

City of Yuma
City Council Minutes
Hybrid Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 3, 2024
Meeting Location – City Hall, 320 South Main Street, Yuma, CO and virtual through Zoom
Call to Order – 6:31 P.M.

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

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

Staff Present: Jerry Thompson, Karma Wells, Kathryn Sellars.

Corrections or Additions to the Agenda

Clerk/Treasurer Wells stated that item 11-G is being moved to the next agenda and items 10-C-i and 10-C-ii from the Consent Agenda have been moved to items 11-H and 11-I.

Approval of December 3, 2024 Agenda

Shay moved to approve the December 3, 2024 agenda as amended. Second by Baucke. Question. 5 ayes. Motion carried.

Citizens Recognition and Introduction/Public Comment

Mr. Gaylen Campbell was present to ask for council's consideration to extend the string lights that are on Main Street to include the 400 block of Main Street. There are eleven commercial businesses in that block and he believes it would be beneficial to extend the lighting to that area.

Presentations (Informational)

A. Presentation - Ezekiel Towers - Citizens concerns

Mr. Ezekiel Towers was present to express concerns regarding Clerk/Treasurer Wells being appointed as the Interim City Manager while holding her current position of Clerk/Treasurer. He asked how council determined that it is compatible for both positions to be held by one person for the system of checks and balances. He also expressed concern regarding the wages being paid for both positions and believes it is too much for a small community like Yuma. Mayor McClung thanked Mr. Towers for coming forward to express his concerns.

B. Presentation – Short Elliot Hendrickson – Update on engineering for projects with the City

Mr. Scott Jardine from Short Elliot Hendrickson was present to update council on the three projects that his company is providing engineering services for, which include the Pavement Management Program, the Village Park East Project and the 2024 Paving Project.

Regarding the Pavement Management Program, an assessment of the city streets was done by IMS by driving a bump truck on all of the paved roads in Yuma. Maps were provided that show the findings of the road conditions. A pavement condition index (PCI) is used to rate the roads on a scale of 0 to 100. The findings showed that 12.7 miles of our 21.9 miles (approximately 58%) of paved roadways are in good, very good or excellent condition and would only require surface maintenance to keep them in that condition. Mr. Jardine explained that the overall PCI index of our paved roads is 59% which is an average quality rating of fair condition. Most municipalities strive for a PCI rating of 70%. Approximately 27% of our roads would fall into a recommendation of full reconstruction. They will provide a report in January giving their recommendations on the best way to utilize the \$200,000 budget for street repairs. Council would like to know what the timeframe would be to get all roads to good condition. A 10-year plan seems to be the most feasible option.

The 2024 Paving Project covers 4 separate locations. The current timeline includes a 30% preliminary design and cost estimate and upon review and approval by the city, moves to a 90% plan set, which is a constructable plan set. Our roads are flatter than desired and that has led to some of the issues with the streets due to the poor drainage. They will attempt to limit the amount of sidewalk reconstruction in the process of fixing the drainage issues. They are looking at having the preliminary design complete by December 16. Due to the holidays, the city will review at the beginning of January. The goal is to have the 90% constructable documents and cost estimate by mid-February, followed by the bid process (unless locally awarded) and construction beginning around April 1, 2025.

The Village Park East scope is to provide a 15% concept assessment of paving the roads, which are currently aggregate. There are currently some existing attached curb, gutter and sidewalks on some, but not all, of the properties. They will give an estimate to pave the aggregate roads, making sure there is adequate curb and gutter sloping and that there are ADA accessible routes on at least one side of the roadway. Sidewalks will be placed on the west side of Centennial Road because that is where the homes are located. The goal on the deliverables is mid-January.

C. Presentation – Miller and Associates – Update on water line replacement under the Railroad

Representatives Lauren Benton and David Hach, from Miller and Associates, were present to update council on the water line replacement project on Main Street, north of First Avenue. There is currently a 4” water line there running under BNSF railroad that has been there since 1913. That will be upgraded to a 12” water line. There are permits that have to be obtained from BNSF and a variance has been applied for to help cut the cost of the project. There are three tasks to the project. Task 1 is the design and survey phase which has been completed. Task 2 is the bidding process (if not awarded to a local contractor) and Task 3 is overseeing the actual construction. BNSF requires that the 12” PVC water line be encased in an 18” steel casing 8 feet under the railroad tracks. The total estimated cost of the project is between \$350,000 - \$400,000, with an estimated start date of February, 2025.

D. Other Presentations (If any)

None.

Reports (Informational)

A. Interim City Manager – Karma Wells

i. Misc Department Updates

Interim City Manager Wells had provided council with various department updates. The windows for the Community Center arrived for installation, but there is an issue with the interior trim color matching.

B. City Clerk/Treasurer – Karma Wells

i. Finance Report

Clerk/Treasurer Wells provided council with finance reports for September and October.

C. Chief of Police – Jerry Thompson

Chief Thompson stated that he is working on the new applicant for the open officer position and hopes to have that process completed next week. Thompson also was able to schedule a meeting with the school Superintendent regarding the SRO agreement.

D. City Attorney – Kathryn Sellars (If necessary)

None.

City Council Reports/Comments (Informational)

Diaz

- Council Member Diaz stated that he was contacted by someone who recommended a grant that provides funds for streets around schools. He will pass that information on to grant writer, Angela Cordell.

Shay

- Council Member Shay stated that he attended the NECALG meeting. New buses are running around \$200,000, so they are looking into a program to refurbish the older buses at about a third of the cost of a new bus.

McClung

- Mayor McClung stated that he and Karma have been meeting with various organizations to build connections between them and the city.
- Council met with the Recreation Center committee last Tuesday and will be meeting with area realtors next week.
- A committee regarding the swimming pool is being established. Council Members Baucke and Dischner volunteered to sit on that committee.

Consent Agenda (Action Items)

- A. Approval of November 19, 2024 regular meeting minutes.
- B. Approval of disbursements and payroll.
- C. Purchases in excess of \$5,000.
 - i. Old Street Shop Heaters (moved to item 11-H)
 - ii. Trash Containers (moved to item 11-I)

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

Public Hearings and Other New Business (Action Items)

A. Approval of disclosed disbursements (if needed)

None.

B. Public Hearing for Consideration of a Conditional Use for a proposed 2.8MW ground mounted solar array located at 38214 County Road G

Interim City Manager Wells provided council with the application for Conditional Use from Sandhills Energy for a 2.8 MW ground mounted solar array. Public hearing was opened. Brian Burner, Senior Vice President of Sandhills Energy, was present via Zoom to give an overview of the project to council. This is a joint project between Sandhills Energy, The City of Yuma and the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN). The City of Yuma will be purchasing 500 KW of capacity and MEAN will be purchasing the remaining 2.3 MW. This project is part of the USDA PACE Program. Sandhills will be leasing land from the City. Construction may start before the end of the year, with completion of the project taking place in May. Public hearing was closed. Baucke moved to approve the conditional use. Second by Shay. Question. 5 ayes. Motion carried.

C. Resolution #48, Series of 2024 – Amending the City’s 125 Flexible Benefits Plan

City Clerk/Treasurer Wells stated that this resolution sets the maximum amount a city employee may deduct for flexible spending for the 2025 plan year. This limit is set by the IRS and the maximum amount for 2025 is \$3,300. Baucke moved to approve Resolution #48, Series of 2024. Second by Shay. Question. 5 ayes. Motion carried.

D. Resolution #49, Series of 2024 – Amending the City’s 125 Flexible Benefits Plan

City Clerk/Treasurer Wells stated that this resolution amends the amount that an employee may carry forward to the new plan year. The new amount is \$660. Shay moved to approve Resolution #49, Series of 2024. Second by Dischner. Question. 5 ayes. Motion carried.

E. Resolution #50, Series of 2024 – Adopting the City’s IRC Section 125 Flexible Benefits Plan Document

City Clerk/Treasurer Wells stated that this resolution adopts the updated IRC Section 125 Flexible Benefits Plan document. Dischner moved to approve Resolution #50, Series of 2024. Second by Shay. Question. 5 ayes. Motion carried.

F. Approval of Northeast All-Hazards Region (NEAHR) Homeland Security Grant Application for Security Cameras and Lighting

Interim City Manager Wells stated that this grant would provide for security cameras and enhanced lighting in key areas around Yuma. The grant application is due January 24, 2025. The funds would be available beginning March 26, 2025. This is a no match grant up to \$55,776. Dischner moved to approve the grant application to NEAHR. Second by Diaz. Question. 5 ayes. Motion carried.

G. Approval of 2025 Road to Zero Community Traffic Safety Grant Application for Sidewalks on the North and South Sides of the Railroad Tracks

This item was tabled.

H. Purchase of Old Street Shop Heaters

Interim City Manager Wells stated she is seeking approval for the purchase of two heaters to replace the old heaters in the street shop building. She stated that she received three quotes for the heaters. Council stipulated that they would like research to be done to see if forced air or radiant heat would be more efficient when making the final decision. Shay moved to approve the purchase of the heaters in an amount not to exceed \$8,000. Second by Dischner. Question. 5 ayes. Motion carried.

I. Purchase of Trash Containers

Interim City Manager Wells stated she is seeking approval for the purchase of twenty-five 96-gallon trash containers and twenty-five 300-gallon trash containers. Three quotes were received with the purchase being awarded to Snyder Industries in an amount not to exceed \$17,000 (including freight charges). Shay moved to approve the purchase of trash containers from Snyder Industries. Second by Diaz. Question. 5 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 Ordinance #6, Series of 2024 – Appropriate Sums of Money and Adopt the 2025 Budget

Clerk/Treasurer Wells stated that there were a couple of amendments to the budget since the last meeting. The changes were reviewed. Public hearing was opened. Hearing no discussion, public hearing was closed. Shay moved to approve on second reading Ordinance #6, Series of 2024. Second by Diaz. Question. 5 ayes. Motion carried.

C. Public Hearing on Second Reading Ordinance #7, Series of 2024 – Set Mill Levy

Clerk/Treasurer Wells stated that there is an amendment to this ordinance since the first reading. We received new assessed property values from the county. The prior figure was \$27,402,060 and has changed to \$27,476,880 with revenues of \$841,892. Public hearing was opened. Hearing no discussion, public hearing was closed. Shay moved to approve on second reading Ordinance #7, Series of 2024. Second by Diaz. Question. 5 ayes. Motion carried.

D. Public Hearing on Second Reading Ordinance #8, Series of 2024 – Amend 2024 Budget

Clerk/Treasurer Wells stated that there is only one amendment to the 2024 budget for the Firemen’s Pension Fund in the amount of \$2,000. Public hearing was opened. Hearing no discussion, public hearing was closed. Baucke moved to approve on second reading Ordinance #8, Series of 2024. Second by Shay. Question. 5 ayes. Motion carried.

Additional Business

Clerk/Treasurer Wells gave an update on airport fuel sales. It was discovered when we first started offering the airport fuel, some transactions to test the payment system were run and those transactions caused some discrepancies in the figures. Also, some refinement on the fuel level stick tests have been done, so everything should be more accurate going forward.

Executive Session

“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 for the Interim City Manager, City Clerk/Treasurer and Chief of Police evaluations.”

Mayor McClung stated council intends to meet in executive session 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 for the Interim City Manager, City Clerk/Treasurer and Chief of Police evaluations. Baucke moved to go into executive session. Second by Shay. Question. 5 ayes. Motion carried.

Council resumed regular session at 9:03 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 Dischner. Question. 5 ayes. Motion carried.

Tim McClung
Mayor

Karma Wells, CMC
City Clerk/Treasurer