep rates reasonable while ensuring the city does not lose money, and to wait for more information before making final decisions.

Resolution 2025-15: Accepting the New Gator:

Mayor Sievers read Resolution 2025-15 aloud. Councilmember Sena made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-15. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Huff and unanimously approved. (Y-5 | N-0 | A-0).

Mayor Sievers provided an update on the Vision-To-Action project, noting that an investigation will take place behind St. Elmo on September 18th to check for a possible underground tank, with costs covered by a grant. Community engagement efforts include workshops and feedback opportunities, with a table and poster display planned for Palouse Days to gather input on initial concepts. A larger workshop is scheduled for the evening of September 25th, location to be determined.

NEW BUSINESS

A letter from a community member raised concerns about city property maintenance. (CA) La Follett addressed the issues, noting that dandelion spraying is delayed due to licensing requirements, with only one staff member currently certified, but additional staff will be trained this winter. Flower bed maintenance is limited, though volunteers may assist with weeding. Lawn watering has ceased for the season.

Other updates included repair of a water line near the resident's property, final design stages of an updated RV Park sign, and general discussion of cemetery lawn care and sprinkler issues. Sprinkler use was noted as potentially causing long-term damage to some buildings (museum).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget, Finance, Major Acquisitions, Chair Anderson – Absent, no report.

Streets, Property, & Facilities, Chair Mullendore – The committee is seeking guidance on creating an inventory of all city facilities to ensure proper insurance coverage and future planning. Councilmember Anderson will begin work on a spreadsheet to track properties and their needs. Councilmember Huff emphasized the importance of identifying what the city owns, assessing needs, and prioritizing actions. Councilmember Mullendore noted that a clear, updated inventory will benefit future council transitions, with Mayor Sievers providing additional guidance.

Personnel Committee, Chair Leslie Sena – No report.

Water & Sewer, Chair John Snyder – Councilmember Snyder spoke with Michael Echanove about the Clear Creek Systems option for addressing wastewater treatment. He emphasized the need for more information before considering it as a viable alternative, noting the city has already approved \$6 million for critical maintenance on outdated infrastructure, but larger long-term solutions still carry costs between \$18.6 million and \$23 million. Clear Creek can conduct testing for \$3,022 to provide data on feasibility. Councilmembers agreed more information is needed, and that this is a very small cost that is incredibly important to investigate.

Councilmember Sena made a motion to authorize spending \$3,022 to Clear Creek Systems to execute their proposal, test water, and get the results. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Snyder and unanimously approved. (Y-5 | N-0 | A-0).

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

Joint Fire Board, Chair Molly Quigley – No report.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Councilmember Quigley inquired about removing the barriers in front of St. Elmo to open parking. Discussion followed and the city will be reaching out to Haley & Aldrich for more information for a long-term answer.

Councilmember Snyder made a motion to authorize the mayor to direct the moving back of the barriers around the St. Elmo, pending the approval of Haley & Aldrich's assessment. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Mullendore and approved. (Y-4 | N-0 | A-Sena).

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Sievers reported on recent meetings, including with Rural Development Initiatives (proposal forthcoming), a Vision-To-Action meeting, and a workshop with Varela on September 2nd.

Mayor Sievers met with Port Commissioner Karl Webber to discuss safety concerns at the SR 27/Whitman railroad crossing and previewed a meeting with WSDOT, which remains reluctant to take action beyond possible new signage. The first lumber train is expected September 10th, and residents will be notified to use caution at the tracks.

Additional updates included an upcoming pre-audit meeting (September 10th), a Vision-To-Action meeting (September 11th) and workshop on September 25th, submission of a letter of support for Habitat for Humanity's funding request to Commerce, and a letter of support for the Port of Whitman's successful .09 funds application, which secured around \$1 million for regional economic development.

Councilmember Huff inquired about education in the schools for the rail/train tracks. Discussion followed including prior trainings, and considering bringing in training again due to the tracks becoming active, and urging residents to be safe and smart around the tracks.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilmember Huff 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 # 14757-14779	\$50,278.96
Claims Paid	EFT + Check # 14780-14802	\$43,319.59
	Total	\$93,598.55

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Quigley moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Huff and approved unanimously (Y-5 | N-0 | A-0). The meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM.

APPROVED: _____

ATTEST: _____

DATE: _____

• 9-9-25

• Mr. Mayor, City Council Members,
and Citizens of Palouse:

I want to record publicly my experience with these folks who are bringing this complaint and accusation against the elected officials of Palouse tonight.

I invited several people from this group to my home for a get to know you tea. It was cordial, but afterwards they conjured up a conspiracy theory that I came to town to sell drugs to kids. They ran with this lie, and to them it was just a big joke. This is what manifests their obtuse arrogance. Then they attacked the manager of Palouse Market with another conspiracy theory. And now it's the Mayor and Police Chief.

They remind me of the prophets of Baal who cried and screamed and cut themselves to be heard by their God. Elijah made fun of them and said "maybe your God is on vacation, or out of range!" Maybe they were the original conspiracy theorists. These people are nut jobs who want to drag all of us into their conspiracies, lies and illusions.

Mr. Mayor, if the accusations of these people are proven false, perhaps they should pay a fine or do community service. It needs to be made clear to them that if they attack and denigrate and accuse, and they are proven false, they should be held accountable. Please do not let them get away with their arrogance and folly. Slander is an offence, and backbiting is their currency.

• Kevin Taylor
105 W. Main St.
Pulause, WA.
ph. 509. 288. 2624

City Admin

From: Nate Rowe <natenkiki2004@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 1:30 PM
To: Palouse Mayor; City Admin

Good afternoon,

I request that the following statement be read into the record at council.

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the following is true and correct.

I am employed at Palouse Family Foods. On August 15, 2025, at the request of both the store owner and the manager, I assisted in obtaining a copy of surveillance footage related to an alleged incident involving Palouse Police Officer Joel Anderson inside the store. That same day, the manager and I reviewed the relevant timeframes.

While saving the requested video, I observed the following: Officer Anderson entered the store shortly after a woman, walking behind her for approximately 20 feet before they went in different directions. Officer Anderson then stood alone near the coffee area before proceeding to the register, where he paid for his coffee and engaged in a casual conversation with the cashier. During this time, the same woman came to the register, paid for her groceries, and left the store. After a brief period, once the woman had cleared the property, Officer Anderson exited, returned to his vehicle, and drove away.

At no point did I observe any interaction between Officer Anderson and this woman. They maintained clear personal space at all times, and I did not observe any exchange of words.

In my years of knowing Officer Anderson, I have not witnessed any unprofessional or intimidating behavior from him. Even in situations where I have personally been in violation of city ordinances, his conduct toward me has been respectful and fair. I have consistently observed him applying the law impartially.

Nate Rowe
(208)820-8646

Public Works Superintendent Council Report

Date: September 7, 2025

WATER:

We read meters at the end of August.
Not as many locates last month.

SEL looked at the water and sewer side for the SCADA system at the end of August to get a quote together for both systems. They will have a quote to us by September 22nd.

We repaired a 6" main on Wall Street on the south hill. It was an iron pipe that had a crack in the pipe.

SEWER:

Chad has been working hard getting the effluent side cleaned up since we've had problems of dirty water. It is starting to clean up now.

RECYCLE DUMPSTER:

The recycle dumpster is filling up quickly every week within 4 days after receiving a replacement. **WE ARE AT THE MERCY OF THE COUNTY** when we get a replacement dumpster every week. We call it in every Monday morning for a replacement that week. They will not do auto delivery, and they will not set 2 dumpsters here at a time. One of the big reasons why it fills up so quickly is because lazy people are not breaking their boxes down. If people broke their boxes down, it would last a week at a time.

STREETS:

We've delivered a couple loads of gravel to residents.

Dom fixed a sprinkler leak on the east strip of west main street. The sprinkler line came off the sprinkler head.

The steps at the Police Station were torn out and replaced last Friday.
We will sweep streets this Friday for Palouse Day's.

PARKS:

We will stop watering everything that the city waters city wide for the season this week.

Palouse Police Department report for Palouse City Council meeting September 9, 2025:

Ten calls for service with one being ordinance related.

Two arrests, two criminal citations, three infractions issued and one booking into jail.

250826-02 – While working pro-active traffic enforcement I observed an SUV traveling southbound on N Bridge St with no license plates. I stopped the vehicle in the Palouse Car Wash and contacted the driver who immediately stated his driver license was suspended. A DOL check of the driver revealed he was suspended for failure to pay tickets. A check of his abstract driving record revealed he had sixteen unpaid tickets since 2018, twenty three total tickets since 2017, involved in four collisions since 2018 and had six license suspensions since 2017. The driver was arrested and booked into Whitman County Jail. The vehicle was impounded due to driver arrest for DWLS per RCW 46.55.113. I issued the male two infractions for expired tabs over two months (VIN came back expired in 03-2025) and no vehicle insurance. The driver had a criminal history that included eight years in prison for shooting a man in 2007 as well as stolen vehicle, DUI and Drug Possession.

250826-03 – While conducting the above mentioned traffic stop/arrest, another vehicle drove up into the car wash. The driver of that vehicle approached the driver of the vehicle I had stopped and began to speak with him. I ordered that driver to leave my traffic stop or he would be arrested for obstructing. I checked the driving status of the registered owner of that vehicle after arresting the first driver. I learned that registered owner also had a driving status of suspended out of Idaho. The male I had in custody for DWLS positively identified the other driver as the registered owner and his cousin. The male I had in custody advised the cousin had planned to follow the male to the car wash so the police could not see his vehicle had no plates and avoid getting pulled over. I issued a criminal citation for DWLS to the other driver as well. He was not physically arrested because he had left the scene prior to be learning he was suspended.

250827-01 – While working patrol I received a call from a citizen who works for Adult Protective Services. The citizen advised she was working a case involving an elderly citizen when she received a call from the elderly women's daughter unhappy that the state had taken over care of her mother. The daughter made veiled threats to the case worker that included the statement "if you aren't afraid of me yet you will be." The case worker requested the incident be documented in case the issue escalates.

250828-01 – While working patrol I received a phone message from a citizen advising they were providing health care services for another Palouse citizen when they caught a neighbor of the citizen they were caring for inside their vehicle going through her possessions. The reporting party advised she had caught the neighbor doing this 2-3 times in the past. I know both the person being cared for and the neighbor. I drove to the location and interviewed both. The person being cared for advised she had witnessed her neighbor walk past the reporting party vehicle while going to the mailbox but the neighbor never touched the reporting party's vehicle. I interviewed the neighbor who adamantly denied ever being in anyone's vehicle and her statement matched that of the witness. I next called the reporting party and advised the witness (person she was caring for) and the person she accused both denied the neighbor ever opened her car door or made entry into the vehicle. Confronted with this witness testimony the reporting party changed her story. She now said she came out and saw the

neighbor walking by her vehicle and heard a click. The reporting party admitted to never seeing the neighbor in her vehicle in the past but just saw them walk by and hear clicks. The reporting party stated she believed the "clicks" meant her vehicle door was being closed. I advised the reporting party that falsely reporting crimes or making false allegations could come back to get her in trouble both criminally and civilly. The reporting party apologized for wasting my time and exaggerating the claims.

250828-02 – While off duty I received text from a citizen advising some neighbors had a solicitor come to their home attempting to sell driveway sealing contracts the day before. I was able to get the name of the company and a description of the vendor and his vehicle. I requested City Hall send out an email advising the citizens to be on the lookout for this solicitor as he was violating Palouse Municipal Code regarding Peddler's Permits as he did not apply for one. The next morning I received two calls within minutes of each other advising the solicitor was going door to door again on the south hill. I drove to the area and located the solicitor in front of a house. I identified the subject via his North Dakota driver license and Texas plated vehicle. I advised the solicitor of the process for getting a peddler's permit to include a background check conducted by Palouse PD. The subject stated he would call the company owner to see if they wanted to go through the process otherwise they would obey my lawful order to cease and desist by leaving the city. Follow up revealed the solicitor left the city and chose not to pay for a peddler permit.

On 8-25-25 I transported all drug and ammunition evidence/found property that had been in Palouse evidence storage for years to Whitman County SO Evidence Tech Sierra Motley for destruction. All drug cases had been adjudicated as this was evidence from years ago. Multiple citizens have turned in old ammunition over the years to be disposed of via evidence destruction processes. Whitman County SO Evidence Tech Motley does this on a yearly basis by transporting the items to Spokane for incineration/destruction.

In May of 2025 Palouse PD passed our triennial WSP/ACCESS audit required by the FBI. In between our successful audits of May 2022 and of May 2025, the FBI put forward new regulations that required all Criminal Justice Information System computers to have Multi Factor Authentication installed. I worked with Whitcom IT specialist Brenden Mcennany to get MFA installed on Palouse PD computer so as to meet the new requirement. On 8-26-25 I met with Mcennany at Palouse PD and we successfully completed that task. WSP was updated on the install.

09/05/25
08:40

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					
250825-01	09:23:45 08/25/25	Suspicious			N
250826-01	13:00:00 08/26/25	Disabled Vehicle			S
250826-02	13:52:26 08/26/25	Dwls			N
250826-03	13:35:10 08/26/25	Dwls			N
250827-01	10:18:26 08/27/25	Harassment			S
250828-01	10:26:09 08/28/25	Suspicious			S
250828-02	10:53:47 08/28/25	Code Violations			S
250829-01	10:15:54 08/29/25	Violate Order			S
250902-01	15:15:57 09/02/25	Seizure			S
250903-01	10:23:44 09/03/25	Traffic Offenses			S
Total Incidents for This Agency:					10

Total Incidents for This Report: 10

Report Includes:

All dates greater than `00:00:00 08/25/25`
All agencies matching `PAPD`
All officers
All dispositions
All natures
All locations
All cities
All clearance codes
All observed offenses
All reported offenses
All offense codes
All circumstance codes

*** End of Report /tmp/rpt