

**City of Yuma**  
**City Council Minutes**  
**Hybrid Regular Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 20, 2025**  
**Meeting Location – City Hall, 320 South Main Street, Yuma, CO and virtual through Zoom**  
**Call to Order – 6:30 P.M.**

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

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

**Staff Present:** Curtis Witte, Karma Wells.

**Corrections or Additions to the Agenda**

None.

**Approval of May 20, 2025, Agenda**

Shay moved to approve the May 20, 2025, agenda as presented. Second by Baucke. Question. 5 ayes. Motion carried.

**Citizens Recognition and Introduction/Public Comment**

Ms. Kim Korf who lives on West Hoag Avenue was present to voice her concerns about the condition of the house next door to her. She provided council with photos to show the condition of the house and yard. Mayor McClung stated that we need to get our department heads involved and speak with City Attorney Kathryn Sellars to see what can be done. We will try to get back to Ms. Korf in the next week to 10 days.

Mr. Jeff Denney, who resides on South Ivy Street, was present to express concerns regarding the Police Department. Mr. Denney provided information to council on tickets his son has received from the Police Department and he stated there were complaint forms turned into the Police Department that he has not heard back on yet. Mayor McClung stated that we will take it under advisement to decide how to proceed.

**Presentations (Informational)**

**A. Utility Rate Study Presentation**

Mr. John Krajewski of JK Energy Consulting was present to review with council the rate studies that he conducted for the electric, wastewater and water departments. He has worked with the city in the past conducting various rate studies. He stated that we have not raised our electric rates in over ten years. He appreciates that we want to keep our utility costs as low as we can for our residents, but the cost of transformers has tripled and labor costs are up due to inflation. MEAN's costs went up 5% last year and are projected to go up 10% next year. The rates for the water and wastewater departments were raised in 2019. In 2023, our cash flow for the water/wastewater departments was (\$100,000) with a similar net income. We will not have the money to maintain our capital improvements program if we don't look at rate changes. The rate changes should cover the cost-of-service estimates. He stated that the water department is his greatest concern and he is recommending a rate increase of 12% in 2026 with additional potential increases in 2027 and 2028. The rate increase would result in an increase of around \$2.63/month. Our wastewater department is operating at around a \$60,000 deficit. He recommends a 7.9% rate increase for wastewater for 2026. He also stated that we currently use the Equivalent Residential Unit (EQR) methodology which he believes does not accurately reflect our cost-of-service, so he also recommends that we charge based on consumptive use of water during the winter months for residential use and year-round for commercial use. This would result in an increase of about \$3.57/month. Regarding the electric department, we are operating at a \$400,000 deficit. He recommends an electric rate increase of 9% for 2026 and 5% increases for 2027, 2028 and 2029, due to MEAN's projected increases. He also recommends that the monthly meter charge be raised from \$7.25 to \$10.00.

## **B. Employee Service Year Recognition**

Interim City Manager Wells recognized Carlos Wario for 1 year of service. Carlos started with the city as a seasonal employee in the parks and recreation departments on May 21, 2024. He then became a full-time employee in the street department on August 11, 2024.

(The remaining employees were recognized later in the meeting).

## **C. Other Presentations (If any)**

None.

## **Reports (Informational)**

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

#### **i. Department Updates**

Interim City Manager Wells provided council with two department update reports.

#### **Grant Update**

Interim City Manager Wells stated that the grant update was discussed in the earlier study session. Mayor McClung commended city staff for how hard they have been working to secure grant funds.

#### **ii. Staff Update**

Interim City Manager Wells stated that we have the following openings:

- Full-time position in the Street/Sanitation Departments.
- Full-time Paramedic in the Ambulance Department.
- Full-time Operator position in the Water/Wastewater Departments.
- 2 Seasonal Summer positions for the Parks/Recreation Departments.
- Full-time City Manager position.

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

#### **i. Sales Tax Report**

City Clerk/Treasurer Wells provided council with the sales tax report. Discussion was held.

#### **ii. Staff Update**

City Clerk/Treasurer Wells stated that her department is fully staffed.

### **C. Interim Chief of Police – Curtis Witte**

#### **i. Police Department**

Interim Chief Witte provided council with the April police report.

#### **ii. Staff Update**

Interim Chief Witte introduced our new officer, Ryan Stewart, who officially started on Monday.

The Chief of Police position is open.

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

None.

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

**Benish**

- Mayor Pro Tem Benish stated he attended the Parks and Recreation departments committee meeting. The skate park is up and running. The playground equipment should be arriving in about ten days. The new trees have been planted and they are doing well. The baseball and softball programs are kicking off and are very popular with the kids. We may be able to use some of the tree removal grant funds for irrigation.
- Benish also attended the Community Center committee meeting. He stated that since we started allowing Karma and Ashley to do more decision making for who can use the Center, it is being utilized more. It is a good change.

**Baucke**

- Council Member Baucke stated that he would like to revisit the issue that we have with grass clippings every summer. He would like us to consider composting because it costs so much to haul the grass clippings to the landfill every week. We need to find a way to make them usable. Mayor McClung suggested that we reach out to Jen Jones from Wray who is a recycling “guru”. Yuma County Commissioner Mike Leerar added that the state has funds for grants if you can prove you are keeping material out of the landfill.

**Shay**

- Council Member Shay attended the Animal Shelter meeting. Everything is going well there. They had some sewer issues that have been resolved.

**McClung**

- Mayor McClung stated that he and Karma met with the Airport Committee and there is an issue that, in protest, our hangar leases are not being signed. Discussions are being held regarding the leases. We need to get them signed by July 1.
- Mayor McClung also met with Sparkie who used to work for the Daniels Fund regarding pool funding.
- Mayor McClung attended the pool committee meeting. Council has been provided with the flyer that covers the pool survey being distributed to the public.

**Consent Agenda (Action Items)**

- A. Approval of May 6, 2025, regular meeting minutes and the special meeting minutes of May 13, 2025.
- B. Approval of disbursements and payroll.
- C. Purchases in excess of \$5,000.
  - i. Water Tower Maintenance

Shay moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Benish. Question. 5 ayes. Motion carried.

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

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

Clerk/Treasurer Wells presented for approval, disbursements for Mayor McClung and Council Member Shay.

There was one disbursement for the CML meeting for Shay. Benish moved to approve the disbursement for Council Member Shay. Second by Dischner. Question. 4 ayes. 1 abstain (Shay). Motion carried.

There were three disbursements for Mayor McClung for the CML meeting, travel and business cards. Baucke moved to approve the disbursements for Mayor McClung. Second by Dischner. Question. 4 ayes. 1 abstain (McClung). Motion carried.

**B. Resolution #32, Series of 2025 – World Fuel Services Card Processing Merchant Agreement**

Interim City Manager Wells stated that this resolution is for a new agreement for credit card processing for fuel purchases at the airport. Shay moved to approve Resolution #32, Series of 2025. Second by Dischner. Question. 5 ayes. Motion carried.

**C. Approval of DOLA Grant Local Funds Commitment**

Interim City Manager Wells explained that we have been discussing our 2024 paving project for Third and Fourth Avenues. We have applied for grant funds from DOLA and part of that process is that they want our commitment that we will pay the city portion of the project if we receive the grant. The total cost of the project is \$2,843,100. We applied for grant funds in the amount of \$1 million. The city's portion would be \$1,843,100 if we are approved for a \$1,000,000 grant. Benish moved to commit \$1,843,100, not to exceed \$1.9 million, to the project upon receipt of the DOLA grant funds. Second by Shay. Question. 5 ayes. Motion carried.

**D. First Reading of Ordinance #6, Series of 2025 – Temporary Moratorium on Accessory Dwelling Units and New Dwelling Units on Properties with Existing Dwelling Unit or Units**

Interim City Manager Wells stated that this is the ordinance that was drafted covering the discussions held at the last council meeting regarding a moratorium on Accessory Dwelling Units. The moratorium would last for a period of up to 6 months. Mayor McClung shared information on HB24-1152 regarding ADUs which goes into effect on June 30, 2025. Shay moved to approve on first reading Ordinance #6, Series of 2025. Second by Benish. Question. 5 ayes. Motion carried.

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

**A. Tabled Action Items**

Interim City Manager Wells and Interim Police Chief Witte continued with the presentation of employee certificates of service:

-Gary Baucke has 43 years of service with the city ambulance department. He began as a part-time employee in May of 1982, becoming an EMT Intermediate in 1990. Gary became a paramedic in 1996 and became a full-time employee on January 1, 2000. He then went back to a part-time position on August 22, 2022.

-Marla Ficken began her employment with the city on May 20, 2012, as a part-time assistant in the Clerk/Treasurer office. She then became a full-time employee on December 27, 2016. Marla has 13 years of service with the city.

-Stacie Gonzalez started her employment with the city on May 16, 2022, as an office assistant in the Clerk/Treasurer office. She has completed 3 years of service.

-Christopher Holmes began his service with the city on May 16, 2024. Christopher was also employed by the city from January 6, 2020, to June 30, 2022. He has 1 year of service with the city.

-Cindy Killip began employment with the city as a part-time EMT on May 13, 2009. She has completed 16 years of service with the city.

-Eugene Wagner started his employment with the city as a part-time EMT in May of 1986. He became an EMT Intermediate from 1991 to 1996. Eugene became a paramedic in 1996. He has 39 years of service with the city.

## **Additional Business**

### **A. Discussion on Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of Eckley on Trash Pick Up.**

Interim City Manager Wells explained that the agreement for trash pickup with the Town of Eckley will be expiring soon. The agreement began on August 1, 2016, and has not been reviewed during that time. If we want to make any changes to the agreement, we need to notify Eckley that we wish to renegotiate. Mr. John Krajewski did a review of the Eckley rates and provided recommendations for new rates. Currently, a 90-gallon container is \$12.50 and he recommends raising that to \$17.50. For two 90-gallon containers, the current rate is \$15.20 and he recommends raising that to \$21.28. For one 300-gallon container, the current rate is \$17.90 and he recommends raising the rate to \$25.06. For two 300-gallon containers, the current rate is \$23.00 with a recommendation of increasing the rate to \$32.20. These changes amount to around a 40% increase. Discussion was held. The consensus was that we should leave the rates as they are now.

## **Executive Session**

“To consider matters pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402 (4)(f) and not involving: any specific employees who have requested discussion of the matter in open session; any member of this body or any elected official; the appointment of any person to fill an office of this body or of an elected official; or personnel policies that do not require the discussion of matters personal to particular employees, regarding compensation for the Interim Police Chief.”

And

“To determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, develop a strategy for negotiations, and/or instruct negotiators, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402 (4)(e), regarding potential annexation and negotiations for annexation agreement.”

Mayor McClung stated council intends to meet in executive session to consider matters pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402 (4)(f) and not involving: any specific employees who have requested discussion of the matter in open session; any member of this body or any elected official; the appointment of any person to fill an office of this body or of an elected official; or personnel policies that do not require the discussion of matters personal to particular employees, regarding compensation for the Interim Police Chief and to determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, develop a strategy for negotiations, and/or instruct negotiators, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402 (4)(e), regarding potential annexation and negotiations for annexation agreement. Shay moved to go into executive session. Second by Benish. Question. 5 ayes. Motion carried.

Council resumed regular session at 8:53 p.m. A statement was read for who was present in executive session and there were no objections to the discussions in executive session.

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

### **E. Designation of Compensation for Interim Police Chief**

Shay moved to make Interim Police Chief Curtis Witte a salaried employee at the current Chief salary rate, retroactive to when he began the Chief duties. Second by Benish. Question. 5 ayes. Motion carried.

## **Adjournment**

Shay moved to adjourn. Second by Dischner. Question. 5 ayes. Motion carried.

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Timothy McClung  
Mayor

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Karma Wells, CMC  
City Clerk/Treasurer