

**City of Yuma  
City Council Minutes  
Hybrid Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, April 1, 2025  
Meeting Location – City Hall, 320 South Main Street, Yuma, CO and virtual through Zoom  
Call to Order – 6:32 P.M.**

**Meeting called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Benish and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

**Members Present:** Baucke, Benish, Diaz, Dischner, Frame, Shay. McClung was absent.

**Staff Present:** Jerry Thompson, Karma Wells.

**Corrections or Additions to the Agenda**

There were no corrections or additions to the agenda.

**Approval of April 1, 2025, Agenda**

Shay moved to approve the April 1, 2025, agenda as presented. Second by Dischner. Question. 6 ayes. Motion carried.

**Citizens Recognition and Introduction/Public Comment**

None.

**Presentations (Informational)**

**A. Sandhills Energy Update**

The presentation from Sandhills Energy will be given at the April 15, 2025, council meeting.

**B. Other Presentations (If any)**

None.

**Reports (Informational)**

**A. Interim City Manager – Karma Wells**

**i. Grants Updates**

Interim City Manager Wells provided council with a report detailing the status of our various grants. Wells stated that we aren't sure about the status of the RAISE grant that we applied for since there has been a freeze on federal funding. Grant writer, Angela Cordell, has found another grant that we would like to apply for in place of the RAISE grant. We can apply for the same \$25 million, but the new grant would require matching funds of 20%, which would be \$5 million. It was suggested that we could write the grant for \$5 million which would require only a \$1 million match. Discussion was held regarding the number of large projects that we have going on in which we have applied for grant funding. Some of them require matching funds from the city. Wells asked if council would like to discuss prioritizing our available matching fund dollars at the next workshop meeting and it was agreed that it would be a good idea to do so.

**ii. Department Updates**

Interim City Manager Wells provided Council with a report detailing updates from the various departments.

Wells also spoke with YCED Director Darlene Carpio regarding having a meeting with the owner of “Nano Bubbles”. Wells, along with Ron Wills and Eric Metcalfe, will be meeting with them on April 24 and wanted to know if council would like to have a presence at the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Benish and Council Member Frame stated that they would like to be involved.

Wells also reported that the airport hangar is completed. The plan had been to not have electric power in the hangar, but without it, the door will not open. John Prettyman is putting together some quotes to see what it will take to get electricity in the hangar. Mayor Pro Tem Benish also discussed the possibility of using hangars at the airport as storm shelters to pull planes into when a storm hits.

Wells stated that she and Council Member Frame participated in the Zoom meeting for Retail Coach that was held today. Retail Coach is getting ready to go to Las Vegas to look for businesses interested in coming to the area. Yuma County and the City of Wray both have incentive policies for new businesses. The City of Yuma had one formerly, but it was repealed. Wells provided council with a copy of the previous policy for them to review to determine if reinstating an incentive policy would be beneficial for the city.

Wells stated that Eric Metcalfe informed her that they are very close to having the permits approved for boring under the railroad tracks and the contracts for that work will be presented at a future meeting.

**B. City Clerk/Treasurer – Karma Wells**

None.

**C. Police Chief – Jerry Thompson**

Police Chief Thompson stated that at the next council meeting he should be able to announce who will be awarded our first ever scholarship. We received 7 applications and have narrowed them down to 3. We will be making the final selection on April 14 at 9:00 a.m.

**D. City Attorney – Kathryn Sellars (If necessary)**

None.

**City Council Reports/Comments (Informational)**

**Baucke**

- Council Member Baucke stated we had a good meeting in Wray.

**Frame**

- Council Member Frame attended the Yuma County Economic Development strategic planning meeting, which was followed by the regular YCED meeting. The grant for the co-working space at NJC has been submitted. They also discussed Retail Coach. They held a succession planning meeting that was well attended and will be starting a business class on April 4. The trade scholarship was also discussed which would encourage graduates attending a trade school to come back to the community.
- Frame participated in the Retail Coach zoom meeting and stated she appreciates that even though we are a small rural community, they are thinking outside the box to try to find ways to bring businesses here.
- Council Member Frame also attended the countywide meeting.

**Shay**

- Council Member Shay attended the NECALG meeting. County Express in Yuma will be getting 2 new buses. The transportation provider who was giving Medicaid rides in the 3 counties south of us was cancelled because they failed their inspections. The state asked if we would like to provide service to that area. It was agreed to provide Medicaid transportation in that area at this meeting.

- Shay also attended the landfill board meeting. Everyone agreed that the new manager is doing a good job. He gives a good, detailed report every month.
- Council Member Shay stated that he attended the Yuma County Water Authority meeting where it was business as usual. They discussed the Pioneer Ditch.

#### **Diaz**

- Council Member Diaz stated the airport taxiway project is slated to start April 14.

#### **Benish**

- Mayor Pro Tem Benish attended the countywide meeting and stated that it was well attended and they had a great discussion. It was good to know that Yuma and Wray are on the same page.
- Benish also attended the airport meeting. It was well attended and everyone participated very well.

#### **Consent Agenda (Action Items)**

- A. Approval of March 18, 2025, regular meeting minutes.
- B. Approval of disbursements and payroll.
- C. Purchases in excess of \$5,000.

Shay moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Diaz. Question. 6 ayes. Motion carried.

#### **Public Hearings and Other New Business (Action Items)**

##### **A. Approval of disclosed disbursements (if needed)**

None.

##### **B. Resolution #19, Series of 2025 – Employee Service Year Policy**

Interim City Manager Wells stated that she made some changes to this policy based on previous discussions. Council will recognize all part-time and full-time employees for their years of service with a certificate. For full-time employees, council will pay a bonus at every 5-year increment for full-time years of service. Shay moved to approve Resolution #19, Series of 2025. Second by Dischner. Question. 6 ayes. Motion carried.

##### **C. First Reading Ordinance #4, Series of 2025 – Vendors Permits Change**

Interim City Manager Wells stated that this ordinance changes the term of a vendor permit from 1 month to a period of 1 year. Dischner moved to approve on first reading Ordinance #4, Series of 2025. Second by Diaz. Question. 6 ayes. Motion carried.

##### **D. Proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month 2025**

Interim City Manager Wells stated that we were approached by Ms. Candy Gilliland from S.A.R.A House to present a proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month. All council members stated that they have read the proclamation. Shay moved to approve the proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month. Second by Frame. Question. 6 ayes. Motion carried.

##### **E. First Reading Ordinance #5, Series of 2025 – Amending Chapter 8.04.010 of the Yuma Municipal Code Concerning Open Burning**

Interim City Manager Wells stated that we have been discussing burning the trees that have been cut down at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. To do that, we need to exempt the city from not doing any open burning. This ordinance would exempt the city from that provision. Shay moved to approve on first reading Ordinance #5, Series of 2025. Second by Baucke. Question. 6 ayes. Motion carried.

**F. Acceptance of Colorado Pet Overpopulation Fund 2024-25 License Plate Grant**

Interim City Manager Wells stated that we received confirmation that we have been awarded this grant in the amount of \$10,000 to be used for spay and neuter services as well as micro-chipping and immunizations for shelter animals. Shay moved to accept the grant funds. Second by Frame. Question. 6 ayes. Motion carried.

**G. Resolution #25, Series of 2025 – Amending the Agreement for Professional Services with Prairie Winds Veterinary Clinic**

Interim City Manager Wells stated that our agreement with Prairie Winds Veterinary Clinic expires on April 3. This new agreement would continue for another 6 months. Dr. Kuntz did request for the monthly fee to be raised from \$2,500 to \$3,000. The new agreement will also provide for mileage to be paid at the current I.R.S. mileage rate if she needs to use her vehicle to transport an animal. Shay moved to approve Resolution #25, Series of 2025. Second by Baucke. Question. 6 ayes. Motion carried.

**H. Resolution #26, Series of 2025 – Professional Services Agreement with Essenza Architecture**

Interim City Manager Wells stated that we received the proposal from Essenza Architecture to provide professional services for the swimming pool project. This agreement is for Step 1 which includes assessment, community engagement, programming, conceptual design and a geotechnical report and surveying in the amount of \$51,659. Ms. Christa Plaza from Essenza was available via Zoom to answer questions from council. Council Member Frame asked if the community survey would be conducted on the city's website or independently. Ms. Plaza explained that it can be done either way, but the current plan is to conduct the survey independently. Links to the survey can be shared to our website and Facebook page. Dischner moved to approve Resolution #26, Series of 2025. Second by Frame. Question. 6 ayes. Motion carried.

**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 of Ordinance #3, Series of 2025 – Change the Reference of the General Penalty Provision in the YMC**

Interim City Manager Wells stated that this ordinance updates references to Section 1.24 in the Yuma Municipal Code to Section 1.10. The public hearing was opened by Mayor Pro Tem Benish. Hearing no discussion, the public hearing was closed. Shay moved to approve on second reading Ordinance #3, Series of 2025. Second by Baucke. Question. 6 ayes. Motion carried.

**Additional Business**

Council Member Diaz expressed his concerns regarding the view being blocked trying to turn onto Highway 34 from the intersection where Fort Morgan Motors is located. Discussion was held on Highway 34 issues like this.

**Adjournment**

Shay moved to adjourn. Second by Dischner. Question. 6 ayes. Motion carried.

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Jerome Benish  
Mayor Pro Tem

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Karma Wells, CMC  
City Clerk/Treasurer