

**YATES CENTER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 5, 2026**

Yates Center City Council met in regular session on Monday, January 5, 2026, 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: Police Chief Michael Strode, Assistant Chief of Police Vinny Baker, Police Officer JD Hazelwood, Street Superintendent Rod Ryther, Water/Wastewater Superintendent Brent Torrens, and City Clerk Janet Thompson.

AGENDA APPROVED

Kee added Open Bids for HVAC under Safety and Bernie Stine Memorial under Parks & Public Lands. Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Cavender to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES APPROVED

Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Barney, to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2025 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

SWEARING IN OF MAYOR & COUNCIL

The City Clerk swore in Mayor Justin Weston, Council Member Tammy Porter, and Council Member Jason Cathcard. The Mayor then thanked Kelly Shaffer and Amber Barney for their time on the council.

KATHY KRUEGER

She came in to ask if the city could remove trees and brush about 20 feet out on the fence that is next to her land. She will maintain fence, but at the moment can't get to it. Ryther will go look at it and see what equipment they need to get this taken care of.

RICHARD CRANE-SNYDER CONST

Richard Crane came in to introduce himself to the council. He and his crew have started on the YC Rehab. He will be here around 12-14 months. Council thanked him for coming in.

CITY ATTORNEY

Manbeck was absent.

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

Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Atkin to enter into a 10-minute executive session, in the Council Room, with the Council, Mayor, Kevin Stuber, and Kayla Westerman present to discuss non-elected personnel. Motion carried unanimously and council entered into executive session at 7:15 pm to reconvene at 7:25 pm. Meeting called back into order at 7:25 pm.

COUNCIL DATE IN SEPTEMBER

After a short discussion, the first meeting of September will be September 9th. The 7th is a holiday and the 8th Municipal Court is held in the conference room.

**SAFETY
FIRE STATION ROOF**

There have been no more bids. Motion was made by Cathcard, seconded by Atkin to waive the bid process. Motion carried unanimously. Motion was then made by Atkin, seconded by Cathcard to have H & H Roofing to do a coating on the roof for \$28,000. Motion carried unanimously.

EXPLORER/NEW PD CRUISER

The 2013 Ford Explorer, AKA the Blueberry, is no longer in service. There is a grant that was applied for last year, but because of spending freeze, no funds were rewarded. We should hear between March and May on \$30,000 grant for help with another vehicle. In the meantime, the 2013 needs replaced. The Chief has found a 2023 Ford Explorer Pursuit with only 10,000 miles for \$30,000. Included is about \$10,000 worth of police equipment already installed. It will need a front bumper which should be no more than \$3,000. Motion was made by Cathcard, seconded by Atkin to approve the purchase of the Explorer and bumper for no more than \$33,000. This is contingent on a warranty. Motion carried unanimously.

HVAC BIDS

We only received one bid for the HVAC at the Substation and Fire Station. After looking over the bids, Atkins stated he didn't think the Fire Station side needed replaced. There were three options for the Substation side. After discussion, motion was made by Cathcard, seconded by Kee to approve the bid for a Coleman 2T condenser, 16 SEER for \$10,100. This also includes a 1-year maintenance and 2 visits (Spring/Fall). Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC WORKS
CONTRACT LABORER**

Ryther was wondering if there was a way to keep Milner employed as a contract laborer. There were many questions about Social Security and KPERS. It is highly unlikely the City can make this work.

INSTALLATION OF NEW WATER

Torrens had a spreadsheet of the cost of each size of water meter that we currently use. This will be for new locations for meters. 3/4" meter - \$1,100.00; 1" meter - \$1,550.00; 1 1/2" meter - \$2,450.00; 2" meter - \$3,600.00. Ordinance #15-104 will need to be amended with the new prices. Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Cavender to have the attorney amend the Ordinance and the office will change the application to reflect the new prices. Motion carried unanimously.

MAN-LIFT DAMAGE

When the man-lift was inspected by Foley, the noted one of the bars was bent. They have sent an invoice with pictures. After a short discussion, the Clerk was told to pay the invoice.

BEAVER DAMS/DAMAGE

Out by the Sewer plant, beavers have made multiple dams in the creek. Some of them are 6-7 feet tall. Water, Sewer and Street crews worked on getting the biggest dam destroyed. A few other downstream were also destroyed. Ryther has priced a rental Forestry Mulcher to clear both sides of the creek. For a week, it is \$2,400, for a month it is \$5,400. The county is interested in using as well and would pay for 1/2 of the cost. This could also be used on the city property next to Ms. Krueger's land. This would come out of Sewer Upgrades. As far as the beavers, the city needs to contact Justin Morrison to trap them.

**PARKS & PUBLIC LANDS
BERNIE STINE MEMORIAL**

Bernie Stine passed away Saturday, January 3. The family would like memorial money to go towards repair the water fountain in the pocket park. If there is money left over either picnic tables and or benches for the pocket park or work around the square. The Clerk will make a line item for this purpose.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Mayor announced that he nominates Elizabeth Mann for the City representative for the Chamber. She has agreed to do this for the City.

CLAIMS AND VOUCHERS

Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Cavender, to pay the claims and vouchers for 12-22-2025 of \$140,287.26. Motion carried unanimously.

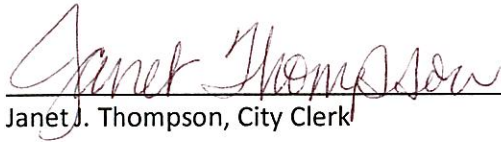
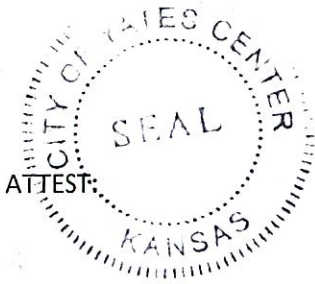
Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Atkin, to pay the claims and vouchers for 1-5-2026 of \$199,717.29. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

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



Justin Weston, Mayor


Janet J. Thompson, City Clerk

Approved January 20, 2026