

**YATES CENTER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
AUGUST 7, 2023**

Yates Center City Council met in regular session on Monday, August 7, 2023, at City Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Weston called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Roll call as follows: Barney, Reed, Stewart, Atkin, Cavender, and Kee. Cathcard and Shaffer were absent. Other city officials present included: City Attorney Brian Duncan, Police Chief Michael Strode, Police Officer Jacob Morrison, Water Supervisor Scott Grogg, Street Supervisor Rodney Ryther and City Clerk Janet Thompson.

AGENDA AMENDED & APPROVED

Kee moved Code mowing for Tax Sale Property just after approving minutes and as an executive session.

Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Atkin to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES APPROVED

Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Cavender to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2023 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION-
ATTORNEY/CLIENT**

Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Atkin to enter into a 10-minute executive session, in the council room, for attorney/client privilege for the purpose of discussing with the city attorney matters of a confidential character. Motion carried unanimously and council entered into executive session at 7:02 pm to reconvene at 7:12 pm.

Meeting called back into order at 7:12 pm.

Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Atkin that any fees incurred in 2023 from the city before purchase of property at the Tax Sale would be forgiven to the new owner. Motion carried unanimously.

JOHN RIGHINI-CODE MOWING

John Righini was asked if he had anything after the previous motion and he did not.

CITY ATTORNEY

Duncan had nothing.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS
ADMINISTRATIVE
ENGAGEMENT LETTER**

Kee read through the engagement letter from Jarred, Gilmore and Phillips. Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Cavender to accept the letter, and direct the Mayor to sign the letter. Motion carried unanimously.

CITY PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Council members have received multiple complaints about the Fire Department, especially weed eating in the front. The pocket park has had multiple complaints as well. The owner of Green Acres Lawn Care will be contacted about these issues.

The City Hall building needs some maintenance, especially on the back of the building. More discussion will take place in the coming months.

CITY DOMAIN

Atkin discussed that the city's domain (cityofyatescenter.com) is not considered a government domain. He proposed applying for a .gov domain and shortening the name. Motion was made by Atkin, seconded by Kee to allow the Mayor to sign the letter that Atkin had drafted. Motion carried unanimously.

**SAFETY
LIFETIME BURN PERMITS**

Since the County has lifetime burn permits, the City has had numerous residents ask if the City is going to do these as well. Since they are free, it will not be a budget issue. Motion was made by Atkin, seconded by Kee to have the City Attorney draft an ordinance permitting lifetime burn permits. This will begin in 2024.

**FIRST RESPONDER EMPLOYMENT
PROTECTION ORDINANCE**

Atkin noted that some first responders are not able to respond to an emergency call in fear that they could possibly lose their job. Motion was made by Atkin, seconded by Kee to have the City Attorney draft an ordinance for the Employee Protection. Motion carried with Barney opposing.

**PUBLIC WORKS
POSTAL BARCODING MODULE**

The post office has reached out and let us know that after the first of the year, they will no longer accept our postcard water bills without the bar coding. The City Clerk presented a quote from Jayhawk Software for an additional module for the water billing to imprint this barcoding on the postcards. The initial cost is \$825.00 and support/maintenance contract will be increased by \$25 per year. Motion was made by Atkin, seconded by Kee to approve the purchase of the Barcoding module for \$825.00. Motion carried unanimously.

LOADER WINDOW

The front loader window was cracked during the July 14th wind storm. Ryther had one quote, but it was requested that he get at least one other. Ryther will get that done and council will discuss once that is presented.

DRAINAGE DITCH EAST OF WATER PLANT/BUILDING SITE

Street and water departments got together and cleaned the ditch, cut a tree down and purchased 2 x 6 cement blocks from Payless Concrete that the County picked up and delivered to the site. This should help the ditch from eroding.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- ATTORNEY/CLIENT

Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Atkin to enter into a 10-minute executive session, in the council room, for attorney/client privilege for the purpose of discussing with the city attorney matters of a confidential character. Motion carried unanimously and council entered into executive session at 8:00 pm to reconvene at 8:10 pm.

Meeting called back into order at 8:10 pm.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Mayor read a thank you note from Bear Perez for the 4-H Showmanship sponsored by the City. He also read a thank you note from Allen & Lynda Taylor thanking the city workers for all their hard work picking up limbs.

The Mayor reminded council that the City's budget hearing will be next Tuesday, August 15 at 7:00 pm at City Hall.

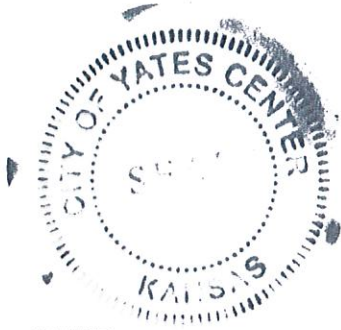
CLAIMS AND VOUCHERS


Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Cavender, to pay the claims and vouchers as of July 24 in the amount of \$401,662.75. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Cavender, to pay the claims and vouchers as of August 7 in the amount of \$92,070.21. Motion carried unanimously.

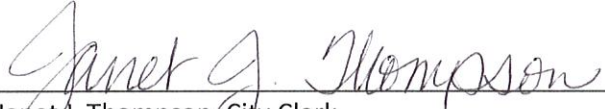
ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Cavender, seconded by Kee to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Council adjourned at 8:17 pm.




Justin W. Weston, Mayor

ATTEST:


Janet J. Thompson, City Clerk

Approved August 21, 2023