



City of Palouse
City Council Minutes
April 28, 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 7:02 PM

Councilmembers present: Bill Slinkard, Rainy Anderson, Jacquelyn Huff, Megan Cuellar

Staff present: City Administrator Misty La Follett

Mayor Sievers announced that Councilmember Mullendore has resigned his position effective immediately.

Councilmember Anderson moved to excuse Councilmembers Snyder and Echanove from the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Huff and unanimously approved (Y-4 | N-0 | A-0).

Mayor Sievers requested a change to the agenda allowing guest speaker Todd McLaughlin from Avista to address the Council immediately after Open Forum. Councilmember Slinkard moved to approve changing the agenda. Councilmember Huff seconded the motion. Agenda change was unanimously approved. (Y-4 | N-0 | A-0)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilmember Anderson moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting – April 14, 2026. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cuellar and unanimously approved (Y-3 | N-0 | A-1 Huff).

OPEN FORUM

Carmen Bolyard – Reviewing staff timesheets obtained from Public Records Request. Concerned that some employees received holiday pay July 3, 4 and 5 for the July 4 holiday. This creates a strain on City water and sewer funds. Tighter timesheet review is needed. Wants to see lunch hour waiver paperwork for City Administrator and Deputy Clerk.

Joe Ferlito – Thanked the staff for a well-run town, clean, low-crime and very neighborly. Looking forward to additional progress on potholes in the Highway 27 bridge coming into Palouse.

NEW BUSINESS

Todd McLaughlin from Avista Utilities discussed Avista's plans to replace and relocate the natural gas pipe that currently runs underneath the Highway 27 bridge into Palouse. The existing gas pipe was inspected by Avista last year and given "critical" status for replacement. The current location is vulnerable to flood or earthquake damage, and the pipe is not up to modern standards. A new 4-inch steel pipe will be installed in a new location that runs under City property and under the Palouse River. The new location presents minimal impact to City residents, and minimal environmental impacts. Permitting process is underway

and will include a public comment period. Construction to begin in the Fall of 2026, as soon as permitting is completed. Project updates will be posted on the City web site as they become available.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

PW Superintendent Wolf submitted a written report (attached). Councilman Slinkard requested that Superintendent Wolf attend future Council meetings to address Council questions.

POLICE REPORT

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

CITY ADMINSTRATOR REPORT

CA La Follett reported:

- Interviews are continuing for pool lifeguards. Lifeguards may assist with painting the pool before the start of the season, as a chance to get extra work hours and finish a much-needed project. Colfax pool has re-opened, so Palouse will not host the County competition this year. Possibly rotate with Colfax in future years. Pool opening date TBD, will open soon after school gets out.
- Councilmember Huff asked about possibly scheduling swim lessons later in the season when the weather and the pool water are both warmer. Might be easier on the kids, especially younger ones. CA La Follett will talk to the pool manager.
- Washington DOT will be adding an additional warning sign on the post near St. Elmo's to remind people that a stop is coming up. No concerns from Council.

OLD BUSINESS

Amending the Council Rules of Procedure:

Councilmember Anderson noted that some Council members do not have access to the online sharing tool originally proposed. She is working with the City's Information Technology advisor to select a different tool that will work for all Council members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Budget, Finance, Major Acquisitions, Chair Michael Echanove - No report
- Streets, Property, & Facilities, Chair Vacant - No report
- Personnel Committee, Chair Megan Cuellar - No report
- Water & Sewer, Chair John Snyder – No report
- Policy & Administration, Chair Rainy Anderson – Meeting coming up this week. Working on City Policies and Procedures Manual and will coordinate with Personnel Committee.

- Joint Fire Board, Chair Bill Slinkard – Recently met at the Public Safety Building. Working on improved coordination with the City on financial and administrative matters. Need to review the Letter of Agreement between the Joint Fire Board and the City. Has not been updated for many years and needs to clearly define roles and responsibilities of all parties.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Councilmember Anderson thanked Councilmember Mullendore for his service on the Council.

MAYOR’S REPORT

- Meeting soon with Budget Committee and Water/Sewer Committee.
- Department of Ecology is offering training on June 9 on wastewater management. Interested Council members contact the Mayor or City Administrator for more information.
- The Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council (IACC) annual conference is October 19-22 in Wenatchee. Provides excellent information and training on resources and strategies for improving City infrastructure. Interested Council members contact the City Administrator for more information.
- Congressman Michael Baumgartner will be visiting Palouse on May 8, around lunch time, as part of his regional tour. More details as soon as they become available.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilmember Cuellar moved to allow the payment of bills. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Anderson. Motion was unanimously approved (Y-4 | N-0 | A-0).

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Huff and unanimously approved (Y-4 | N-0 | A-0). The meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

APPROVED: _____

ATTEST: _____

DATE: _____

Palouse Police Department report for Palouse City Council meeting April 28, 2026:

Eleven calls for service with three being ordinance related since last council.

ZERO callouts.

Follow up to the last report in which I advised there were two open dog ordinance violation investigations ongoing. One of the dog owners allowed their dog to violate the “dog must be restrained” portion of the ordinance (PMC 6.08.045) for a fourth time into the same reporting party’s property. I had worked with the dog owner by documenting the first three instances and giving verbal then written warnings. This fourth violation resulted in the issuance of a \$52.00 citation. Further violations double the fine each time.

The second open dog ordinance violation investigation is closed. That dog owner has received verbal and written warnings. Should their dog become loose and roam the streets or neighbor’s property a citation will be issued.

Assisted a citizen in the locating and retrieval of a lost phone left at a business.

Handled multiple citizen inquires about Dabella salesmen going door to door. Dabella followed proper Palouse peddler’s permit protocol and submitted four applications for their employees and paid the appropriate fees for each one. All applicants passed the background check and were issued permits.

Responded to a citizen request for a civil standby to retrieve property from a former residence. Explained to both parties that I do not make determination as to what property belongs to whom but am only there to make sure there are no confrontations that may lead to assault/harassment and violation of criminal law. No issues.

On 4-13-26 I received confirmation via the mail that Palouse PD is in compliance with the 2025 In Service Training Mandate required by the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission. This is the fifth consecutive year since Palouse PD became a one officer operation that we have received this distinction. Misty has a copy of the certificate.

On 4-22-26 I attended a four hour training class held in Lacross by Education Service District out of Spokane. This was the School Threat Assessment Level 1 Training. I was familiar with most of the curriculum as I have participated in multiple threat assessments with GarPal admin staff but had yet to attend the actual training.

On 4-23-26 I completed four hours of online training.

04/24/26
12:52

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					
260410-01	21:54:52	04/10/26	Suspicious	S	INA
260411-01	10:00:37	04/11/26	Civil	N	INA
260415-01	08:34:54	04/15/26	Animal Problem	S	INA
260419-01	11:34:02	04/19/26	Suspicious	N	INA
260419-02	16:58:50	04/19/26	Found Property	N	INA
260420-01	12:34:31	04/20/26	Animal Problem	N	INF
260420-02	14:20:57	04/20/26	Lost Property	A	INA
260421-01	13:21:02	04/21/26	Traffic Hazard	S	INA
260423-01	11:13:19	04/23/26	Animal Stray	N	ACT
260423-02	13:54:36	04/23/26	Civil	N	INA
260424-01	08:15:09	04/24/26	Suspicious	S	ACT
Total Incidents for This Agency:				11	

Total Incidents for This Report: 11

Report Includes:

All dates greater than `00:00:00 04/10/26`
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

*** End of Report /tmp/rptBKhtAb-rplwisr.r3_1 ***

Public Works Superintendent Council Report

Date: April 23, 2026

WATER:

We will read meters starting tomorrow and finish by next Tuesday.

SEWER:

Chad has submitted his application for his OIT certification.

The sewer plant has decreased effluent flow since the rain has been lighter. We anticipate the flow will be double again after the rain fell yesterday and today since the river peaked out at 12.31 feet about a foot and a half below flood stage today.

STREETS:

We've had a couple gravel deliveries in the last couple of weeks.

ARTERIAL STREETS:

Chad has completed back blading and hauling gravel to repair the streets.

PARK:

We opened the restrooms last Monday for summer and fall.

CEMETERY:

Dom has been keeping up with the mowing. She continues to weed eat as that is a never-ending job.

Chad has been hauling the dirt away from the bank on the south end of the cemetery where the excess dirt goes after a full burial goes.

Mike will close an urn burial on Saturday. We will probably be doing more of that since the passing of Mark Kramer.

SPRAYING:

Mike switched from round up to broadleaf killer to get the dandelions all over town which includes the park, RV park, West Main strips, city strips going up to the reservoir, and the cemetery. He will switch back to round up when he can spray again.

RV PARK:

Chad scraped and sanded the roadside of kiosk and painted it. Mike and Chad put the new RV sign up. The other side will be done as time permits

RECYCLING BIN:

As most of you are aware the recycling bin is closed due to the truck that picks up the dumpster every week and is broke down and waiting for repairs. When it opens it is TBD.

Note:

I would like to say that I'm disappointed with the decision not to approve the budgeted items that were approved for Public Works. I spent a few hours getting quotes for the SCADA system and the pickup replacement. Now I'll have to start over getting quotes as prices are getting higher if approved in the couple of years.

At the same time, we're working with equipment and vehicles that are getting old, and it's becoming harder to keep things running reliably. Delaying replacements will likely lead to bigger costs down the road.

Since 2020 when I took this position the volume of water use has increased nearly 18 million gallons. In 2020 we pumped around 47.5 million gallons and in 2025 we pumped a little over 65 million gallons. With this amount of increase this should be concerning the citizens of Palouse. It also means more wastewater, and these are a couple of reasons needed for the SCADA system.

Mike