

**YATES CENTER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
DECEMBER 18, 2023**

Yates Center City Council met in regular session on Monday, December 18, 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: Stewart, Atkin, Cathcard, Cavender and Kee with one vacant position. Barney and Shaffer were absent. Other city officials present included: City Attorney Brian Duncan, Police Chief Michael Strode, Assistant Police Chief Vinny Baker, Police Officer Jacob Morrison, Street Supervisor Rodney Ryther, Water Supervisor Scott Grogg, Deputy City Clerk Chelsea Goodson, and City Clerk Janet Thompson.

AGENDA AMENDED & APPROVED

Cathcard added under Safety the Intersection of Chellis and Main. Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Cathcard to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES APPROVED

Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Cavender to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2023 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

GINA ROBBINS

Mrs. Robbins was not present.

CITY ATTORNEY

Duncan spoke to the council about adding items to the agenda. He requested if they are not the chairperson, to contact the chairperson and then add to the agenda or the chairperson can. He also encouraged any council member to contact him with any questions.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS
ADMINISTRATIVE
ENCUMBRANCE DISCUSSION**

The repair of the back of City Hall was discussed but there will be enough in the budget to pay for it next year, so no encumbrances.

FORMER AIRPORT PROPERTY

Atkin has been in touch with the state about grants for repairs, upgrades, etc. Most of the grants are a 90/10. He has also been in touch with the FFA out of Ft. Worth as they will be in charge for our area.

HISTORIC STRUCTURE PRESERVATION

Duncan advised that any preservation/renovation would have to go through the Kansas Historical Society before anything could be done. If a person is just wanting to board up windows/doors to keep out weather or animals, that is fine to do.

INCREASE AMOUNTS FOR APPROVAL A short discussion was held and because of the increase in prices, motion was made by Kee, seconded by Cathcard to raise the approval amount from \$500 to \$1,500 for supervisors and from \$1,000 to \$5,000 for chairpersons. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE CMB-CASEY'S Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Cavender to approve the CMB (Cereal Malt Beverage) license for Casey's General Store from 1/1/2024 – 12/31/2024. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE CMB-G & W Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Cavender to approve the CMB (Cereal Malt Beverage) license for G & W Foods from 1/1/2024 – 12/31/2024. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE CMB-PETE'S Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Cavender to approve the CMB (Cereal Malt Beverage) license for Pete's of Erie from 1/1/2024 – 12/31/2024. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE CMB-PIZZA HUT Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Cavender to approve the CMB (Cereal Malt Beverage) license for Pizza Hut from 1/1/2024 – 12/31/2024. Motion carried unanimously.

ADOPT FIXED ASSET RESOLUTION Duncan presented Resolution #362-Resolution Concerning Accounting Procedures and Fiscal Procedures and Preparation of Financial Statements and Financial Reports for the City of Yates Center, Kansas.

Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Atkin to adopt Resolution #362, and allow the mayor to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

SALES TAX TRANSFER Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Cavender to allow the City Clerk to make the sales tax transfer to the various funds before the end of the year. Motion carried unanimously.

EMPLOYEE BENEFIT TRANSFER Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Stewart to allow the City Clerk to make the employee benefit transfer to the general fund before the end of the year. Motion carried unanimously.

PAY CHECK DISTRIBUTION

Since the office will be closed next Monday and Tuesday, December 25 and 26, some employees have asked about pay day (normally would be on the 26th) and wanting to know if the council would consider pay check distribution on Friday, December 22. City Clerk said she could get them done in time for employees to have them on Friday. Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Stewart to allow the City Clerk to cut and distribute pay check on December 22. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL SIZE

The mayor started a discussion on how to get the council down to 4. He stated that it is not in the best interest of the city to have an election of all 4 council members in one year. Elections are staggered now and needs to remain the same. City Attorney will do some research and possibly discuss at the next meeting.

209 W. MADISON

Discussion was held on this property. The owner, according to the county appraiser, has stated he does not own this property. For the safety of citizens, this house needs to be demolished. Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Cavender to have the city attorney draw up a resolution that this is a nuisance and dilapidated and not repairable for the mayor to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

**SAFETY
ENCUMBRANCE DISCUSSION**

Motion was made by Cathcard, seconded by Kee to encumber \$1,500.00 into Capital Outlay to help with the 2024 USDA Grant for purchase of body cameras and tasers for the Police Department. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Atkin, seconded by Kee to encumber \$10,000 into Capital Outlay for the creation of a training center in the industrial park. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion on a new generator for the Fire Department. The current generator had to be worked on for close to 2 hours before the Christmas parade and only lasted a short time. They had to borrow one to make it through the parade. Atkin had 3 bids all at \$2,599.00. Kirby's Super Sport in Chanute has one in stock. Atkin stated it could be encumbered or purchase. After a short discussion, motion was made by Atkin, seconded by Kee to purchase the generator from Kirby's Super Sport not to exceed \$2,600.00. Motion carried unanimously.

SPEED LIMIT ORDINANCE

Duncan stated he had not created the ordinance for the Madison speed limit because Chief Strode had talked to him after the last meeting possibly making all residential streets 20 mph. Most of the Council was opposed to this. Duncan will proceed with the ordinance for Madison Street.

CHELLIS & MAIN INTERSECTION

Right now there is a yield sign on the west bound Chellis and a yield sign on the north bound Main. Discussion was whether to put a 4-way stop or only put stop signs on Chellis. Motion was made by Cathcard, seconded by Kee to put stop signs on Chellis as a trial. If this is not working, Council will revisit. Motion carried unanimously.

**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, and 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 7:46 pm to reconvene at 7:56 pm. Meeting called back into order at 7:56 pm.

**PUBLIC WORKS
ENCUMBRANCE DISCUSSION**

Street Supervisor Ryther presented 3 items for drainage improvements. The first for South Green and South Street for \$5,000. The second for the West ditch of Wilson and Green for \$5,000. The third for Green and Park for the cement bridge on Park for \$12,000. Motion was made by Cathcard, seconded by Cavender to encumber \$22,000 for drainage improvement out of commodities. Motion carried unanimously.

Water/Sewer Supervisor Grogg presented items for water line improvements, newer vehicle, and new shop heat. For the water line improvements, he would like to replace the lines on Washington from Lincoln to Naylor with 4" pipe. When the car wash is in use, citizens around the area lose water pressure. He was asked if 6" line would work better. Also was asked about a hydrant, and he can put another one in. He changed his request from \$11,000 for 4" line to \$20,000 for 6" line plus a new hydrant.

Atkin asked about getting water line ran where the fire training center is going to be located and also 2 hydrants. This would also be 6" line. The total for this would be \$20,000.

Grogg had talked to Twin Motors and Crow Molie about a vehicle exchange like what was done several years ago. Neither dealership does this. He talked with Paul Barrara and he researched and found some 2022 and 2023 trucks. His recommendation was a 2022 4WD with 15,000 miles for \$32,000 and estimated trade-in for current truck would be \$10,000. Grogg would like to encumber between \$22,000 and \$25,000.

Grogg presented 2 quotes for vented heat in the new shop. ACE quoted \$8,530 and CDL quoted \$10,242. Grogg was asked if he wanted to purchase rather than encumber since this is December. He stated he did. Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Stewart to purchase vented heaters from ACE not to exceed \$8,600. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Cathcard, seconded by Kee to encumber \$40,000 for water line improvements under upgrades. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Cathcard, seconded by Kee to encumber \$25,000 for a newer truck. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE ORDINANCE 1177

Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Cathcard to approve Ordinance #1177 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING YATES CENTER CITY CODE CHAPTER 15, ARTICLE 1, SECTION 15-124 CONCERNING WATER RATES EXCEPT COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE ORDINANCE 1178

Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Atkin to approve Ordinance #1178 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING YATES CENTER CITY CODE CHAPTER 15, ARTICLE 1, SECTION 15-125 CONCERNING COMMERCIAL WATER RATES. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE ORDINANCE 1179

Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Atkin to approve Ordinance #1179 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING YATES CENTER CITY CODE CHAPTER 15, ARTICLE 1, SECTION 15-204 CONCERNING SEWER RATES. Motion carried unanimously.

UNCOLLECTIBLE WATER BILLS

Council was presented with a list of delinquent water bills that need to be sent to Kansas Setoff or written off. Motion was made by Stewart, seconded by Kee to allow City Clerk to send delinquent water bills in the amount of \$7,360.57 to Kansas Setoff for payment. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Atkin to allow the City Clerk to write off delinquent water bills from deceased customers in the amount of \$859.75. Motion carried unanimously.

LAWN MOWERS

Ryther had called Eureka to the Hustler dealer and priced a 60" zero turn mower. This was \$14,500. He said they will also need a 72" finish mower they could pull behind the tractor. A trailer would also be needed to haul the mowers. It was also noted that the pool grass needs to be bagged as not to blow into the pool. This could also be used at the pocket park. A push mower with a bagger was suggested. Ryther will get more prices on what was talked about.

**PARKS & PUBLIC LANDS
ENCUMBRANCE DISCUSSION**

No encumbrances were done.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Mayor had nothing.

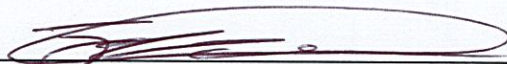
CLAIMS AND VOUCHERS

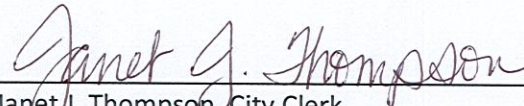
Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Cathcard, to pay the claims and vouchers in the amount of \$111,484.66. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Cathcard, seconded by Cavender to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Council adjourned at 8:50 pm.




Justin W. Weston, Mayor


Janet J. Thompson, City Clerk

Approved January 2, 2024