

**YATES CENTER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
MARCH 4, 2024**

Yates Center City Council met in regular session on Monday, March 4, 2024, 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, Shaffer, Cavender and Kee with one vacant position. Other city officials present included: City Attorney Brian Duncan, Police Chief Michael Strode, Assistant Police Chief Vinson Baker, Police Officer Christopher Bowman, and City Clerk Janet Thompson.

**AGENDA AMENDED & APPROVED**

Kee removed Code Enforcement discussion and added City Hall building under Administrative and an Executive Session- Attorney/Client under Safety. 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 February 20 and 26, 2024 meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

**CITY ATTORNEY**

Duncan had nothing.

**CAITLIN RALSTIN & BLAKE LASLEY -  
WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD**

Caitlin Ralstin and Blake Lasley were present to ask for permission to use Delay Stadium for the annual petting zoo. They thought it would be a good idea to have an area close to the grade school so students don't have to be bused. This event will be held April 12 and the Yates Center High School FFA during the Week of the Young Child. They would like to have bathrooms available and water for the animals. Council agreed to allow the petting zoo at Delay Stadium.

**CITY ATTORNEY**

Duncan had nothing at this time.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
INFLATABLES ON YC DAYS**

Barney spoke about using the lot East of the library for anchor purposes in case of wind. This was asked of and approved last year, and it is approved this year as well.

## **CITY HALL BUILDING**

Tim Gibson had given Ryther a rough estimate of what it would cost to fix the back of City Hall. He has talked to two contractors and asked them to give bids. Council requested the bid be put in not only the YC News, but also the Lola Register. Also be put on facebook and the City's website. Once the bid specs are completed and published, council wants the bids back in approximately 30 days. Request work to be completed by November 1 and that they have the insurance required.

## **SAFETY POLICE CAR REPLACEMENT**

Since the loss of the police car on February 22, insurance has sent an estimate of payment of a little over \$49,000. Chief Strode is still compiling an inventory of items inside the car and will get that turned in to insurance. Chief Strode presented a quote from Superior Service for \$51,388.71. Motion was made by Cathcard, seconded by Shaffer to waive the bid process. Motion carried unanimously. Motion was made by Cathcard, seconded by Kee to purchase a replacement vehicle from Superior Service for no more than \$52,000, with the majority of the funds coming from the insurance proceeds. Motion carried unanimously.

Cathcard also mentioned he would like to get PD up to 4 cars, because at this point, they are shuffling cars to cover shifts. Hopefully the latest grant applied for will come through plus the sales tax revenue, this is feasible. There is money in the Emergency Vehicle fund currently to purchase another vehicle, so motion was made by Cathcard, seconded by Kee to allow the Chief to purchase a second vehicle from Superior Service and all the equipment that goes inside the vehicle for no more than \$60,000. Motion carried unanimously.

## **UPDATE ON DISPATCH CONTRACT**

Cathcard read the letter received around 3:30 today, March 4, from Sheriff Jeffrey McCollough. He had been invited to the meeting in case Council had questions for him. He declined and left the letter with the City Clerk. After reading the letter before the meeting, Cathcard reached out to the 3 County Commissioners to invite them to the meeting. Commissioner Sedlacek was in attendance. One item stated in the letter said that the meeting on February 26 was unproductive. All Council and Sedlacek thought it was very productive and a contract was agreed on by both sides. Cathcard stated maybe the city didn't handle some things well, but the Sheriff's office (or Clerk's office) never sent an invoice for dispatch services either. The Sheriff's actions, with this letter, have not only put the city officers in danger, but also every citizen and person passing through Yates Center.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION-  
ATTORNEY/CLIENT**

Motion was made by Cathcard, seconded by Kee to enter into a 20-minute executive session, in the council room, with Council, Mayor, City Attorney, Commissioner Sedlacek, Police Chief Strode, Assistant Police Chief Baker and City Clerk 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 7:45 pm to reconvene at 8:05 pm. Meeting called back into order at 8:05 pm.

Motion was made by Cathcard, seconded by Shaffer to enter into another 20-minute executive session, in the council room, with Council, Mayor, City Attorney, Commissioner Sedlacek, Police Chief Strode, Assistant Police Chief Baker and City Clerk 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 8:06 pm to reconvene at 8:26 pm. Meeting called back into order at 8:26 pm.

**PARKS & PUBLIC LANDS  
EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN -  
SOUTH OWL DAM**

EMC is needing our Emergency Action Plan for South Owl (the old reservoir). One was found for the new reservoir, so council suggested using that information to fill out the EAP for South Owl. List Scott as contact and Rod as secondary.

Also received a letter about an inspection required for the new reservoir to be performed between May 1, 2024 and April 30, 2025. The City Clerk will call the previous inspector to get an inspection scheduled.

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

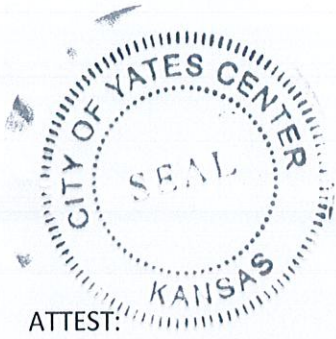
Mayor had nothing at this time

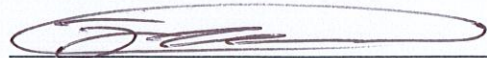
**CLAIMS AND VOUCHERS**

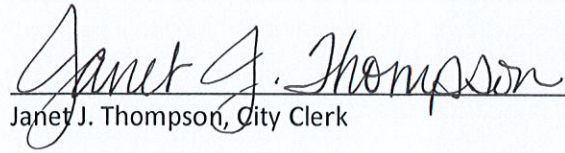
Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Shaffer, to pay the claims and vouchers in the amount of \$71,433.68. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Cavender to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Council adjourned at 8:26 pm.



  
Justin W. Weston, Mayor

  
Janet J. Thompson, City Clerk

Approved March 18, 2024