



**City of Palouse  
City Council Minutes  
January 27, 2026  
Palouse City Hall  
120 E Main Street  
Palouse, WA 99161**

### **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

In the absence of Mayor Sievers, (CA) La Follett called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM

Councilmembers present: John Snyder, Leslie Sena, Bill Slinkard, Rainy Anderson, Jacquelyn Huff

Councilmembers absent: Danny Mullendore

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

Councilmember Anderson made a motion to allow a five-minute recess from 7:02-7:07 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sena and was approved (Y-4 | N-0 | A-0).

The meeting reconvened at 7:07 PM.

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

Councilmember Sena made a motion to appoint Councilmember Anderson as Chair Pro Tempore for the meeting of January 27, 2026. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Huff and unanimously approved (Y-5 | N-0 | A-0).

Councilmember Sena made a motion to amend the Agenda and add the Open Forum Discussion and Vote back into Old Business. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Slinkard and approved (Y-4 | N-0 | A-Huff).

### **ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE**

(CA) La Follett administered the Oath of Office to councilmember Jacquelyn Huff for the position of Seat 6 on the Palouse City Council.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Councilmember Sena moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting – January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Snyder and approved (Y-4 | N-0 | A-Huff).

### **OPEN FORUM**

Paula Fealy submitted her letter to council and requested it be read aloud. Mayor Pro Tempore Anderson read the letter aloud.

Bruce Pemberton commented that he has lived in Palouse intermittently for approximately 36 years and regularly walks Shady Lane. He stated that the trail currently resembles a landfill or junkyard but expressed

hope that the condition will eventually be resolved. He further reported that the three benches along the trail are in good condition, not waterlogged, and estimated their weight at approximately 100 pounds each. He thanked the council for their time and effort.

Carmen Bolyard expressed concern about unresolved issues with the 2025 budget, alleging that a fire account is off by about \$108,000 and that over \$200,000 in funds were misappropriated. She further alleged that council actions violated state and federal laws and stated that the 2025 and 2026 budgets were not published in the newspaper despite 2026 funds being spent.

Michael Echanove commented on the proposed approximately \$23 million wastewater project and a \$1 million Public Works Board land acquisition loan application submitted on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, which he does not recall being brought before council or authorized. He expressed concern about the anticipated repayment structure and prior debt obligations, stating that council is committing the city to significant debt without clearly providing for related payments in the budget or discussing the \$1 million application publicly.

### **COUNCIL SEAT #7 APPOINTMENT**

Mayor Pro Tempore Anderson and councilmembers interviewed and appointed Council Seat 7 position. One applicant applied (Megan Cuellar). Discussion ensued and questions were asked.

The Council convened in executive session at 7:27 PM for a 5-minute session.

Mayor Pro Tempore Anderson and councilmembers returned from executive session at 7:32 PM.

Councilmember Slinkard moved to appoint Megan Cuellar to Council Seat 7. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sena and unanimously approved (Y-5 | N-0 | A-0).

### **ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE**

(CA) La Follett administered the Oath of Office to Megan Cuellar for the position of Seat 7 on the Palouse City Council. Councilmember Cuellar then joined the remainder of the council meeting.

### **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

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

### **POLICE REPORT**

Officer Anderson submitted a written report (attached).

### **CITY ADMININSTRATOR REPORT**

(CA) La Follett reported on replacement of the solar array data logger, noting that the upgrade would allow public access to energy production data and that sufficient funds appear to be available in the water fund for the expense. In response to council questions, she stated that many people ask about this information, the current vendor both installed and serviced the equipment but has been difficult to schedule, and the industry is fairly specialized, though other options could be explored. Councilmember Slinkard stated it would be valuable to have a guarantee or warranty on workmanship; council agreed to table the item and have the City contact Jay Larson regarding warranty options.

**OLD BUSINESS**Plateau Cultural Review Proposal:

(CA) La Follett presented a proposal for a required cultural survey in the city park associated with the pool project, noting the revised quote is \$6,970 after reducing the survey area. She stated the survey is required by the state as a condition of the RCO grant, which includes a matching contribution of approximately \$68,000 from the city, and the state requires installation of a wheelchair lift. She explained that staff are working with the grant manager to explore a removable wheelchair lift to avoid losing a swim lane. Council discussed timing and cost and indicated support for proceeding at the quoted amount, with the understanding that a lower cost would be acceptable if negotiated.

Councilmember Sena made a motion to approve the proposal from Plateau Archaeological Investigations. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cuellar. Clarifying questions and answers were discussed by council and (CA) La Follett. Councilmember Snyder requested to revise the motion to not exceed \$6,970. No action was taken on this motion.

Councilmember Sena made a motion to approve the proposal from Plateau Archaeological Investigations not to exceed \$6,970. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cuellar and was unanimously approved (Y-6, N-0, A-0).

Amendment of Council Rules of Procedure:

Mayor Pro Tempore Anderson read aloud the initial amendment of the council rules of procedure that was discussed at a prior meeting:

To strike rule #6 entirely from the Palouse City Council procedures, replacing it with, "Citizens wishing to state their concerns to the City Council shall do so in written form, either electronically or by hard copy to the City Administrator. Until such time as the Council deems appropriate, verbal comments by spectators at council meetings are prohibited."; and

To strike rules 7.1 through 7.4, and 7.6 through 7.7 along with any other references in the procedure policies mentioning open forum or public speech.

Council discussed the proposed Amendment of Council Rules of Procedure regarding replacing oral public comment with written comments. Councilmembers expressed concern about ongoing harassment, personal attacks, and the emotional toll of recent meetings, while also noting that written comments would still allow public input, create a clearer permanent record, and may encourage broader participation. Some members favored acting now to curb inappropriate behavior; others, requested additional time to consider whether this change is the best solution for the community and for a new councilmember to weigh in. Council reached a consensus to postpone action and continue consideration of the amendment at a future meeting, rather than tabling it indefinitely.

Councilmember Sena made a motion to table the Open Forum Discussion until the next meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cuellar and was unanimously approved (Y-6 | N-0 | A-0).

**NEW BUSINESS**

Resolution 2026-03 Approving the Surplus of Pumper Fire Truck:

Councilmember Slinkard made a motion to consider Resolution 2026-03 read in. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sena and was approved (Y-6 | N-0 | A-0).

Mayor Pro Tempore Anderson noted that Resolution 2026-03 was read in.

Councilmember Sena made a motion to adopt and approve Resolution 2026-03. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Slinkard and was approved (Y-6 | N-0 | A-0).

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

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

Personnel Committee, Chair Leslie Sena – No report.

Water & Sewer, Chair John Snyder – He stated that state and federal regulators are moving more quickly toward potential enforcement, expressed concern about securing funding without risking bankruptcy, and noted that a more in-depth discussion with the city’s engineers is expected within the next four to six weeks to help determine next steps for the community.

Policy & Administration, – No chair, no report.

Joint Fire Board, – No chair, no report.

**COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS**

Councilmember Sena thanked Councilmember Anderson for running the meeting.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

In the absence of Mayor Sievers, (CA) La Follett reported on recent meetings in Olympia, noting productive discussions with the state’s senator and representatives and stating that many small eastern Washington communities are facing similar wastewater challenges. She explained that while the Department of Ecology manages the city’s sewer facility and has been relatively patient, increased pressure is coming from federal EPA leadership, though staff at Ecology are aiming for a reasonable rate outcome and are more optimistic that Palouse’s eventual water and sewer rates can remain comparable to those in similarly sized communities. She added that the state-level officials and legislators recognize Palouse’s efforts to comply and keep rates as affordable as possible and are listening to the city’s concerns.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

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

Payroll Paid		\$
Claims Paid	EFT + Check # 15061-15067, 15069-15071	\$19,615.40

Total \$19,615.40

**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Slinkard moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Snyder and unanimously approved (Y-6 | N-0 | A-0). The meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM.

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

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

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

DRAFT

## **Public Works Superintendent Council Report**

**Date: January 23, 2026**

### **WATER:**

We put a tapped a new service for the Habitat house in Harvest Loop on Tuesday.

### **SHOP:**

Mike and Chad took the sweeper to PacWest Machinery in Spokane to get a quote on making it functional and another quote to get done what it needs done. If the quotes are too expensive to make it functional the city will not have a sweeper anymore. The sweeper is 36 years old.

The second police car was converted over to the city hall car. The car broke down going to a conference by Ritzville and was hauled to Moses Lake. Chad went over yesterday and picked it up.

Mike replaced the faucet in the restroom.

### **OTHER:**

Mike has a pesticide recertification class every Friday in January.

Dom is studying for her pesticide license and Chad is studying for his wastewater license.

Twelve calls for service with four calls ordinance related since last council.

One infraction issued.

Three call outs since last council - two for suspicious vehicles and one for animal problem. First callouts in over three months.

On 1-8-26 I completed Criminal Justice Training Commission annual online Crisis Intervention Training Course. This is a required annual two hour course that covered handling different aspects of mental health crisis in individuals ranging from teenagers to the elderly to different ethnicities, religions and races. Utilizing resources and fine-tuning deescalation techniques are emphasized and reiterated as part of the training.

On 2-7-26 Brew Fest will be held in Palouse. I will be working the event and have scheduled two WCSO Deputies to work the event as part of a DUI emphasis that evening. Palouse PD continues to maintain a no tolerance policy for drinking and driving. Palouse PD saw an increase in designated drivers contacted the last few years during Brew Fest and I encourage that pattern to continue in order for the continued safety of persons/property. There have been four DUI arrests in Palouse the last two years during special events in Palouse to include three from the last two Brew Fests. Palouse PD encourages all participants to make smart and safe decisions when celebrating. Palouse PD is glad to transport anyone too intoxicated to drive to a residence in the city limits.

MPO Joel Anderson #603  
Palouse PD 509-288-2162  
Police@palousewa.gov

01/23/26  
12:19

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					
260109-01	12:51:56	01/09/26	Animal Problem	S	INA
260109-02	18:13:57	01/09/26	Violate Order	N	INA
260112-01	15:22:04	01/12/26	Traffic Offense	N	INF
260113-01	09:04:15	01/13/26	Animal Problem	N	INA
260113-02	15:43:14	01/13/26	Code Violations	N	INA
260117-01	19:47:59	01/17/26	Suspicious	N	INA
260118-01	16:01:55	01/18/26	Suspicious	S	INA
260120-01	15:17:35	01/20/26	Fraud	S	INA
260121-01	10:25:20	01/21/26	Suspicious	S	INA
260121-02	13:03:17	01/21/26	Parking Problem	N	INA
260121-03	20:13:58	01/21/26	Suspicious	N	INA
260123-01	08:03:27	01/23/26	Disabled Vehicle	S	INA
Total Incidents for This Agency:				12	

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Total Incidents for This Report: 12  
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Report Includes:

All dates greater than `00:00:00 01/08/26`  
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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\*\*\* End of Report /tmp/rptrUziG0-rplwisr.r3\_1 \*\*\*  
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