The Palo City Council met in open session on Monday, January 19, 2026, at the Palo Community Center in the Council Chambers. Mayor Busch led those present in the pledge of allegiance then called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Council members present: Van Kerckhove, Taylor Burgin, Doug Hanover, Jen Welton, and Darren Stoltenberg. Others Present: Jennifer Fencl, City Clerk; Clark Robertson, Public Works; Dan Morgan, City Attorney; and Michelle Cheever, City Engineer. Motioned by Welton, seconded by Hanover to approve the agenda. 5 Yeas, 0 Nay. Motion carried (5-0). Hanover motioned to approve the consent agenda. Stoltenberg second. 5 Yeas, 0 Nay. Motion carried (5-0).

CLAIMS REPORT

VENDOR	REFERENCE	AMOUNT
ABC DISPOSAL SYSTEMS, INC	SOLID WASTE	13,217.53
ALLEGRA CEDAR RAPIDS	PARK VISION BOARDS	1,404.22
ALLIANT ENERGY	GAS & ELECTRIC	10,833.60
ALTORFER INC	GENERATOR REPAIR	3,080.94
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, INC.	EASELS- VISION BOARDS	52.52
BOLTON & MENK INC	ENGINEERING	34,778.00
BRANDON EMRICH	TESTING & MILEAGE	156.18
CAMPBELL SUPPLY CO.	CLEANING GLOVES	15.99
CEDAR RAPIDS MUN. UTIL.	SEWER USAGE	17,924.85
CINTAS CORPORATION	CITY HALL/CC	764.58
CITY OF FAIRFAX	INSPECTOR	1,465.94
CJ COOPER & ASSOCIATES INC	DRUG TESTING DOT	45.00
CLARK ROBERTSON	MILEAGE	20.23
LINN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COO		299.05
CYNTHIA STIMSON	MENTOR	139.05
DELTA DENTAL OF IOWA	DENTAL INSURANCE	181.76
EFTPS	FED/FICA TAX	3,454.87
EFTPS	FED/FICA TAX	2,753.66
EFTPS	FED/FICA TAX	2,636.96
EFTPS	FED/FICA TAX	8,845.49
EO JOHNSON TECHNOLOGIES	COPIER	254.09
FUTURE LINE TRUCK EQUIPMENT	TRUCK SANDER- WIRE	131.25
WINTER SERVICES LLC	TREATED SALT	1,190.20
HACH COMPANY	CHEMICALS_WATER	212.05
HAWKEYE COMMUNICATION INC.	CITY HALL- ALARM	294.00
IMWCA	WORKER'S COMP	816.00
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	STATE TAX	1,663.32
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	SALES AND WET TAX	2,123.76
IOWA ONE CALL	LOCATES	16.20
IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	101.07
IPERS	IPERS	4,164.42
IPERS		-0.01
ITS	TECHNOLOGY	670
JENNIFER FENCL	MILEAGE-GO DADDY	934.16
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	SUPPLIES	25.42
JOSHUA DESPARD	ACCELERANT SUBSCRIP	120.00
KENWOOD RECORDS MGT INC.	RECYCLE BIN	16.85
LIFE TIME FENCE COMPANY INC.	FENCE REPAIR	625.00
LINN COUNTY PLAN. & DEV.	INSPECTIONS/MAINT	715.00
LINN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	CONTRACT FOR SERVICES	11,745.00
LYNCH DALLAS PC	LEGAL FEES	2,140.00
MENARDS SOUTH INC.	SUPPLIES	733.81
MENARDS-MARION	TABLES & SUPPLIES	369.72
MERCY PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATES	MAHAN- PHYSICAL	32.00
ALD INDUSTRIES INC.	METAL	372.14
MICROBAC LABORATORIES INC	TESTING	94.25
MUNICIPAL SUPPLY, INC.	METERS	3,061.00
MUNSON ELECTRIC INC	PRESSURE WASHER	423.80

NCL OF WISCONSIN INC	testing	825.36
NOVA SEEMAN	NOV CLEANING	2,100.00
OMNI SITE INC.		1,479.00
PALO COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE ASS	PHONE/INTERNET	674.20
PLUNKETT'S PEST CONTROL INC.	WT- PEST	80.25
RED LION RENEWABLES LLC	SOLAR PANELS	986.07
ROTO-ROOTER INC.	INI	20,733.92
S0LBERG'S INC	NAME PLATES	44.85
STATE CHEMICAL SOLUTIONS	CHEMICALS	1,748.36
THE GAZETTE	COUNCIL MINUTES	451.75
TRENT MILLER	EMS TRAINING DAY	25.00
US BANK	STAMPS/SUPPLIES	61.66
US CELLULAR	CELL PHONE	280.90
US POSTAL SERVICE	POSTAGE	500.00
VIKING INDUSTRIAL PAINTING LLC	WT MAINT.	4,952.00
WELLMARK BC/BS	HEALTH INSURANCE	2,280.40
WELLMARK BC/BS	HEALTH INSURANCE	2,298.45
WEX BANK	FIRE DEPT FUEL	167.36
Accounts Payable Total		165,958.96
Total Paid On: 12/19/25		13,180.69
Total Paid On: 1/02/26		8,979.52
Total Paid On: 1/16/26		8,938.17
Total Payroll Paid		31,098.38
***** REPORT TOTAL *****		197,057.34
GENERAL		83,460.18
ROAD USE		17,390.68
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		3,874.29
ROAD CIP PROJECTS		714.00
SEWER CIP PROJECTS		23,791.42
WATER		31,256.38
SEWER		36,570.39
TOTAL FUNDS		197,057.34

Deputy Shriver gave the Linn County Sheriff's Report. Met the required 87 hours and received 31 calls.

Fencl gave the clerk's report. There were 57 delinquent letters, 23 shut off courtesy calls, 1 shut off's, 1 nuisance letter. Completed year end processes and reports. Worked on FY26 budget amendment and FY27 budget numbers. Completed training session with Cynthia from Fairfax. Prepared W-2 and 1099 forms. Begin transition to Edmunds accounting software. Attended budget and CIP meetings to prepare the FY2027 budget. Meeting prep for several council special meetings. Working on phone and internet issues. Allison completed the first issue of a quarterly newsletter called the Palo Post.

Robertson gave the maintenance report. Plowed snow, sanded roads, and uncovered a water valve under an asphalt road. Met with Linn County Secondary Roads about coordinating work. Continued work on the Road Use Agreement with DAEC. Prepared for DNR inspection and completed end-of-year water plant reports. Backwashed filters and completed monthly water testing and meter reads. Assisted with recalibration of water plant instruments. Roto-Rooter was in town for maintenance. Replaced heater in fire sprinkler room. HVAC unit for city offices fixed and working with contractors to repair dampers in generator room and other units. Gave Council member Burgin and Mayor Busch a tour of the city facilities and buildings. Worked on the budget and Capital Improvements Plan. Organizing a Beautification Committee meeting to prepare for spring projects. Assisted with Palo Post, continued coordination with Parks and Rec, worked on a baseball field lease agreement, and filled the majority of committee positions. Park vision boards are up at City Hall and will be put on park signs in the spring. Met with Edmunds for project kick off. Court appearance. Meeting with Cedar Rapids about Ellis Road manhole. Meeting with ICAP insurance to review coverage. Planning for sound improvements to council chambers and evaluating options for a dedicated laptop for virtual meetings and Teams calls.

Chief Andrew Lutter gave the fire department report. He reviewed their 2025 annual report highlighting community involvement activities and fundraising efforts as well as a summary of membership, equipment, training, and call history. For the month there were 10 calls- 6 medical, 2 false alarms, and 2 mutual aid. Upcoming fire training with Chief McBarney from Monroe Township. The Council members thanked the volunteers that make up the fire department for their service to the community.

Robertson gave the Parks & Rec Committee update. The basketball clinic was very successful. Open gym has had great attendance. T-ball registration is posted and very excited for year 2.

Mayor Busch thanked the Council, staff, and former Mayor Van Kerckhove for assisting with the transition. The city issued proclamations to recognize two Iowa Army National Guardsmen killed in action in Palmyra, Syria. January 13, 2026 was proclaimed as SSG William Howard and SSG Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar Day.

Mayor opens agenda related audience comments at 6:49 pm. No discussion. Closed comments at 6:50 pm.

Paul Kruse from PTMA Financial Solutions gave a presentation on the Iowa Public Agency Investment Trust. After the presentation, it was motioned by Van Kerckhove, seconded by Stoltenberg to approve **Resolution 011926A, Adopting Iowa Public Agency Investment Trust Policy.** 5 Yeas, 0 Nay. Motion carried (5-0).

Motioned by Burgin, seconded by Welton to approve **Resolution 011926B Setting Date for a Public Hearing on Designation of the Prairie Vista Phase 3 Housing Urban Renewal Area and on Urban Renewal Plan and Project for February 17, 2026.** 5 Yeas, 0 Nay. Motion carried (5-0).

Motioned by Welton, seconded by Van Kerckhove to approve **Resolution 011926C Set Public Hearing Date on the Proposed Issuance of Private School Revenue Bonds (Xavier School Project), Series 2026**. 5 Yeas, 0 Nay. Motion carried (5-0).

Motioned by Van Kerckhove, seconded by Hanover to approve **Resolution 011926D Set Public Hearing Date for Proposed Updates to the City of Palo Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)**. 5 Yeas, 0 Nay. Motion carried (5-0).

Motioned by Welton, seconded by Stoltenberg to approve **Resolution 011926E Set Public Hearing Date for FY26 Budget Amendment #1**. 5 Yeas, 0 Nay. Motion carried (5-0).

Motioned by Welton, seconded by Hanover to **TABLE** **Resolution 011926F Duane Arnold Haul Route Approval.** 5 Yeas, 0 Nay. Motion carried (5-0).

Motioned by Welton, seconded by Burgin to approve **Resolution 011926G Naming Official Newspaper, Setting 2026 Meeting Dates, Appointing Mayor Pro-tem**. 5 Yeas, 0 Nay. Motion carried (5-0).

Motioned by Van Kerckhove, seconded by Stoltenberg to approve **Resolution 011926H Naming Depositories**. 5 Yeas, 0 Nay. Motion carried (5-0).

Motioned by Hanover, seconded by Welton to approve **Resolution 011926I ACH Signature Resolution**. 5 Yeas, 0 Nay. Motion carried (5-0).

Motioned by Van Kerckhove, seconded by Stoltenberg to approve **Resolution 011926J Community Center Rental Rate Increase**. 5 Yeas, 0 Nay. Motion carried (5-0).

Motioned by Welton, seconded by Van Kerckhove to **TABLE** **Resolution 011926K Ballfield Rental Rates**. 5 Yeas, 0 Nay. Motion carried (5-0).

Motioned by Van Kerckhove, seconded by Stoltenberg to approve **Resolution 011926L Establishing a Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Position**. 5 Yeas, 0 Nay. Motion carried (5-0).

Motioned by Van Kerckhove, seconded by Hanover to approve **Resolution 011926M 28E Establishing an Adopt-a-Street Program**. 5 Yeas, 0 Nay. Motion carried (5-0).

Motioned by Van Kerkhove, seconded by Welton to approve **Resolution 011926N Housing Rehabilitation Assistance Program Service Agreement with ECICOG**. 5 Yeas, 0 Nay. Motion carried (5-0).

Discussion was had about the can containers at parks and getting them picked up in the fall.

Discussion was had on West Linn Community Groups support request for 2026 Palo Fun Days. Motioned by Van Kerckhove, seconded by Burgin to approve the request and increase the city's contribution from $3,000 to $5,000. 5 Yeas, 0 Nay. Motion carried (5-0).

Discussion was had on Scout Troop 766 fee waiver request. Motioned by Stoltenberg, seconded by Burgin to approve the request

subject to participation in the Adopt-a-Street Program. 5 Yeas, 0 Nay. Motion carried (5-0).

Discussion was had on Palo Iowa Firefighters Association fee waiver request. Motioned by Burgin, seconded by Van Kerckhove to approve the request. 5 Yeas, 0 Nay. Motion carried (5-0).

Discussion was had on rate increase for Brandon Emrich for obtaining the Public Water Operator Certification. Motioned by Van Kerckhove, seconded by Hanover to approve the $1 rate increase. 5 Yeas, 0 Nay. Motion carried (5-0).

Discussion was had on approval of the Palo Post newsletter. Motioned by Welton, seconded by Van Kerckhove to approve the quarterly newsletter. 5 Yeas, 0 Nay. Motion carried (5-0).

Discussion was had on increasing the internet speed at City Hall and Public Works. Motioned by Burgin, seconded by Hanover to approve the quote for increasing to 250M for $74.95 per month per location. 5 Yeas, 0 Nay. Motion carried (5-0).

Discussion was had on the 2026 sealcoat bid. Motioned by Welton, seconded by Van Kerckhove to approve the 2026 bid at the rates presented. 5 Yeas, 0 Nay. Motion carried (5-0).

Motioned by Welton, seconded by Hanover to introduce and approve the first reading of ORDINANCE 88-2026 **an Ordinance Amending Chapter 26 "Beautification Committee" of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Palo, Iowa** to allow residents outside city limits to serve on the committee. Roll call. Motion carried (5-0).

Mayor opens general audience comments at 7:54 pm. Kendra presented a community and economic development grant opportunity for "The Vault at 606 First Street" that needs the city to submit as the applicant. Requested the matter to be on the February Council agenda. Closed comments at 8:06 pm.

New Business-
Old Business-

Motioned by Welton, seconded by Stoltenberg to adjourn at 8:07 pm. Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Fencl, City Clerk.