

**YATES CENTER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
DECEMBER 4, 2023**

Yates Center City Council met in regular session on Monday, December 4, 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, Stewart, Atkin, Cathcard, and Kee with one vacant position. Shaffer and Cavender were absent. Other city officials present included: City Attorney Brian Duncan, Police Chief Michael Strode, Police Officer Vinny Baker, Police Officer Chris Bowman, Street Supervisor Rodney Ryther, Deputy City Clerk Chelsea Goodson, and City Clerk Janet Thompson.

AGENDA AMENDED & APPROVED

Kee added Size of Council to Administrative and Lawn Mower to Public Works. 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 Atkin to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2023 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

ELIZABETH MANN

The mayor introduced Elizabeth Mann to the council. She is the new reporter for the YC News.

CASEY DIVER

Mr. Diver spoke briefly of his frustration with the water bills arriving so late in the month. They are taken to the post office on the first working day of the month. He called the Moran post office as Yates Center's was not open yet. Their city is using full page statements, which requires stuffing an envelope and more expensive to mail.

Mr. Diver also took time to thank the street department and council for use of the water truck during fair to keep dust down.

CITY ATTORNEY

Duncan had nothing.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS
ADMINISTRATIVE
ENCUMBRANCE DISCUSSION**

A short discussion was held that every committee needs to get their encumbrances together for the next meeting.

INTERSECTION SITE TRIANGLES

A discussion was held on site triangles at intersections. Ryther picked an intersection and it was drawn at 60'. Council would like to make this 45' if it is not already, then all shrubs and trees in the triangle area would need trimmed. Ordinance will need to be checked to see what the footage is set at.

COLA RAISES

Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Cathcard to give City employees a 5% Cost of Living Adjustment effective January 1, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

FORMER AIRPORT PROPERTY

Atkin has reached out to the state several times by phone and email and still waiting on replies. Hopefully he will have information by the next meeting.

HISTORIC STRUCTURES PRESERVATION

Atkin stated he helped put lights up around the buildings on the square and was able to see some structural damages to most of the buildings. Some research needs to go into some grants or funding for the preservation of historical buildings not only to keep the buildings in place, but also as a safety factor for our citizens.

COUNCIL SIZE

Kee stated what he would like his motion to be and then a discussion ensued. The consensus is to reduce the size of the council. Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Cathcard to:

- 1) Abolish both wards and all future elections to be city-wide.
- 2) To reduce the council from 8 to 4 by January 2026 by not holding an election in 2025. The next election for council would be 2027. All council members will continue to serve the term for which each was elected.
- 3) The election for mayor shall remain unchanged and take place in 2025 by city-wide vote. Motion carried with Barney opposing.

Motion was made by Cathcard, seconded by Kee to change the charter ordinance to reflect the quorum to be 4 instead of 5 starting January 1, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNCILMAN CAVENDER

Cavender arrived at 7:31 pm.

SAFETY**ENCUMBRANCE DISCUSSION**

Discussion was held under Administrative.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION-
ATTORNEY/CLIENT**

Motion was made by Atkin, seconded by Kee to enter into a 10-minute executive session, in the council room, with Council, Mayor, City Attorney, City Clerk, Police Chief and Assistant Police Chief 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 7:35 pm to reconvene at 7:45 pm. Meeting called back into order at 7:45 pm.

Motion was made by Atkin, seconded by Cavender to go back into executive session for another 10 minutes in the council room with the same parties. Motion carried unanimously and council entered into executive session at 7:45 pm to reconvene at 7:55 pm. Meeting called back into order at 7:55 pm.

PUBLIC WORKS

ENCUMBRANCE DISCUSSION

Discussion was held under Administrative.

CRACK SEALING MACHINE/MATERIAL

Ryther had a quote from Crafc0 and had been given a short demonstration of how it works to fill the cracks in streets. He would also be able to use it on the highways where needed. He most likely will not start until after the first of the year. Council asked that he get at least 2 more quotes and bring back to the table. Cavender mentioned another option that KDOT is using. Once Ryther receives other quotes, he will bring back to the table.

WATER/SEWER RATE INCREASE

A short discussion was held on raising the water and sewer rates. In order to qualify for federal grants/loans, the city has to be in a certain percentile in the state. Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Atkin to increase both water and sewer rates by 4% effective January 1, 2024. City Attorney will draft the two ordinances. Motion carried with Cavender opposing.

SOFTWARE SUPPORT RENEWAL

An invoice was presented for the sewer plant software support in the amount of \$962.00. Motion was made by Stewart, seconded by Cathcard to allow the City Clerk to pay the invoice to keep the support active. Motion carried unanimously.

LAWN MOWER

Discussion was held on purchasing a lawn mower for mowing city property in lieu of contracting the mowing. Ryther stated the city would need to purchase 2 mowers. He also stated that once they hire another person for the parks/streets there would be ample employees to mow, with the streets and water departments each with 3 employees. More discussion to take place at the next meeting.

PARKS & PUBLIC LANDS

ENCUMBRANCE DISCUSSION

Discussion was held under Administrative.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Mayor had nothing.

CLAIMS AND VOUCHERS

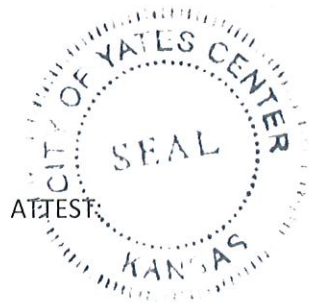
Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Cathcard, to pay the claims and vouchers in the amount of \$126,852.01. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Cathcard, seconded by Kee to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Council adjourned at 8:20 pm.



Justin W. Weston, Mayor


Janet J. Thompson, City Clerk

Approved December 18, 2023