

**YATES CENTER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
OCTOBER 6, 2025**

Yates Center City Council met in regular session on Monday, October 6, 2025, 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 (arrived at 7:05), Cavender and Kee with one vacant position. Shaffer was absent. Other city officials present included: City Attorney Jacob Manbeck, Police Chief Michael Strode, Police Officer JD Hazelwood, Street Superintendent Rod Ryther, Water/Wastewater Superintendent Brent Torrens, and City Clerk Janet Thompson.

AGENDA APPROVED

Kee added Cliff Ralstin-Sewer Issues after Beth Warren; Executive Session for Non-elected personnel and move Isaac Crum to the end of Public Works. Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Cavender to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES APPROVED

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

GARY MORRIS

Representing Revitalize YC, they are getting bids to get speakers around the square. They are applying for grants and would appreciate a letter from the City of support for the project.

Revitalize YC is thinking about purchasing lots from the tax sale and demolishing the house/buildings. They would like help with paying for dumpsters. He is not going to be available to go to the County Commissioner's meeting tomorrow, so Atkin volunteered to go in his place to ask about possible discounts for dumpsters. At this time, the Council doesn't feel there are extra funds to help with the cost.

Morris asked as a resident if the city was going to spray for mosquitoes. Ryther stated every time he goes to get the sprayer from the county, it doesn't work. Evidently, they just got it repaired, so Ryther will contact the county to see about using it.

CRAIG KNIGHT

He has purchased the former O'Brien property from Dan Hardy. He would like to see if he could acquire Lot 1 and also vacate the road in between Lot 1 and his property. His company acquires large machinery and resells it, like CNC machines, lathes, etc. His requests are a wider entrance, Water and Sewer and vacate what looks like a street. Motion made by Kee, seconded by Atkin to allow Knight's requests as part of the business incentive program. Motion carried unanimously.

BETH WARREN, KMU

Beth Warren with Kansas Municipal Utilities was present to give the Council information about free training funded by KDHE, Funding (loans & grants) and Engineering support. Last Beth seen, the Engineering support had a backlog of 2 months. They can also help with water rate reviews. Council asked Beth to submit and Engineering support for both Water and Sewer and thanked her for the information she provided.

CLIFF RALSTIN-YC NEWS

They have had issues with the sewer the last 18 months. Today (October 6) the sewer basically exploded out their toilet and all over the bathroom. A plumber has snaked 2 times. The first time was 150' and then just recently it only took 60'. Torren suggested borrowing a camera from KRWA and taking a look at the sewer line.

CITY ATTORNEY

Manbeck had nothing.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS
ADMINISTRATIVE
HOLIDAY FLAGS**

With John Atkin's memorial donations, Pat would like to purchase Holiday flags and the hardware to mount to light poles if the City would install. She is also hoping to have other organizations either donate funds or directly purchase additional flags. The Council agreed to have the Street crew install once the Atkin family contacts Evergy for their consent to have them attached to the light poles along Mary street.

**DEPT HEADS DISCRETIONARY
SPENDING**

Atkin would like for charitable donations or any spending not required for city operations, no matter the amount, to be approved by the committee chair. Council agreed.

BCBS RENEWAL & ADDITIONS

The City's Health and Dental insurance is decreasing by 30% for next year. They have also added Vision insurance. Pricing varies depending on is the City pays the insurance or if the employee pays. The clerk had looked at all options and gave her recommendation of 2 options for the city pay and 2 options for the employee pay. Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Atkin to approve the Health and Dental insurance and add the Option 4 of the City pay Vision insurance. Motion carried unanimously.

**SAFETY
DISCUSS 14-401 & 14-501**

These ordinances have to do with ATVs and Golf Carts. Motion was made by Cathcard, seconded by Cavender to approve 14-401 as revised. Motion carried unanimously. Motion was made by Cathcard, seconded by Barney to approve 14-407 as revised. Motion carried unanimously. Motion was made by Cathcard, seconded by Barney to approve 14-501 as revised. Motion carried unanimously. Motion was made by Cathcard, seconded by Atkin to approve 14-506 as revised. Motion carried unanimously.

**PROBATION OFFICER – 6 MONTH
REVIEW**

The position has just started building in the last 2 months with clients. Council feels it will be beneficial not only to the city but to the clients. When COLA raises are discussed the first of the year, this position will be discussed as well. Since she is now considered a full-time employee, she will be allowed the free water and sewer.

FIRE DEPARTMENT BUILDING REPAIRS

The lighting in the apparatus bay needs replaced and they would like to go with LED. The cost is \$1,950.10 and Cathcard can approve, which he did and would like it to come out of the building fund. There are also a couple of heaters in the apparatus bay that need replaced for around \$7,285.00. Motion made by Atkin, seconded by Kee to have CDL replace the 2 heaters for no more than \$8,000.00, again, out of the building fund. Motion carried unanimously.

PATROL CARS

Chief Strode let Council know that Schomaker was involved in an accident during a chase. He is fine, but the vehicle sustained heavy front-end damage. Insurance has been notified and pictures taken for preliminary estimates. Our deductible is \$1,000 and the rough estimate is a little over \$6,000. He's checked with Utley's and Patty Built (Mike Stockebrand). Patty Built can get it in this week, so that is who he would like to go with.

Also, Baker was involved in the chase as well. He had some minor damage (bumper guard), but Strode and Baker were able to use a rubber mallet to get it back in place.

**PUBLIC WORKS
EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR NON-
ELECTED PERSONNEL**

Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Cavender to enter into a to enter into a 5-minute executive session, in the Council Room, with the Council, Mayor, City Attorney and Water/Wastewater Superintendent present to discuss non-elected personnel. Motion carried unanimously and council entered into executive session at 8:25 pm to reconvene at 8:30 pm. Meeting called back into order at 8:30 pm.

LIFT STATIONS

Sewer Lift Station at Pete's for replacement would be around \$150,000. We can get a rebuilt replacement for \$10,000 to \$11,000. Torrens will do some more research.

UV ROOM

Torrens talked to a vendor about the state of the stainless steel that was purchased around 2 years ago for \$60,000. They were shocked what it looked like. Jason Solomon said they should have been a maintenance log, which Torrens has not come across one, but has already started one so they have proof of what is being done.

PUMP HOUSE

Wilson & Company has put a bid in for installation in the amount of \$23,850.00. After reading the bid, several council members didn't like some of the verbiage. Torrens will get with Haynes to check on what exactly the "plug & play" entails.

ISAAC CRUM 90-DAY PROBATION

Motion made by Kee, seconded by Barney to extend Isaac Crum's probationary period another 90 days. Motion carried unanimously.

**PARKS & PUBLIC LANDS
RESTROOMS AT POCKET PARK**

Dan Edward will be retiring after this year and it's not known if the Wildcat building trades will continue. Ryther had a quote for Superior on supplies and let Council know that it would be 30% of the quote for the Wildcat builders. The Council would like Ryther to research more.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Mayor had no comments.

CLAIMS AND VOUCHERS

Motion was made by Kee, seconded by Atkin, to pay the claims and vouchers of \$78,636.43. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Atkin, seconded by Barney to adjourn.
Motion carried unanimously. Council adjourned at 9:03 pm.



Justin Weston, Mayor

Janet J. Thompson, City Clerk

Approved October 20, 2025