

**City of Yuma
City Council Minutes
Hybrid Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 16, 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.

Swearing in of new Council Member

At the last council meeting it was decided to appoint the next top vote getter from the November election to fill the vacancy left by Mike Aagesen. O’Neal moved to appoint Jerry Thompson to fill the vacancy. Second by Fitzsimmons. Question. 4 ayes. Motion carried.

Clerk/Treasurer Wells performed the swearing in of new council member Jerry Thompson.

Roll Call

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

Members Absent: Baucke.

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

Corrections or Additions to the Agenda

Clerk/Treasurer Wells stated that the appointment of the new council member was added to the swearing-in of the new council member and item 12E on the agenda was changed from second reading to first reading.

Approval of December 16, 2025, Agenda

Shay moved to approve the December 16, 2025, agenda as amended. Second by O’Neal. Question. 5 ayes. Motion carried.

Citizens Recognition and Introduction/Public Comment

None.

Presentations (Informational)

A. Employee Service Year Recognition

The following employees were recognized for their years of service anniversaries:

Margaret Marr began her service with the city as a part-time ambulance driver on December 21, 2020. Margaret has five years of service with the city.

Jeff Pagel began his employment with the city as a part-time EMT with the ambulance service on December 5, 2024. Jeff has one year of service with the city.

B. Rural Philanthropy Days Conference Update – Alice Metzler

Ms. Alice Metzler, conference coordinator for Rural Philanthropy Days and Ms. Paige Brandner, co-chair of the hospitality committee, were present to give council details on the upcoming event. Rural Philanthropy Days will be held in Yuma on July 8 – 10, 2026. This event brings together non-profit organizations in northeast Colorado with funders from all over the State of Colorado. This event is held

every four years and it has been eight years since it was held in northeast Colorado. They are expecting approximately 200 – 250 people to come to Yuma for the conference. There will be fourteen counties participating in the event. Prior to this event being held, only about 3% of grant funds were given to non-profits in northeast Colorado. That number has now increased to about 21% of funds. A brief Power Point presentation was shown to council. Ms. Metzler stated that all 14 counties and the cities they represent are being asked to help fund the event. They would like to receive a \$5,000 contribution from the City of Yuma. The Yuma County Commissioners have made a commitment of \$3,000.

C. 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:

- The owners of the Lett Hotel have been actively working on removing the porch.
- The sign regarding the new pool has been put in place at Cool Acres Park.
- Manager Duthie expressed appreciation to the library staff for the outstanding job they are doing.
- We were contacted by a pilot car escort company who will be coming through town with an oversized load on a route that has been approved by CDOT. We don't know exactly when they will arrive as they have a five-day window on their state permit. We will be seeing an increase in these oversized loads coming through Yuma and the vehicles and equipment keep getting larger. Mayor McClung stated that we really need to pursue getting a truck stop in Yuma.
- We saw a demonstration on a pothole machine. It is a small, self-contained unit that keeps the asphalt at the correct temperature. There are lease options for the machine and we would like to do more demos.
- Sandhills Solar Farm tried a start-up test last week and it failed. They will try to do another start-up test tomorrow. If it is not successful, our engineer will be gone until after January 1 and penalties will be assessed for not meeting the December 31 deadline.

B. City Clerk/Treasurer – Karma Wells

i. Finance Report

Clerk/Treasurer Wells provided council with the September finance report.

ii. Sales Tax Report

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

C. Interim Chief of Police – Curtis Witte

- Interim Police Chief Witte provided council with the November police report. In 2024 we had 604 total reports and as of today, we have 662. We are keeping busy.
- There is a property in the 200 block of North Birch Street that had a fire in it a few years ago. We are taking steps to get the owners of the property to take care of it. They were served with a letter today. They have 30 days to fix the house or tear it down. Essentially, the whole structure is deemed unsafe.
- Witte informed council about the coming high wind warning. They are predicting gusts up to 80 MPH. He stated that when the Heartstrong fire occurred, there were winds up to 70 MPH. As dry as it has been, these winds are a real concern.
- Witte informed council that he will be out of the office next week to use his PTO that needs to be used before the end of the year.

D. City Attorney – Kathryn Sellars (If necessary)

None.

City Council Reports/Comments (Informational)

Fitzsimmons

- Council Member Fitzsimmons stated that he appreciates the committee assignments and looks forward to moving forward with those in the new year.

O’Neal

- Mayor Pro Tem O’Neal stated that he appreciates the turnout from the city at Mike Aagesen’s funeral.

McClung

- Mayor McClung and Mayor Pro Tem O’Neal met with executive staff to discuss the list of projects.

Consent Agenda (Action Items)

- A. Approval of December 2, 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 Fitzsimmons. Question. 5 ayes. Motion carried.

Public Hearings and Other New Business (Action Items)

A. Approval of disclosed disbursements (if needed)

None.

B. Resolution #87, Series of 2025 – Intergovernmental Agreement by and Between the Yuma Police Department and the Law Enforcement Entities Constituting the Regional Special Enforcement and Response Team (SPEAR)

Interim Chief Witte stated that there was no IGA in place when the SPEAR team was put in place, so they have created one now. Any future members of the SPEAR team will have to go through tryouts. If they make the team, they will have to go through training which would come out of our training budget. Justin Forsythe and Cameron Josh are our officers who currently serve on the SPEAR team, along with members of the Yuma County Sheriff’s Office and the Holyoke Police Department. Council Member Thompson added that tryouts are held twice a year and the training is a weeklong program. Shay moved to approve Resolution #87, Series of 2025. Second by Thompson. Question. 5 ayes. Motion carried.

C. Resolution #88, Series of 2025 – Second Amendment to Agreement with Essenza Architecture

Clerk/Treasurer Wells stated that this is the second amendment to our agreement with Essenza who are the architects for the swimming pool. We are changing the scope of work to provide services for conceptual design, schematic design, design development, construction documents, bid/negotiation and construction administration, and FF & E Selections & Purchase ready specification manual in the amount of \$496,104, for a total of \$548,852. Shay moved to approve Resolution #88, Series of 2025. Second by O’Neal. Question. 5 ayes. Motion carried.

D. First Reading Ordinance #1, Series of 2026 – Amending the Yuma Municipal Code Concerning Wireless Services Facilities

Manager Duthie stated that the Colorado Legislature passed HB25-1056 which goes into effect on January 1, 2026, regarding local governments permitting wireless telecommunications facilities. Therefore, the city attorney has drafted this ordinance and it has been reviewed by emergency and police personnel. Fitzsimmons moved to approve on first reading Ordinance #1, Series of 2026. Second by O’Neal. Question. 5 ayes. Motion carried.

E. First Reading Ordinance #2, Series of 2026 – Amending Chapter 17.06 of the Yuma Municipal Code Concerning Turf Restrictions

Manager Duthie stated that the Colorado Legislature passed SB5 which prohibits the installation of non-functional turf to help promote water conservation. This legislation goes into effect on January 1, 2026. This ordinance will bring us in compliance with the new state law. O’Neal moved to approve on first reading Ordinance #2, Series of 2026. Second by Shay. Question. 5 ayes. Motion carried.

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

A. Tabled action items

None.

Additional Business

None.

Adjournment

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

Timothy McClung
Mayor

Karma Wells, CMC
City Clerk/Treasurer