

**City of Palouse**  
**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
*Tuesday, December 17, 2024*

*Note to persons reviewing this document: This is not a verbatim transcript. While an attempt has been made to document pertinent points, these minutes contain only a summary of the discussion and voting.*

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Sievers called the meeting to order at 7 PM

Councilmembers present at the meeting were Sarah Bofenkamp, Angie Griner, Leslie Sena, Molly Quigley, Rainy Anderson, Robert Brooks, and Ann Barrington.

\*In the following paragraphs, Councilmember(s) will be abbreviated as: "C."

**I. ROLL CALL:** DC Gaber took attendance; all council members were present  
City staff present: Deputy Clerk (DC) Jamie Gaber

**II. PUBLIC SAFETY TESTING (PST) ASSESSMENT: Presented by Mitch Lackey**

- A. Met with Officer Anderson, Mayor Sievers and City administrator La Follett
- B. Budget: 25 hours, including report
- C. Report submitted to City of Palouse
- D. Recommended community, city council and city staff engage in in-depth conversations to determine future plans for Palouse Police Department.
- E. Offered continued guidance from PST
- F. Update on actions taken by Officer Anderson in response to PST report (given by Mayor Sievers)
  - 1. Use of force policy updated
  - 2. Old evidence room cleaned out
  - 3. Taser training updated
  - 4. 2025 EVOG training set up
  - 5. Reached out to Sheriff's office; is invited to do all future trainings with Sheriff's Office
  - 6. Contacted Lexipol for quotes for policy manual updates
  - 7. Whitcom Emergency Management - reached out and will continue participation in regular meetings with law enforcement leaders, fire department leaders, and school superintendents in preparation for upcoming mock active shooter incident.
  - 8. Fitted and purchased new vest
- G. In accordance with section 6.2 of the Palouse City Council Rules of Procedure, C. Griner suggested the presence of a conflict of interest for C. Anderson and challenged her participation in the council discussion of the PST Report. A majority of council members agree that C. Anderson has a conflict of interest. The chair ruled that a conflict of interest exists for C. Anderson who honored the ruling.

### III. OPEN FORUM:

**Sean McCartney (read by Bev Pearce):** Supports having PD with local police officer, safety of children number 1 priority, and appreciates officer as a mentor

**Eddie Riddle:** Supports local PD and Officer Anderson, feels secure in town due to police presence

**Deana Szabo:** Supports Officer Anderson, appreciates small community with a PD

**Steve McGehee:** Former Palouse council member, helped to form and manage a police oversight committee in the past when police oversight was needed, with good results

**Katherine Keener:** Supports local PD and Officer Anderson

**Dave Tharp:** Past council member, has continuously supported local PD, good for community

**Rick Reams and Valerie Fisher:** Prefers in-town policing, supports Officer Anderson; will help with funding if needed

**Charles Golob:** Supports Officer Anderson

**Barb Hodson:** Personnel Committee working on new guidelines, would like a copy. Questioned liability of Police Department, if recommendations have been followed, and the need for oversight

**Patty Rippee:** Questioned why files have not been kept up to date at the PD

**Kelsey Blair:** Suggested Officer Anderson be placed on Admin leave, supports the City using County services for policing. Questioned why the budget has Mayor's salary at \$6,000

**Lesa Neumann:** Supports County providing policing services to Palouse, thinks Officer Anderson is over stating his qualifications

**Matt Collier:** Supports County providing policing services to Palouse

**Marsha Sandall:** Supports local PD and Officer Anderson, appreciative of help provided by Officer Anderson to her husband and others in the community. Concerned about response time if policing were provided by county.

**Joseph Ferlito:** Supports having PD with local police officer, believes it is important that officer knows the town, the people in it, and can get to them quickly

**Dana Anderson:** Suggested Officer Anderson be placed on Admin leave due to not being in complete compliance with policies, liability issues, and not responding to his texts. Also, thinks City should supply cell phones for employees

**Kevin Taylor:** Supports local PD and Officer Anderson, appreciates small community with a PD, noted women feel safe here and Officer Anderson cares for people and would be hard to replace

**Nancy Griffin:** Supports County providing policing services to Palouse, noted when school shooter threat occurred the County showed up. Budget at last hearing had many mistakes

**Jerry Neumann:** Noted as past Police Chief, never missed any trainings and kept records electronically, keeping taser and duty weapon trainings up to date through 2020. Distributed a Notice of Tort Claim to council members

**John Shuttleworth:** Supports local PD and Officer Anderson, noted in past laws did not appear to be enforced fairly, now balanced out. Officer Anderson shows up when help is needed, regardless of day/time. Willing to pay higher taxes to retain PD

**Ed Griner:** Requests City Council to address issues with Officer Anderson's compliance immediately, concerned with qualifications regarding carrying taser, gun, and no computer in patrol car.

**Aaron Flansburg:** Expressed thanks to all for caring about Palouse, PD important to maintain. Suggested conflict of interest policy be revisited as voters who placed member(s) on council are not being represented in current conversation, supports all council members be able to participate in conversations regarding city policies

**Karen Peltier:** Supports local PD, local officer knows people's needs and is essential to maintain high quality of life. Homelessness and drugs can invade a community quickly without a PD

**Cheryl Sanders:** Decision on PD needs to clearly wrap up as PD task force started investigation in 2021.

**Bradley Griffin:** Considers Officer Anderson a liability for the City, Officer needs supervision, to be in compliance with proper oversight. Questioned why PD is locked, camera covered, and why he is not visible during off hours. Also, questioned why the budget has Mayor's salary at Sievers at \$6,000

**Steve Omodt:** Good discussion

**Holly White:** Supports local PD

**Andree Marcus Rader:** Supports local PD and Officer Anderson, providing equitable policing, creates good environment for children to feel safe

**Written comments submitted by: Micheal Echanove, Nate Rowe, Noel Akin, and Sandra Krause-Ayers were read by Mayor Sievers.**

C. Griner introduced a **MOTION** to permit two people with extenuating circumstances who missed the deadline for signing up to speak to be included in open forum comments; the **MOTION** was seconded by C. Brooks; 3 yes, 3 no, and the **MOTION** failed.

C. Bofenkamp introduced a **MOTION** for a five-minute recess; the **MOTION** was seconded by C. Sena; Councilmembers Bofenkamp, Sena, Barrington, and Anderson voted yes, Councilmembers Griner, Quigley and Brooks voted no, and the **MOTION** passed.

Recessed at 8:51 PM  
Reconvened at 8:56 PM

#### **IV. OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **A. Ordinance 1034- 2024 Budget Amendment**

1. After discussion, the following motion was adopted

C. Barrington introduced a **MOTION** to adopt Ordinance No. 1034-2024 Budget Amendment; the **MOTION** was seconded by C. Sena; All council members approved, and the **MOTION** passed.

##### **B. Ordinance 1035- 2025 Budget Approval**

1. After discussion and amendment, the following motion was adopted

C. Griner introduced a **MOTION** to amend Ordinance 1035 line 512 52 40 00 to be \$4,725; the **MOTION** was seconded by C. Bofenkamp; All council members approved, and the **MOTION** passed.

C. Griner introduced a **MOTION** to amend Ordinance 1035 line 554 30 41 00 to be \$1,535; the **MOTION** was seconded by C. Sena; All council members approved, and the **MOTION** passed.

C. Griner introduced a **MOTION** to amend Ordinance 1035 line 589 99 00 00 to be \$26,978.25; the **MOTION** was seconded by C. Quigley; All council members approved, and the **MOTION** passed.

C. Brooks introduced a **MOTION** to amend Ordinance 1035 line 594 34 63 00 to be \$45,000; the **MOTION** was seconded by C. Griner; All council members approved, and the **MOTION** passed.

C. Bofenkamp introduced a **MOTION** to amend Ordinance 1035 line 361 11 04 12 to be \$8,500; the **MOTION** was seconded by C. Barrington; All council members approved, and the **MOTION** passed.

C. Anderson introduced a **MOTION** to adopt Ordinance 1035 - 2025 Budget as amended; the motion was seconded by C. Brooks; All council members approved, and the **MOTION** passed.

**C. RESOLUTION 2024-14; 2025 Salary Schedule:**

1. After discussion and amendment, the following motion was adopted

C. Bofenkamp introduced a **MOTION** to adopt Resolution 2024-14; 2025 Salary Schedule amended to have the Mayor’s monthly salary at \$250 and the Entry Level Public Works Assistant pay changed from “Hourly” to “Month;” the **MOTION** was seconded by C. Griner; 6 councilmembers voted to approve, C. Anderson abstained, and the **MOTION** passed.

**D. RESOLUTION 2024-15; 2025 Fee Schedule:**

1. After discussion, the following motion was adopted

C. Sena introduced a **MOTION** to adopt Resolution 2024-15, 2025 Fee Schedule; the **MOTION** was seconded by C. Anderson; All council members approved, and the **MOTION** passed.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Cancel 12/24/24 Council Meeting**

C. Brooks introduced a **MOTION** to cancel the regularly scheduled City Council meeting on December 24, 2024; the **MOTION** was seconded by C. Sena; All council members approved, and the **MOTION** passed.

**ADJOURN:** C. Bofenkamp introduced a **MOTION** to adjourn; the **MOTION** was seconded by C. Griner. All council members approved, and the **MOTION** was passed.

The council meeting Adjourned at 10:43 PM.

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

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

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