

**YATES CENTER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
JULY 1, 2024**

Yates Center City Council met in regular session on Monday, July 1, 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, Cavender and Kee with one vacant position. Shaffer was absent. Other city officials present included: Police Chief Michael Strode, Assistant Police Chief Vinny Baker, Police Officer Jake Morrison, Street Supervisor Rod Ryther, Deputy City Clerk Chelsea Goodson, and City Clerk Janet Thompson.

**AGENDA AMENDED & APPROVED**

Atkin added Mowing under Parks and Public Lands. Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Cavender to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**MINUTES APPROVED**

Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Atkin, to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2024 meeting. Motion carried with Barney and Cavender abstaining.

**TOM DAVIS**

Davis was present to get council's opinion on waiting until next year to shoot the fireworks for Birdies and Bluegrass. It takes some coordination and work for the fireworks show and he would rather wait until next year, but if the council would prefer to have them shot off before then, he would work on a plan. Council was good with waiting.

Davis also brought up a fence from his property into the old reservoir. He had been using barbed wire, but has gone to a floating fence. He just replaced it, but would be interested in having the city help the next time it needs replaced. Council would like Davis to let them know before he replaces and they will gladly help out.

**CASEY DIVER**

Diver was present to express his concern over the music played at the pool. This had been addressed with the manager earlier in the day and their play list has been maintained as to not include explicit words. There have been times after the pool has closed when the guards are cleaning that maybe the some of the music was not child friendly, but the manager will mention to the guards cleaning.



He also wanted to address water bill cards again. He's upset that Commerce Bank will no longer auto draft. This was a bank decision not a city decision. The city can use a debit or credit card to auto draft (there are around 20 customers using this), but it does cost the customer 2.5% of the total as a convenience fee. He is still concerned about water bills getting lost and then getting charged a late fee. Bills are always due on the 15<sup>th</sup> (unless there is a holiday or the weekend, then it will be the following business day) and if they don't have their bills, they can always call the city office or come in person to find out what their bill is.

Lastly, he asked if the city would be willing to spray the fairgrounds July 17-22 with water as has been done in the past. The council agreed and Ryther let everyone know he would take care of it.

#### **CITY ATTORNEY**

Duncan gave an update on the law suit from United Industries. Our evidence shows that the work inside the water tower was not complete. The city hired a dive company last fall to come in and video the inside and they found some corrosion already. The engineers were surprised at the amount. Duncan stated there will be depositions the week of the 15<sup>th</sup>. He will keep council informed of the next steps.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS ADMINISTRATIVE EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR NON- ELECTED PERSONNEL**

Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Cathcard to enter into a 10-minute executive session, in the council room, with the Council, Mayor, and City Attorney present to discuss non-elected personnel. Motion carried unanimously and council entered into executive session at 7:30 pm to reconvene at 7:40 pm. Meeting called back into order at 7:40 pm.

#### **DELAY STADIUM DISCUSSION**

Cathcard suggested replotting the land from the bathroom south and selling it. Then from the bathroom north, come up with a lease agreement. If the 501c was to be dissolved, the leased ground would revert back to the city and they would have first option of purchasing the south part.

Weston stated some residents have approached him about building a committee to restore historic building all around Yates Center. This would include applying for grants, finding companies/people to do the work and anything else that this would entail.



Kee suggested the city purchasing the house east of the pool, closing Chellis to make the entire block traffic free.

Atkin stated he had been contacted by another group interested in utilizing the property; he will contact them.

Cavender stated why not combine Cathcard and Kee's suggestions.

This will be discussed at a future meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION-  
ATTORNEY/CLIENT**

Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Cavender to enter into a 15-minute executive session, in the Council room, with the Council, Mayor, City Attorney, City Clerk and Deputy 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 8:05 pm to reconvene at 8:20 pm. Meeting called back into order at 8:20 pm.

**SAFETY  
SUBSTATION FLOOD MITIGATION**

Baker showed a video from this past Saturday's storm showing the water possibly going into the north side of the substation. He has talked with Ryther and Wagner Construction. The plan is for a 2-foot barrier wall 4-foot from the building approximately 46" long. All grass will be taken out in the alley and replaced with river rock. In the future, this can be sprayed to keep grass and weeds down. Also the grass on the southwest corner will be removed and river rock there as well. The safety chair can and did approve.

**COMMUNITY TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARD** Strode and Baker presented the Community Traffic Safety Award the Police Department received from the Kansas Department of Transportation. Last year's award was bronze and this year's award is silver. This comes from campaigns like Click-it or ticket and Drink Drive Lose.

**PARK & PUBLIC LANDS  
MOWING**

Atkin let Ryther know that he and his crew are doing a good job, but he has received complaints on the pocket park, Fire Station and South Owl. A discussion ensued about how to help out the mowing. It's late enough in the season, that hiring someone to help is unlikely, especially since it would be temporary. The city could put out bids on certain properties, but again, it's late in the season and would be a month, minimum, before a bid would be awarded. These options will be considered for next season.



**MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

The mayor urged council and employees to go through the committee chair then other committee members for issues. Then if there is still an issue, bring it to the council.

**CLAIMS AND VOUCHERS**

Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Cavender, to pay the claims and vouchers in the amount of \$130,474.42. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Cavender, seconded by Barney to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Council adjourned at 9:00 pm.



Justin W. Weston, Mayor

Janet J. Thompson, City Clerk

Approved July 15, 2024