



**City of Palouse
City Council Minutes
March 10, 2026
Palouse City Hall
120 E Main Street
Palouse, WA 99161**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Sievers called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM

Councilmembers present: John Snyder, Danny Mullendore, Bill Slinkard, Rainy Anderson, Megan Cuellar

Councilmembers absent: Jacquelyn Huff

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING: STREET VACATION PETITION (1005 F St N)

Mayor Sievers convened the public hearing on the 2026 Revenue Sources with (CA) La Follett presenting a review:

Council reviewed a petition from Ann Warrington and Jim Trivelpiece to vacate platted but unopened portions of 11th-14th streets and adjoining alleys for purchase and inclusion in their property. All required consents were received, the area was surveyed, and the estimated purchase price is approximately \$19,000, pending attorney confirmation. The applicants intend to build a smaller home on the lot; no public testimony was offered, and a letter of support from Steven McGehee was read into the record.

Mayor Sievers opened the floor to public comments regarding the Street Vacation Petition.

Jim Trivelpiece stated that the existing street and block layout does not fit the topography of his property and expressed his desire to continue living in Palouse on a smaller property with a view of the nearby horse facility.

Council did not have any questions for the petitioners.

The hearing closed at 7:13 PM.

The regular council meeting was convened at 7:14 PM.

Councilmember Mullendore requested adding a financial audit discussion to the agenda. Councilmember Cuellar moved to add a discussion about a potential financial audit to the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Slinkard and unanimously approved (Y-5 | N-0 | A-0) and has been added to the agenda under New Business.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilmember Anderson moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting – February 24, 2026. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cuellar and unanimously approved (Y-5 | N-0 | A-0).

OPEN FORUM

Paula Fealy submitted a letter to be read aloud, which was read aloud by Mayor Sievers.

Carmen Bolyard addressed council requesting a response to her January 15th email to council, the mayor, and city administrator regarding 2025 budget changes.

Bruce Pemberton addressed council regarding Shady Lane.

Cheryl Sanders encouraged the city to continue progressing on current projects and noted that many residents are willing to help if contacted.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

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

Councilmember Snyder ordered gravel from the city and wanted to let them know that they did a great job dispersing it out.

POLICE REPORT

Officer Anderson submitted a written report (attached).

CITY ADMININSTRATOR REPORT

(CA) La Follett reported delays with the pool grant due to a state-required cultural survey. The survey was conducted by Plateau, but the state review is likely to take an additional 3-4 months due to a backlog, and will push the project to this upcoming fall. The delay allows time to explore additional wheelchair lift options and plan for pool painting this fall. She noted that Dani Howard will return as the pool manager, with positive feedback from residents.

(CA) La Follett reported that the Idaho Department of Forestry will continue to conduct the Shady Lane burning. A burn permit is in process, pending favorable weather and air quality conditions. The burn will occur once approved factors align, with timing dependent on daily conditions.

OLD BUSINESS

Amending the Council Rules of Procedure – Discussion:

Mayor Sievers presented proposed edits for review. Councilmember Anderson prepared a more comprehensive draft referencing RCWs and MRSC best practices; physical copies were provided to councilmembers. Council agreed to review both versions and continue discussion at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Street Vacation – Jim Trivelpiece & Ann Warrington:

Councilmember Slinkard made a motion to adopt and approve Street Vacation request for Jim Trivelpiece and Ann Warrington. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Anderson and was unanimously approved (Y-5 | N-0 | A-0).

TIB Agreement Approval – Vote:

(CA) La Follett reported no concerns with the agreement after being reviewed by Stephen Bishop. The state grant funds consultant services through TD&H for a citywide chip seal project combining multiple streets into one package, reducing maintenance and future road oiling. The project is expected to go out to bid in April and be completed this summer.

Discussion followed regarding the TIB Agreement.

Councilmember Mullendore made a motion to accept the TIB Agreement. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Snyder and was unanimously approved (Y-5 | N-0 | A-0).

Potential Financial Audit Discussion:

Councilmember Mullendore raised the idea of requesting a full financial audit to help with future budget forecasting, noting past practice of more frequent audits. Council and staff discussed the recent state accountability audit (2022-2024) with no findings, the workload and cost of audits, the difference between accountability and full financial audits, and the likelihood of a required full financial audit in the future under federal funding thresholds. Staff reported the recent accountability audit gave the city an all-green financial health rating, with no cautionary or concerning indicators, and several members expressed that an additional full financial audit now would be redundant and not a prudent use of funds and time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Streets, Property, & Facilities, Chair Mullendore – Was going to have a meeting and ended up cancelling it.

Personnel Committee, No chair, no report.

Water & Sewer, Chair John Snyder – Reported that an initial meeting to review census information is planned for early next week and that he is identifying participants. Depending on that discussion, he may seek additional community involvement.

Policy & Administration, – No chair, no report.

Joint Fire Board, No chair, no report.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Sievers reported working on council rules, procedures, and draft personnel policies. He noted a virtual meeting on March 6th with a senior policy advisor from Governor Ferguson's office regarding the

sewer project, following prior discussions with Ecology. The advisor was well prepared, had consulted Ecology, and showed interest in helping identify solutions, leaving the mayor cautiously optimistic that state-level officials are increasingly aware of the city’s needs.

Councilmember Anderson noted being in contact with Senator Baumgartner’s office and receipt of a federal congressional spending request form to submit the city’s funding needs, with Mayor Sievers noting that the city recently submitted a \$5 million request using this process.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

Payroll Paid	EFT + Check# 15120-15128, 15131-15132	\$40,181.37
Claims Paid	EFT + Check# 15119, 15129-15130, 15133-15153	\$34,256.90
	Total	\$74,438.27

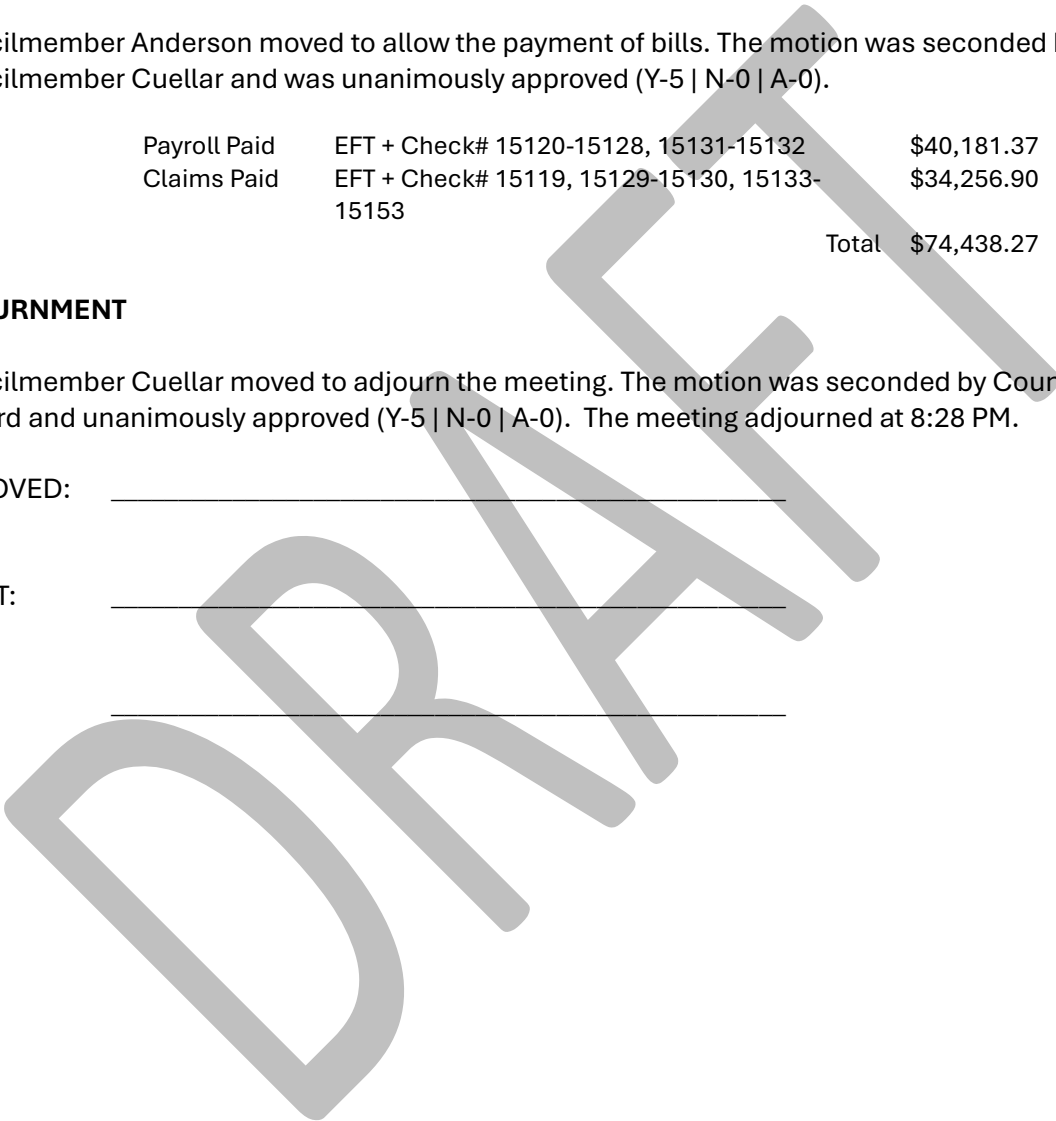
ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Cuellar moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Slinkard and unanimously approved (Y-5 | N-0 | A-0). The meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.

APPROVED: _____

ATTEST: _____

DATE: _____



Public Works Superintendent Council Report

Date: March 09, 2026

WATER:

We did a few locates over the last 2 weeks.

We did a few meter reads over the last 2 weeks.

SEWER:

Chad completed a 21-hour wastewater training class at the end of February.

Both Public Works employees from St. John were here last week to look at our sewer plant to see how it operates. Chad and Mike will make a trip over to St. John soon to look at their plant.

STREETS:

Gary Anderson started hauling gravel to our pit last week and he is about half done.

Mike patched a couple of potholes last week on Bluff Street. There will be more as the weather warms up.

Chad added and back bladed some alleys and streets last week.

Mike made flag holders and added flags for the crosswalks on Main Street. There were 4 added at the intersection by the Post Office and 2 added at the intersection by the Caboose.

Mike replaced street signs as there is more to do.

The river rose high last week to the banks of the parks west parking lot. We didn't get any flooding.

SNOW:

We did snow removal on Feb. 24 for a couple hours.

Park:

Dom took a 2-day pesticide class and test in Pullman 2 weeks ago.

CEMETERY:

Dom took out the shrub in the middle of the loop. It was blocking 2 headstones and was requested by a citizen with family last fall.

OTHER:

Dom was out sick all last week.

Mike was gone both afternoons on Thursday and Friday.

Chad was gone on Wednesday afternoon and Friday afternoon.

Palouse Police Department report for Palouse City Council meeting March 10, 2026:

Sixteen calls for service with five being ordinance related since last council.

One call out.

260211-02 – While working school patrol I was contacted by a citizen inquiring how to request the city place orange pedestrian flags at the intersection of E Main St and Hall St by the post office/bank building. The citizen advised both bank employees and herself have seen citizens attempting to cross at the marked crosswalk but vehicles fail to stop or slow down due to lack of visibility. I worked with City Administrator Lafollett and Public Works Superintendent to address the issue. Sixteen new large orange flags were ordered to place at marked crosswalk intersections throughout the city.

260216-01 – While off duty and on call I received a call from a citizen requesting a welfare check on an elderly male who lived by himself and had told the reporting party his power had been turned off due to lack of payment. I put on my uniform and made contact with the male who stated he had the money to pay the power bill but was concerned about slipping while walking on the icy steep roadways to the post office to mail it off. I stated I could give him a ride to the mailbox and then a ride back. The male took me up on the offer and we were successful in eventually getting his power back on. The male has no cell phone so periodic welfare checks will be conducted in the future.

260217-01 – While on patrol I was notified of a vehicle slide off just south of the city limits due to the recent snowfall/ice on the roadway. I responded knowing state patrol and county units were at least thirty minutes away handling other calls. Upon arrival the vehicle was in the ditch on a curve but was unoccupied. I located a phone number for the registered owner who stated he got a ride to work and made arrangements to have it removed after work. The vehicle was clear the roadway and not a hazard.

260219-01 – While working patrol I was notified a citizen had given an elderly hitchhiking male a ride from Pullman to Palouse but now had concerns about the male's welfare. Whitcom advised the elderly male matched the description of a reported missing 83 year old male with severe dementia out of Pullman. I located the male hitchhiking in the southbound lane of SR27 just past the railroad tracks. The male advised he was trying to get back to his wife in Clarkston even though he actually lived in Pullman at an assisted living house. I coordinated with Pullman PD and the caregiver to meet me at the Pullman north city limits to take custody of the male and get him back to the warm confines of his residence.

260220-01 – While on patrol I heard dispatch advise WCSO of a vehicle slide off on Palouse Cove RD about four miles south of the city limits near the state line. I advised I would handle the call as deputies were 20-30 minutes away. Upon arrival I confirmed there were no injuries, the vehicle was well off the roadway into a field and that a tow was enroute.

260223-02 – While on patrol public works employee advised me the recycling bin had been closed due to being too full but that a citizen had placed a large amount of cardboard boxes outside the bin. The cardboard boxes listed the name and address of the citizen so public works requested I address this as an illegal dumping violation. I was able to locate a phone number for the cardboard box/recycling material owners and learned they were recent transplants to Palouse and did not know they were not allowed to place the boxes outside the bin. The resident was very cooperative and responsive agreeing to pick up their items and hang onto them until the bin was back open.

260225-01 – While on patrol I noticed a silver sedan illegally parked within thirty feet of a stop sign and within twenty feet of a marked crosswalk in at E Main St and Bridge St. I assumed the vehicle belonged to a business it was parked in front of but after three days determined it had broken down, the driver had been arrested for a felony warrant in Garfield and that no one had plans to remove it. I tagged the vehicle with an orange abandoned sticker giving the owner an opportunity to remove it. A day later another citizen contacted me to say he was making arrangements to remove the vehicle in a few hours so it was in compliance.

260227-03 – While off duty and on call I received a call from the manager of a warehouse in Palouse that a red tailed hawk had entered the building and needed help getting it out. I contacted my valuable Fish and Wildlife Department resource – biologist Reagan Harris – and asked if she could problem solve with the employee. I exchanged their phone numbers for each other via text and learned that Harris was able to locate a local raptor club to use their expertise in trapping/releasing hawks into the wild.

On 2-26-26 I attended refresher course in defensive tactics training presented by Whitman County Sheriff Office Defensive Tactic Coordinator Deputy Petersen at Colfax High School. Training covered applying clinch and pummel techniques, clinch takedowns, team tactics takedowns and resistive ground control techniques which are essential for controlling resistive or evasive subjects. Establishing underhooks, collar ties, angle creation/maintenance and transitioning to engage various takedowns both independently and with a patrol partner. Efficiency in hands on takedowns that prevent injury to the suspect do not require use of force reports per the new WADEPS system whereas pointing a taser at the subject while NOT deploying the taser DOES require a use of force report.

On 3-5-26 at 1210 hours – Palouse PD was proud to escort the state tournament qualified GarPal Girls Basketball team through town as a send off for the state tournament. An excellent turnout of citizens lined the streets honking horns and yelling encouragement in an attempt to fire up the team in their quest to win the state 1B championship and bring home the crown. I was able to get Whitman County Sheriff Brett Myers and WCSO School Resource Officer Cory Alcantar to graciously agree to bring up the rear of the procession to have maximum first responder lights and sirens acknowledging their accomplishment. Special thanks to Brynlie Chappell, Rosie Echanove and Finley Anderson for accompanying me in the patrol vehicle with their creative signs and spirit imploring the team to Bring Home The Ring!

03/04/26
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					
260210-01	08:41:08	02/10/26 Welfare Check			INA
260211-01	09:32:55	02/11/26 Animal Problem			INA
260211-02	09:33:15	02/11/26 Citizen Assist			INA
260216-01	15:03:12	02/16/26 Welfare Check			INA
260217-01	09:47:50	02/17/26 Disabled Vehicle			INA
260218-01	15:17:08	02/18/26 Mal Mischief			INA
260219-01	16:45:05	02/19/26 Missing Person			INA
260220-01	09:53:09	02/20/26 Accident Noninj			INA
260223-01	08:21:39	02/23/26 Traffic Offense			INA
260223-02	10:53:40	02/23/26 Code Violations			INA
260225-01	08:46:24	02/25/26 Abandoned Vehicle			INA
260225-02	13:48:56	02/25/26 Public Program			INA
260226-01	15:21:39	02/26/26 Animal Problem			INA
260227-01	16:03:28	02/27/26 Fraud			INA
260227-02	16:03:47	02/27/26 Vin Inspection			INA
260227-03	16:28:37	02/27/26 Animal Problem			INA
Total Incidents for This Agency:					16

Total Incidents for This Report: 16

Report Includes:

- All dates greater than `00:00:00 02/09/26`
- 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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