

**City of Yuma
City Council Minutes
Hybrid Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 7, 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, Diaz, Frame, McClung, Shay.

Members Absent: Dischner

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

Corrections or Additions to the Agenda

Clerk/Treasurer Wells stated that this evening's agenda is different than what was delivered in council packets, but the updated agenda has been posted for the required 24 hours.

Approval of October 7, 2025, Agenda

Shay moved to approve the October 7, 2025, agenda as presented. Second by Benish. Question. 6 ayes. Motion carried.

Citizens Recognition and Introduction/Public Comment

None.

Presentations (Informational)

A. Employee Years of Service Recognition

Clerk/Treasurer Wells recognized the following city employees who had their service year anniversaries in September:

Jolissa Asmus began her employment with the city as a part-time EMT on September 4, 2017. She went on to become a full-time EMT on January 1, 2021. Jolissa earned her advanced EMT certification on January 26, 2022. She then completed paramedic school and became a paramedic on January 12, 2025. Jolissa has 8 years of service with the City of Yuma.

Jerod Chacon began his employment with the city on September 9, 2021, as an apprentice in the electric department. Jerod has 4 years of service with the city.

Alynn Hass started her employment with the city as a part-time paramedic on September 10, 2021. She became a full-time paramedic on April 23, 2023. Alynn has 4 years of service with the city.

Mark Triplett began his employment with the city on September 23, 2022, as the street, sanitation and shop supervisor. Mark has 3 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 highlights on the following items:

- Manager Duthie attended the Yuma Museum Board meeting and was given a tour of the museum. He stated that it was very impressive.
- Duthie stated that he attended the Yuma Lion's Club meeting last night.
- He attended the Chamber of Commerce "Lunch and Learn". The topic was public speaking.
- Manager Duthie and Mayor McClung attended the Yuma 20/20 meeting. Mayor McClung explained that Yuma 20/20 is looking to build a Yuma community trust similar to what Wray has. Council Member Diaz's wife, Katie, is spearheading the Yuma 20/20 hoping to help Yuma progress and grow.
- Manager Duthie and Mark Triplett had the opportunity to be onsite to examine the impact of water flow after a storm. They also looked at some of the streets.
- At the countywide meeting they talked informally about the pool and issues that our communities are facing.
- We hosted the CML District meeting. Council Member Shay stated that it was an enjoyable meeting and he likes to hear what is going on in other communities. Mayor Pro Tem Benish stated that so many communities are having to put in million-dollar facilities to deal with wastewater issues. We are so blessed to have our wastewater going to the ethanol plant.
- Duthie attended a meeting at Congresswoman Boebert's office in Eaton.
- Manager Duthie met with leaders from Colorado State University regarding the potential development of a hybrid engineer/project manager position.

B. City Clerk/Treasurer – Karma Wells

i. Finance Reports

Clerk/Treasurer Wells provided council with the finance reports for April and May.

ii. Sales Tax Report

Clerk/Treasurer Wells provided council with the September sales tax report.

iii. Department Updates

Clerk/Treasurer Wells stated that she needs to complete the department updates and will get those to council via email.

Wells updated council with some information she obtained regarding the opioid settlement. For our region, \$1 million will be paid out over 15 years.

iv. Airport Leases

Council was provided with three different samples of an airport lease. There are some requested changes to the leases that need reviewed by the City. Mayor McClung recommended that Manager Duthie work along with Attorney Sellars and the FAA to come up with a lease by January 1, 2026.

C. Interim Chief of Police – Curtis Witte

Interim Chief Witte thanked council for their understanding in him taking time off for family matters.

The speed study applications have been sent to the state.

Witte will be out of the office next week but will be available if needed.

D. City Attorney – Kathryn Sellars (If necessary)

None.

City Council Reports/Comments (Informational)

McClung

- Mayor McClung announced that Council Member Diaz tendered his resignation from city council. His last meeting will be October 21, 2025.

Benish

- Mayor Pro Tem Benish attended the pool committee meeting where they discussed marketing ideas.

Consent Agenda (Action Items)

- A. Approval of September 16, 2025, regular meeting minutes.
- B. Approval of disbursements and payroll.
- C. Purchases in excess of \$25,000.

Shay moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Benish. Question. 5 ayes. 1 abstain (Baucke due to not being involved in the earlier conversation on these items.). Motion carried.

Public Hearings and Other New Business (Action Items)

A. Approval of disclosed disbursements (if needed)

None.

B. Resolution #72, Series of 2025 – Third Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with Prairie Winds Veterinary Clinic

Clerk/Treasurer Wells explained that this is the third amendment to the agreement with Prairie Winds Veterinary Clinic which expired October 1, 2025. This amendment would extend the term of the agreement to October 1, 2026. Shay moved to approve Resolution #72, Series of 2025. Second by Frame. Question. 6 ayes. Motion carried.

C. Resolution #45, Series of 2025 – Grant Policy

Clerk/Treasurer Wells stated that the draft for the grant policy was last presented a couple of meetings ago. This is the final draft of the policy to be approved. Baucke moved to approve Resolution #45, Series of 2025. Second by Shay. Question. 6 ayes. Motion carried.

D. CEBT Health Insurance Renewal

Clerk/Treasurer Wells reviewed the rates for health insurance since 2024. She is estimating the increase for 2026 to be \$99,504 using current information from the September 2025, bill to do the calculation. Currently, the city pays 100% of the employee portion of the premium. For those employees with family members, the employee pays 10% of the difference in premium. Mayor McClung stated that we need to be looking at other companies to stay competitive. Wells stated that there are other plans through CEBT that we could look at. Discussion was held and the consensus was that it is cutting it too close to look at other options for this renewal. Shay moved to approve the health insurance renewal with CEBT. Second by Baucke. Question 6 ayes. Motion carried.

E. Resolution #73, Series of 2025 – Agreement with Charles Lee Peters for the Presiding Municipal Judge

Clerk/Treasurer Wells stated that this agreement is to extend the contract with Charles Lee Peters for the position of Presiding Municipal Judge for another two-year term at the current fee. Shay moved to approve Resolution #73, Series of 2025. Second by Benish. Question. 6 ayes. Motion carried.

F. Resolution #74, Series of 2025 – Amended and Restated Total Power Requirements Power Purchase Agreement with the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska

Clerk/Treasurer Wells stated that our current agreement with MEAN does not have a termination date. This amended contract does specify a termination date and the costs involved if we terminate. Baucke moved to approve Resolution #74, Series of 2025. Second by Shay. Question. 6 ayes. Motion carried.

G. First Reading of Ordinance #12, Series of 2025 – Amending Chapter 2.04 of the Yuma Municipal Code Concerning Term Limits

Clerk/Treasurer Wells explained that in the 1998 election, Yuma voters chose to eliminate term limits. Our code was never updated to reflect that change, so we are updating it now. Baucke moved to approve on first reading Ordinance #12, Series of 2025. Second by Shay. Question. 6 ayes. Motion carried.

H. Resolution #75, Series of 2025 – Approving an Agreement for Professional Services with Kumar & Associates.

Clerk/Treasurer Wells stated that we discussed at a prior meeting that our city shop located at 115 West Railroad Avenue, is not in the name of City of Yuma in the Yuma County Assessor's records. The records list First Security Bank as the owner of the property. The city purchased the property in the early 1990s, but it was not changed over to the city's name. To make that change now, we are needing to do some work on the property first. We have a quote from Kumar & Associates in the amount of \$11,650 to do the cleanup. Mayor McClung suggested that we inquire if the bank will pay half of the cleanup costs before proceeding with this. Baucke moved to table Resolution #75, Series of 2025. Second by Diaz. Question. 6 ayes. Motion carried.

I. Resolution #76, Series of 2025 – Pipeline License Agreement with BNSF for Railroad Bore

Clerk/Treasurer Wells stated that we have been waiting for the agreement from BNSF for the railroad bore and recently discovered that the fees were not in the agreement correctly. The fees are now \$2,000 more than they previously were due to an error in the contract by BNSF. Baucke moved to approve Resolution #76, Series of 2025. Second by Shay. Question. 6 ayes. Motion carried.

J. CIRSA Insurance Renewal

City Manager Duthie reviewed the discussion held at the last council meeting when representatives from CIRSA were present to go over our renewal. They stated that the increased premiums have been heavily impacted by law enforcement statewide. The quote we were given reflects an increase of 11.865%. We requested an extension to October 8th, so that CIRSA could look at ways we could change our deductibles to lower our premiums. CIRSA did provide some options that were reviewed by Manager Duthie and Clerk/Treasurer Wells and there is no real incentive to take the risk of having higher deductibles. Manager Duthie stated that his recommendation would be to approve this renewal at \$255,824.57, but added that in the spring or summer of 2026, we will be looking for other options for this insurance coverage as well as for the health insurance coverage. Shay moved to approve the CIRSA Insurance Renewal. Second by Benish. Question. 6 ayes. Motion carried.

K. Ordinance #13, Series of 2025 – Amending Section 8.26.050 of the Yuma Municipal Code by the Addition of a New Subsection 8.26.050 9 (E) Titled Abatement By Show Cause Hearing

Manager Duthie explained that we have had many discussions regarding the process of code violations, specifically nuisance violations such as weeds. The current process has to run through the criminal courts

which has a very slow timeline. We made an inquiry with the city attorney to see what changes could be made to expedite the process. One option is to have a hearing officer take care of the citations as a civil violation, rather than criminal. The city manager would act as the hearing officer. An informal hearing would be held within five days of the citation being issued giving the offender seven days to take care of the issue. If they do not comply, the city manager can order the problem fixed with the expense being billed to the offender. The whole process should take about two weeks. Shay moved to approve Ordinance #13, Series of 2025. Second by Baucke. 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 #9, Series of 2025 – Amending Section 13.12 of the Yuma Municipal Code Establishing Rates on Electrical Usage.

Clerk/Treasurer Wells stated that a rate study was conducted on our electric rates and the recommendation was made that we need to increase our rates in order to sustain our reserves. Mayor McClung opened the public hearing. Hearing no discussion, the public hearing was closed. Mayor McClung stated for the record that this decision to raise the electric rates was based on the information received from the rate study that was conducted. Shay moved to approve on second reading Ordinance #9, Series of 2025. Second by Baucke. Question. 6 ayes. Motion carried.

Additional Business

A. Extension of Electrical to the Yuma Municipal Airport

City electrician John Prettyman explained that a party who has a hangar at the airport would like to have power run to their hangar. There would be a cost to the city to run the line to their hangar, but we would be gaining a new customer in the process. Prettyman would like some guidance from council on the matter. Manager Duthie stated that the question is, would this benefit only that customer, or would it benefit the airport in general? If we want the airport to grow and become a positive to the community, at some point we will need to do this anyway. Discussion was held. Council consensus was to move forward with the extension of service to the hangar, with the city covering the cost of the installation.

Executive Session

“To determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations; and instructing negotiators, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402 (4) (e) and to consider personnel 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, specifically applications received for Chief of Police position.”

Mayor McClung stated that council intends to meet in executive session to determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations; and instructing negotiators, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402 (4) (e) and to consider personnel 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, specifically applications received for Chief of Police position. Shay moved to enter executive session. Second by Frame. Question. 6 ayes. Motion carried.

Council resumed regular session at 9:14 p.m. A statement was read for who was present in executive session and there were no objections to the discussions in executive session.

Adjournment

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

Timothy McClung
Mayor

Karma Wells, CMC
City Clerk/Treasurer