

PALOUSE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
Regular Council Meeting
February 8, 2022 @ 7:00 pm
Palouse Community Center 220 E. Main St

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Sievers called the Council Meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

ROLL CALL:

Deputy Clerk Misty La Follett took Roll Call.

Council members present Sarah Bofenkamp, Leslie Jo Sena, Bill Slinkard, Travis Deerkop, Robert Brooks, and Ann Barrington.

Councilmember absent: Sam Brink

Councilmember Brooks introduced a **MOTION** to excuse Councilmember Brink; **MOTION** was seconded by: Councilmember Bofenkamp. All other council members present approved, and the **MOTION** passed.

City staff present: Deputy Clerk (DC) Misty La Follett and Police Officer Joel Anderson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilmember Sena introduced a **MOTION** to approve the minutes from the regular council meeting on January 25, 2022; **MOTION** was seconded by: Councilmember Deerkop, and the **MOTION** passed.

Councilmember Barrington asked that the duplicate listing for the Policy Committee on January 25, 2022, minutes be removed.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Supt. Wolf was absent from the council meeting, but he provided Council with his written report.

*PW report attached to the minutes.

POLICE REPORT:

Officer Anderson presented his report to the Council. There have been thirteen calls for service and one call-out since the last council meeting.

Officer Anderson wanted to remind everyone that it is a misdemeanor not to wear your mask indoors, according to RCW 70.05.120(4). If he receives a call about someone not following this statute, he will investigate and forward it to the proper authorities, including L and I for businesses and the Whitman County Prosecutor's Office for individual violation.

*PD report attached to the minutes.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR/DEPUTY CLERK REPORT:

DC La Follett presented Council with a copy of the City's six-year Transportation Improvement Plan. This plan will need to be updated to include the Cove Sidewalk extension before the City receives the grant money for this project. Council will need to update this plan, conduct a public hearing, and sign a resolution before July 31, 2022.

DC La Follett presented Council also presented Council with a quote for installing alarms at the sewer plant and on the City's wells. Mayor Sievers stated that Verela had identified this as an issue, and it will be addressed in their upcoming report.

DC La Follett presented Council with the bid to replace the tarps for the swimming pool. The cost to replace these tarps is \$7,550. These funds will come from the pool levy, which the voters approved.

A liquor license for the new Rants and Raves was presented to Council for a vote to allow the Mayor to sign this document.

Councilmember Bofenkamp introduced a **MOTION** to allow the Mayor to sign the liquor license for Rants and Raves; **MOTION** was seconded by: Councilmember Barrington.

Mayor Sievers asked if Officer Anderson had any concerns, which he did not.

All other council members present approved, and the **MOTION** passed.

YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD REPORT:

Sam Snekvik presented the report to Council. Ms. Snekvik informed Council that the YAB had completed the survey questions and met with Principal Jones to allow the students to take the survey while at school. The YAB will also meet with the teachers to find an appropriate time to take the survey.

OLD BUSINESS: No old business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mayor called for an Executive Session at 7:20 pm to discuss potential litigation. The regular city council meeting resumed at 7:30 pm.

NEW BUSINESS:

Michelle Bly from TD & H Engineering provided Council with an update regarding the water system upgrade. The City has received the Public Works Board approval to move forward. TD & H Engineering has tightened up specifications, and the project will be ready to go out to bid pending approval from the Department of Health and the Public Works Board. The invitation to bid will be published this month, and it will be open for bid by March 16, 2022.

Mayor Sievers asked Ms. Bly to explain what the project was, and she stated it was to replace the looping water main lines on Church Street, Coulton Street, and Sgt. Jacob Demand Way. It would also include replacing some water meters and some hydrants.

Councilmember Brooks asked if any driveways or sidewalks would be disrupted, and she said that it would not as it was all gravel.

Councilmember Bofenkamp was concerned about the sidewalks downtown not having the snow removed. Councilmember Barrington said that the Policy Committee would review this policy and make recommendations to Council. The Council discussed this matter in more detail, including the large snow pile that accumulates by the school.

Mayor Sievers read the statement below regarding the separation with Chief Neumann:

In accordance with Chapter 2.28.020 of the Palouse Municipal Code, which gives the mayor the authority to appoint and remove police officers with the consent of Council, I hereby submit notice of my intent to sever our employment relationship with Police Chief Jerry Neumann effective immediately. I am requesting a motion from the Council to consent to severing the employment relationship between the City of Palouse and Police Chief Jerry Neumann.

Councilmember Sena introduced a **MOTION** consenting to the Mayor's action to separate from employment with Chief Neumann; **MOTION** was seconded by: Councilmember Barrington, and approved unanimously.

There was no further discussion, and all Council Members approved this motion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Policy & Administration, Chair Barrington: No report

Budget, Finance, & Major Acquisitions, Chair Bofenkamp: No report

Streets, Properties, & Facilities Chair Deerkop: No report

Personnel, Chair Brink: No report

Water and Sewer, Chair Slinkard: No report

Joint Fire Board, Chair Sena: No report

OPEN FORUM:

Chris Cook addressed the Council.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Value Planning Study for the sewer plant is complete, and Council will receive a copy of this report. After that, Verela will also have some input on this report.

A new City Administrator will be announced next week.

ALLOW PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Councilmember Bofenkamp introduced a **MOTION** to allow the payment of bills. Councilmember Slinkard seconded the **MOTION**; the **MOTION** passed.

The following checks are approved for payment:

Claims Paid	01/26/2022-02/08/2022	Ck. #12199-12231 & EFT	\$35,536.29
Payroll Paid	01/26/2022-02/28/2022	Ck. #12189-12209 & EFT	\$37,813.50

ADJOURN: Councilmember Slinkard MOVED to adjourn; Councilmember Brooks seconded the **MOTION**; the **MOTION** passed.

The council meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

APPROVED: _____ ATTEST: _____