



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

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

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

Councilmember Anderson moved to excuse Councilmember Huff from the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Snyder and unanimously approved (Y-6 | N-0 | A-0).

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Councilmember Echanove moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting – March 24, 2026. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cuellar and unanimously approved (Y-5 | N-0 | A-1-Anderson).

## **OPEN FORUM**

Bruce Pemberton commented on the importance of keeping dogs leashed, especially on Shady Lane, and keeping dogs properly licensed. Overall, citizens are conscientious with their dogs, but some need reminders.

## **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

PW Superintendent Wolf submitted a written report (attached). No questions or comments from Council.

## **POLICE REPORT**

Officer Anderson submitted a written report (attached). No questions or comments from Council.

## **CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

CA La Follett reported:

- Annual Financial Report preparation is underway. Spent all day on April 14 in training about Annual Report preparation.
- Met with Shannon Collins, with the Phoenix Conservancy, regarding the status of the Nature Park, and plans are underway to clean and improve the area over the Summer.
- Liquor license for Palouse Family Foods is up for automatic renewal unless Council has concerns. Council expressed no concerns.

- City web site was recently hacked. NO sensitive data was involved. Hosting company restored from backup. Some recently added content may be missing and needs to be re-entered.

Councilmember Echanove had questions about the Annual Financial Report preparations and some current budget line items. Discussion followed.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Amending the Council Rules of Procedure:

Councilmember Anderson has completed an updated draft of Council Rules of Procedure, reflecting current RCW's and best practices from comparable cities. The draft is in Council packets and will be available to Council online shortly. Comments and feedback will be collected online and the final version presented at the next Council meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### City Hall Hours:

Mayor Sievers discussed the temporarily reduced public hours at City Hall. This is the peak workload season for City Hall staff. The City's Annual Financial Report is pending, along with other large projects with strict deadlines. The Deputy Clerk is out on maternity leave. This leaves just one staff member to perform all City Hall functions. The Wednesday closure is a way to give CA La Follett time to work on critical projects and sensitive matters one full day each week without distraction. It has since been pointed out that cities normally set City Hall hours by ordinance. Palouse does not have a City Hall hours ordinance, and one is now in development for Council approval. The Mayor hired Mark Wilcomb to help part-time in the mornings four days per week. Mr. Wilcomb is familiar with City Hall procedures and has assisted in the past. City Hall staffing should return to normal levels by the end of July.

Discussion followed. No action was taken on the Wednesday closure since a formal City Hall Hours ordinance is in development.

### SCADA Purchase - Discussion:

Mayor Sievers and CA La Follett summarized the SCADA system for Council. SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) is an automated system for monitoring operations of sewer and water facilities 24/7. Currently, the Palouse sewer and water systems are monitored manually by staff, who cannot watch every system at all hours. Not having 24/7 automated monitoring of water and sewer facilities creates a significant liability for the City. There have been instances in recent years where it was difficult to catch problems early. SCADA is fully compatible with the long-term improvements planned for our water and sewer facilities. SCADA is widely used by cities of all sizes. Quotes from multiple vendors for implementation of SCADA were included in Council packets for review.

Discussion followed. Council requested additional information from water engineers at Varela and from PW Superintendent Mike Wolf before making a decision. Both will attend the next Council meeting.

### Public Works Used Vehicle Purchase Resolution - Vote

Following discussion and review of bids, Councilmember Snyder moved to postpone a vote on equipment purchases until PW Superintendent Mike Wolf can attend the next meeting to address Council questions. Councilmember Slinkard seconded. Motion carried unanimously. (5-Y | 0-N | 1-A-Cuellar)

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The City Attorney was unable to attend the Council meeting, so the Executive Session was canceled.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Committee Reports reflect new Committee assignments effective 4/14/26

- Budget, Finance, Major Acquisitions, Chair Michael Echanove - No report
- Streets, Property, & Facilities, Chair Danny Mullendore - No report
- Personnel Committee, Chair Megan Cuellar - No report
- Water & Sewer, Chair John Snyder - Waiting for a meeting with Dan Cowger at Varela to define a negotiating position with EPA, etc., on water/sewer proposals.
- Policy & Administration, Chair Rainy Anderson
- Joint Fire Board, Chair Bill Slinkard – No report (March JFB Meeting was canceled).

## **COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS**

Councilmember Anderson – New lease needed for Lion’s Club rental of City Hall upper level. Rent must be consistent with Department of Revenue’s fair market value recommendation of \$500 per month. May not be affordable for a small club. Councilmember Echanove noted that Lions have made improvements to the facility and could that be counted as in-kind rental payment? More discussion with Lions to follow.

Councilmember Echanove – Strongly supports continued open forum for public comment at Council meetings.

Councilmember Mullendore – Executive session needs to be held soon. Shady Lane needs to be finished and opened ASAP. Would like to see future discussion on resolving water pressure and flow issues on South Hill. Open to keeping open forum on the agenda, provided discussion is respectful.

## **MAYOR’S REPORT**

- Attended a variety of meetings recently with other City leaders for best practices.
- Met with CA LaFollett last Friday for 2025/26 budget review.
- Met with Port of Whitman County’s Local Government Legislative Coalition Meeting April 7 to discuss state and federal advocacy efforts for local infrastructure projects.

- Discussing information regarding potential litigation with insurance attorney.
- Currently researching the underutilized taxing ability of the City. Missed tax revenues could help with fire and other services.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

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

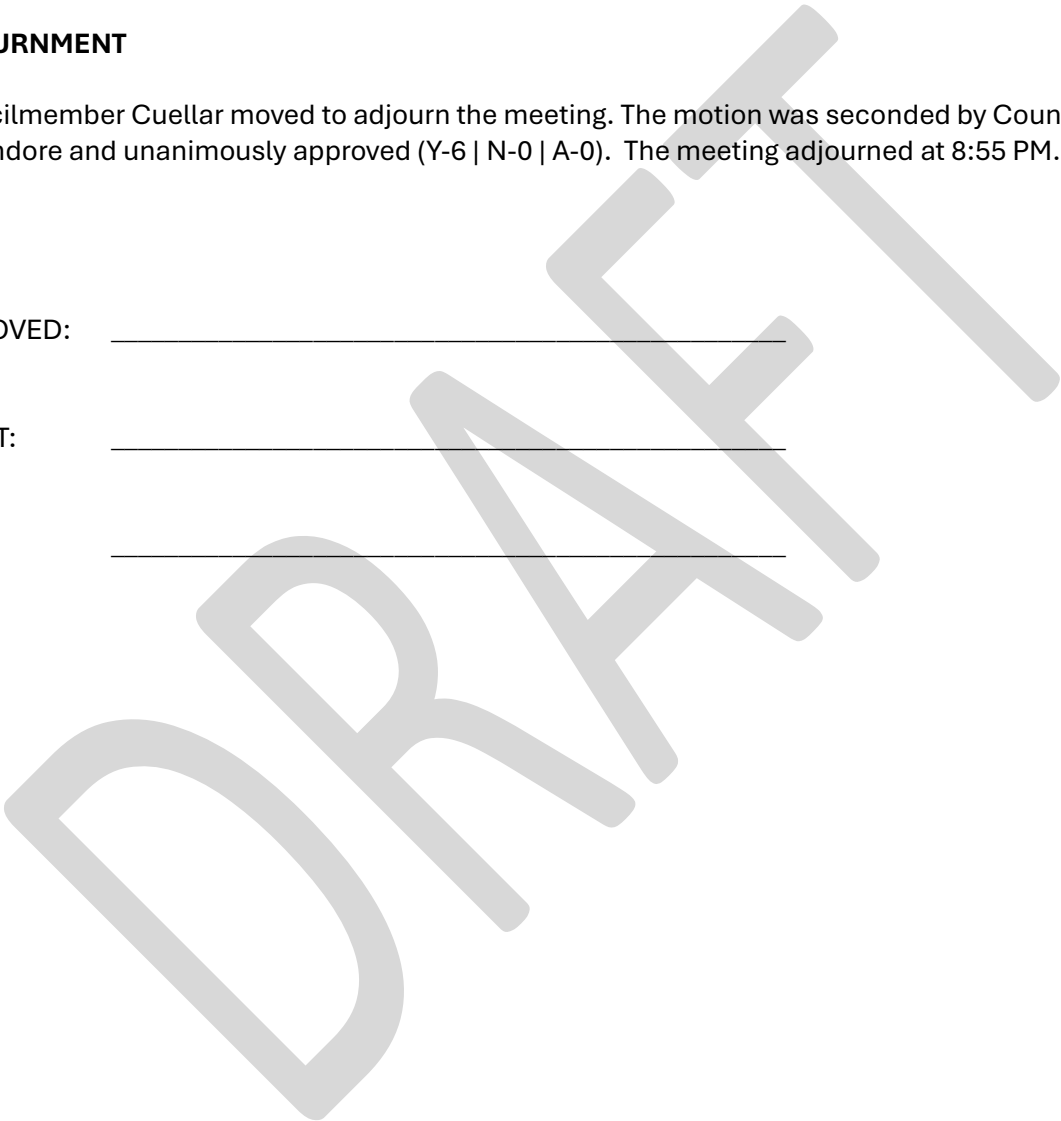
**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Cuellar moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Mullendore and unanimously approved (Y-6 | N-0 | A-0). The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

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

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

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



# **Public Works Superintendent Council Report**

**Date: April 09, 2026**

## **WATER:**

We read meters for the first time this season 2 weeks ago.

We replaced a bad meter on the south hill of that same week. That was the only bad meter found during the meter reads.

We thought there was a loose connection on our meter at Coleman Oil. We pumped the water out of the meter box and our connections were tight. We determined that they have a leak on their side.

Mike spent some time on a couple of leak investigations on the north hill and determined that one house had a leak on their side. The other investigation is possibly a spring from the neighbors running water underneath the garage.

Mike and Misty are working on the Water Use Efficiency report.

## **SEWER:**

Chad is filling out his application for his OIT certification.

The sewer plant is still running about double what it usually runs. We are still getting flow from the recent moisture we've had over the last month.

## **STREETS:**

Gary Anderson finished hauling all the gravel.

## **SNOW:**

Mike cleaned the sander and put that away along with the snowplows for the summer.

## **ARTERIAL STREETS:**

Chad has been working on the streets, hauling gravel and back blading after the winter. He has been working on that over the last couple weeks.

### **Park:**

Dom cleaned up the park after the flood and windstorm. Little damage was done by either event.

Mike hauled 2 loads of compost from SYG Nursery, and river rock for the rose gardens and Heritage Park.

### **CEMETERY:**

Dom cleaned up the cones and branches from the winter and windstorms.

Dom and Chad both mowed there yesterday to catch up.

### **SHOP:**

Mike looked at 2 pickups in CDA last week to replace the old Dodge pickup the Dom drives.

We are without a sweeper as Mike got an estimate back for nearly \$25,000 for repairs. Mike is still waiting for it to move forward. I'm not sure if it's worth putting any money into it since the value of the sweeper is so low. I asked if PacWest rented sweepers and they said no and then I asked if there was anywhere else to rent sweepers and they didn't know but thought there wasn't any. At this point the streets will not be swept or storm drains sucked out.

### **SPRAYING:**

Mike has sprayed the RV Park, some of the park, some curbs around town, and is continuing to spray when the weather allows. 250 gallons of spray have been used so far.

Dom is taking her pesticide test the beginning of May. This will be the second attempt.

A lot more spraying is to be done. Weeds never stop growing so spraying is an ongoing job.

### **RV PARK:**

We are making our best attempt to get there today to start preparing and painting the plywood for the new sign.

### **SHADY LANE:**

After the sign at the RV Park the benches, garbage cans, and fence railings are the next projects.

**SURPLUSING:**

Mike is working on surplusing the motor grader, the old Dodge pickup, and the old John Deere riding mower.

Palouse Police Department report for Palouse City Council meeting April 14, 2026:

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

ZERO callouts.

Two separate ongoing dog ordinance violation open investigations. Both parties have received their second warnings for allowing their dogs to escape their property and trespass on neighbor property. These dogs are eating neighbor cat food, bothering neighbor animals and attempting to gain access to neighbor chickens inside chicken coops. Both dog owners have been responsive, admitted to the infractions and have taken steps to solve the issues. Both dog owners have been advised a third violation will result in the immediate issuance of their first dog ordinance violation.

While out of state April 2-10 I handled five calls for service and two public record requests. I spoke with nine different citizens handling issues from dog complaints to fraud civil issues.

603

04/13/26  
09:19

Palouse Police Department  
Law Incident Summary Report, by Incident Number

1100  
Page: 1

| Number                            | Time     | Date     | Nature          | Address | Loctn | Dsp |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------------|---------|-------|-----|
| Agency: Palouse Police Department |          |          |                 |         |       |     |
| 260320-01                         | 13:04:19 | 03/20/26 | Animal Vicious  |         |       | INA |
| 260321-01                         | 21:22:16 | 03/21/26 | Animal Problem  |         |       | INA |
| 260328-01                         | 10:53:20 | 03/28/26 | Animal Problem  |         |       | INA |
| 260330-01                         | 10:45:43 | 03/30/26 | Suspicious      |         |       | INA |
| 260330-02                         | 12:09:34 | 03/30/26 | Fraud           |         |       | INA |
| 260331-01                         | 14:24:56 | 03/31/26 | Parking Problem |         |       | INA |
| 260331-02                         | 14:35:54 | 03/31/26 | Parking Problem |         |       | INA |
| 260331-03                         | 15:59:59 | 03/31/26 | Animal Problem  |         |       | INA |
| 260401-01                         | 12:32:51 | 04/01/26 | Fraud           |         |       | INA |
| 260401-02                         | 13:17:13 | 04/01/26 | Fraud           |         |       | INA |
| 260401-03                         | 14:28:01 | 04/01/26 | Agency Assist   |         |       | INA |
| 260403-01                         | 08:49:44 | 04/03/26 | Animal Stray    |         |       | INA |
| 260408-01                         | 09:32:24 | 04/08/26 | Animal Problem  |         |       | INA |
| 260408-02                         | 09:32:43 | 04/08/26 | Animal Problem  |         |       | INA |
| 260410-01                         | 21:54:52 | 04/10/26 | Suspicious      |         |       | INA |
| 260411-01                         | 10:00:37 | 04/11/26 | Civil           |         |       | INA |
| Total Incidents for This Agency:  |          |          |                 |         |       | 16  |

260320-01  
260321-01  
260328-01  
260330-01  
260330-02  
260331-01  
260331-02  
260331-03  
260401-01  
260401-02  
260401-03  
260403-01  
260408-01  
260408-02  
260410-01  
260411-01

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Total Incidents for This Report: 16  
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Report Includes:

- All dates greater than `00:00:00 03/20/26`
- 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/rptspobqf-rplwlr.r3\_2 \*\*\*  
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