

**City of Yuma
City Council Minutes
Hybrid Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 20, 2026
Meeting Location – City Hall, 320 South Main Street, Yuma, CO and virtual through Zoom
Call to Order – 6:33 P.M.**

Meeting called to order by Mayor McClung and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members Present: Baucke, Fitzsimmons, McClung, O’Neal, Shay, Thompson.

Staff Present: Eric Duthie, Curtis Witte, Karma Wells.

Corrections or Additions to the Agenda

Clerk/Treasurer Wells stated that items 11-I and 11-J were added after the council packets were sent out, but within the required 24-hour posting period.

Approval of January 20, 2026, Agenda

Shay moved to approve the January 20, 2026, agenda as presented. Second by O’Neal. Question. 6 ayes. Motion carried.

Citizens Recognition and Introduction/Public Comment

None.

Presentations (Informational)

A. Employee Service Year Recognition

Clerk/Treasurer Wells and Interim Police Chief Witte recognized the following employees for their service year anniversaries:

Michael Brophy has worked for the ambulance service as an EMT IV since January 22, 2022. He has four years of service with the City of Yuma.

Ryan Stewart began his employment with the City of Yuma on January 19, 2025. He attended the Police Academy and graduated on May 18, 2025, to become a police officer. Ryan has one year of service with the city.

Charlene Svitak began her employment with the City of Yuma on January 13, 2022, as a senior aide at the Community Center. Charlene has four years of service with the city.

B. Other Presentations (If any)

None.

Reports (Informational)

A. City Manager – Eric Duthie

Manager Duthie provided council with his written report and gave more details on the following items:

- We will be giving project updates in Microsoft Teams. Updates will be made daily.
- Airport inspections of the runways for debris will be conducted on a regular basis.

- The new translation equipment has been installed in the city council area. City staff have been trained on the new equipment.
- A stakeholder list is being put together for an invitation to participate in the comprehensive plan. Ayres will be here on February 17 for the basketball game. They will be here on the 18th for more meetings.
- City staff are working on the 2025 annual report. We plan to present the report at the February 3 council meeting.
- The safety manual is being updated by city staff and will be presented for approval by council on February 3.
- The last month or so there have been several abatement violation letters. Most of them have gained compliance almost immediately.
- Manager Duthie received a phone call from a citizen who had been at city hall and complimented the front office staff for how friendly and helpful they were to him.
- Manager Duthie and Mayor Pro Tem O’Neal attended the Yuma County Economic Development meeting in Wray. Their corporation reorganization is completed.
- Another Economic Development consultant will be here Thursday at 11:00 to meet with staff.
- Staff had a call with Sandhills Solar, we will be deciding if the calls need to continue since the project is completed.
- Grant Writer, Angela Cordell, has coordinated several meetings regarding the BUILD Grant. The staff got together and talked about potential projects.
- Council was provided with photos of the new signs installed at the pool and at Yuma Junction.

B. City Clerk/Treasurer – Karma Wells

- Clerk/Treasurer Wells stated that she has all the committee meetings set up on the calendar.
- Wells provided council with the latest sales tax report.
- Wells provided council with the master meeting calendar for 2026.
- Our IT people will be here on Friday to get the councils tablets set up for council meetings.

C. Interim Chief of Police – Curtis Witte

- Interim Chief Witte provided council with the December police report.
- There has been some progress with the demolition of the home on North Birch that had a fire. The building inspector will keep an eye on the progress.
- The Police Department is hosting a class on February 10 – 12.
- Witte stated that the Police Department has been very busy and he commended his officers for a job well done.

D. City Attorney – Kathryn Sellars (If necessary)

None.

City Council Reports/Comments (Informational)

O’Neal

- Mayor Pro Tem O’Neal attended the Yuma County Economic Development meeting. He stated that they are going to be in a good financial position going forward after their reorganization. The county has committed to investing \$2.5 million in infrastructure improvements.
- The City of Wray has a new Mayor.
- O’Neal commended Interim Chief Witte for the phenomenal job he did in taking control during the wind storm and wildfires.

Baucke

- Council Member Baucke expressed concern that we had a nice day today and the Christmas decorations have not been taken down yet. Manager Duthie stated that they did start taking them down, but haven't finished yet.

McClung

- Mayor McClung attended the CML Mayors' Summit and the Mayors' Leadership Academy.
- McClung stated that he attended the swimming pool committee meeting. We are making good progress on the pool. It is still in the schematic design phase.

Consent Agenda (Action Items)

- A. Approval of January 6, 2026, regular meeting minutes.
- B. Approval of disbursements and payroll.
- C. Purchases in excess of \$25,000.
 - i. Annual City Audit

O'Neal moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Shay. Question. 6 ayes. Motion carried.

Public Hearings and Other New Business (Action Items)

A. Approval of disclosed disbursements (if needed).

Clerk/Treasurer Wells stated that there is one disbursement to disclose for Mayor Pro Tem O'Neal in the amount of \$5 to the Washington County Sheriff for an I.D. Shay moved to approve the disbursement for O'Neal. Second by Thompson. Question. 5 ayes. 1 abstain (O'Neal). Motion carried.

B. First Reading of Ordinance #4, Series of 2026 – Amending Title 15 of the Yuma Municipal Code Concerning the 2025 Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code.

Council was provided with a map that shows wildfire hazard areas. Only a small uninhabited area within the City of Yuma is labeled as a wildfire hazard area. Manager Duthie stated that the State of Colorado has issued a mandate that we must adopt at least the model code standard or exceed the standard of the model code. Any new construction that would take place in that area would have to follow these new requirements using fire resistant materials. We are required to adopt the new code by April 1, 2026. Mayor McClung expressed his concerns about how much the cost is going to affect new construction. Discussion was held. Baucke moved to table the first reading of Ordinance #4, Series of 2026, until more information can be obtained. Second by Fitzsimmons. Question. 6 ayes. Motion carried.

C. Authorization for Staff to Prepare and Issue a Construction Bid Announcement for Main Street Sidewalk Brick Replacement Project.

Manager Duthie stated that it has been discussed at previous meetings to remove the brick inlays from the sidewalks and replace them with colored concrete. We applied for a CDOT grant and it was not awarded to us. The bricks present a tripping hazard which could lead to injuries or liability. We would also like to include an ADA compliant ramp and parking space for access to the front doors of City Hall. Manager Duthie stated that he is only requesting approval from council to issue a request for bids. Shay moved to give approval to issue bid invitations for the project. Second by Thompson. Question. 6 ayes. Motion carried.

D. Consideration of Appointment of Council Member and Swearing in of New Council Member

Mayor McClung stated that discussion was held in the workshop prior to the council meeting regarding the appointment of a new council member. We received five letters of interest to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Council Member Zach Diaz. Letters were received from Jeff Denney, Wendy Lair, Jene Rutz, Ryan Saffer and Ryan Saxton. Each council member was asked to announce the two candidates that they wish to nominate. A tally was totaled for the top nominations. Ryan Saffer, Jene Rutz and Ryan Saxton each received three nominations. Ryan Saxton asked council for more information on the time commitment for meetings because he travels for his job, therefore, he decided to withdraw his name from the running.

Shay moved to appoint Ryan Saffer. Second by Thompson. Question. 3 ayes. 3 nays (Baucke, Fitzsimmons, McClung). Motion failed.

O’Neal moved to appoint Ryan Saffer. Second by Shay. Question. 3 ayes. 3 nays (Baucke, Fitzsimmons, McClung). Motion failed.

Baucke moved to appoint Jene Rutz. Second by Fitzsimmons. Question. 4 ayes. 2 nays (Shay, Thompson). Motion carried.

Clerk/Treasurer Wells proceeded to swear in new council member Jene Rutz. Rutz then participated in the remainder of the meeting.

E. Appointment of Representative to the Firemen’s Pension Board

Clerk/Treasurer Wells explained that by statute, the Mayor and the Treasurer are on the Firemen’s Pension Board. We usually have two others as well who historically have been the Mayor Pro Tem and the City Manager. Shay moved to appoint Mayor Pro Tem O’Neal and Manager Duthie as Representatives to the Firemen’s Pension Board. Second by Thompson. Question. 7 ayes. Motion carried.

F. Appointment of Yuma County Economic Development Representative

Baucke moved to appoint Mayor Pro Tem O’Neal as the primary Yuma County Economic Development Representative, with City Manager Duthie as a proxy and Mayor McClung as an alternate. Second by Fitzsimmons. Question. 7 ayes. Motion carried.

G. Resolution #5, Series of 2026 – Appointment of Director and an Alternate Director to the MEAN Board of Directors and Management Committee

Clerk/Treasurer Wells stated that these are two-day meetings that require travel to Kearney and Lincoln, Nebraska. Baucke moved to approve Resolution #5, Series of 2026, naming John Prettyman as the Director and Mayor McClung as the Alternate Director to the MEAN Board of Directors. Second by O’Neal. Question. 7 ayes. Motion carried.

H. Resolution #6, Series of 2026 – Appointment of Representative and an Alternate Representative to the Members’ Council of the Nebraska Municipal Power Pool

Baucke moved to approve Resolution #6, Series of 2026, naming John Prettyman as the Representative and Mayor McClung as the Alternate Representative to the Nebraska Municipal Power Pool Members’ Council. Second by O’Neal. Question. 7 ayes. Motion carried.

I. Approval of Application to Submit a CDPHE Emergency Medical and Trauma Systems Provider Grant

Ambulance Director, Keriann Josh, stated that we spoke about this during budget discussions and we set \$30,000 aside for this purchase. We have utilized this grant for our major equipment purchases in the past.

Recent evidence shows that EMS providers using simulation to train improves patient outcomes. Josh stated that she intends to apply for a waiver, which is a 10% match. If we don't get the waiver, we can't complete the grant application process until the following year. Thompson moved to approve the grant application submission. Second by Shay. Question. 7 ayes. Motion carried.

Manager Duthie informed council that Director Josh recently attended the RETAC Conference where ambulance employee Michael Brophy was awarded the Basic Life Support Professional of the Year and Director Josh was awarded the EMS Leader of the Year.

J. Consideration of Change Order for 3rd and 4th Avenue Paving Project

Clerk/Treasurer Wells stated that we had a meeting with Concrete Specialties and our engineers for the 3rd and 4th Avenues project and a couple of possible changes were discussed. In the current plans, the water line on 3rd Avenue is set for a depth of 9 feet and normally that is only 5 or 6 feet deep. The other change that was discussed was in regard to the drainage boxes. If we order them and have them shipped to us, it will take longer and cost more than if Concrete Specialties builds them in place. City staff will come back to council with the actual change order at the next meeting. The consensus was to allow staff to move forward with the preparation of the change order.

Old Business and Public Hearing on Passage of Ordinance on Second Reading (Action Items)

A. Tabled action items

None.

B. Public Hearing on Second Reading Ordinance #3, Series of 2026 – Amending Title 9 of the Yuma Municipal Code Concerning Park Hours and Curfew

Interim Chief Witte stated the ordinance is the same as presented on first reading. Mayor McClung opened the public hearing. Hearing no discussion, the public hearing was closed. Shay moved to approve on second reading Ordinance #3, Series of 2026. Second by Baucke. Question. 7 ayes. Motion carried.

Additional Business

None.

Adjournment

Shay moved to adjourn. Second by Thompson. Question. 7 ayes. Motion carried.

Timothy McClung
Mayor

Karma Wells, CMC
City Clerk/Treasurer