

Yutan City Council  
Tuesday, April 21st, 2026  
7:00 p.m. Yutan City Hall

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUTAN, IN THE COUNTY OF SAUNDERS, STATE OF NEBRASKA HELD AT THE CITY OFFICE IN SAID CITY ON THE 21<sup>st</sup> DAY OF APRIL 2026, AT 7:00 p.m.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by posting notice, a designated method for giving notice, as shown by the Affidavit of Publication and Certificate of Posting Notice attached to these minutes. Notice of this meeting was given to Mayor Thompson and all members of the Yutan City Council, and a copy of their acknowledgment of receipt of the notice and the agenda is attached to these minutes. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Thompson. Councilmembers Lawton, Schimenti, Mach, and Smith were present. Mayor Thompson informed all the individuals present of the location of the Open Meetings Act and Code of Conduct. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

1) **Consent Agenda**

- a. Approve Minutes of March 17th, 2026, Council Meeting
- b. Treasurer's Report
- c. Claims: **All Star Plumbing LLC \$4,850.00, ARCS \$452.00, Blue Cross Blue Shield \$2,585.05, Bomgaars \$606.85, Brase Electrical \$10,057.09, Bromm, Lindahl, Freeman-Caddy & Lausterer \$526.50, Candlewood Suites-Kearney \$318.16, Capital Business Systems, Inc. \$368.04, Cardmember Services \$1,800.46, Colonial Research \$3,796.95, Column Software PBC \$576.85, Concentra \$104.00, Cubby's \$712.21, Culligan \$129.25, DropIns Portables \$781.10, Eakes \$613.65, EFTPS-Federal Payroll Taxes \$17,543.89, Elkhorn Ace Hardware \$128.70, Frontier Cooperation \$827.74, Guardian \$42.50, Hometown Leasing \$69.74, Intoximeters \$207.00, JEO Consulting Group \$3,000.00, Jorgensen Grading \$4,750.00, Konecky Oil Inc. \$39.30, Lowes \$206.92, Menards \$152.16, MES Services Company LLC \$128.00, MUD \$265.24, Midwest Laboratories Inc. \$29.60, NE Department of Revenue \$5,366.38, NE Dept. of Revenue-Charitable Gaming \$4,314.00, Nebraska Public Health and Environmental Lab \$115.00, Nebraska Rural Water Association \$445.00, NMC Cat \$1,103.83, Odeys \$227.65, Oliva, Robert \$180.20, One Call Concepts, Inc. \$16.40, One Source Background Check \$44.00, OPPD \$5,831.82, Pitney Bowes Purchase Power \$757.65, RoadRunner Transportation LLC \$954.01, Sargent Drilling \$1,322.00, Saunders County Register of Deeds \$52.00, Summit Fire Protection \$901.00, The Diamonds Groundskeeper \$1,272.00, The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company \$342.16, Ty's Outdoor Power & Service \$522.94, U.S. Cellular \$106.83, Van Ackeren, Laurie \$104.93, Verizon Business \$40.01, Total w/o Payroll \$74,838.76, Payroll \$50,087.71, Total w/Payroll**

\$124,926.47

- d. A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Smith and seconded by Schimenti. Upon roll call vote was as follows: YEAH: Lawton, Schimenti, Mach, Smith. NO: None, Motion Carried.

**2) Open Discussion from the Public**

- a. Mary Jo Robinson read a letter expressing her concerns with the changes that the new library board has made and that the city council did not express their understanding with the old library board and what Director Van Ackeren has done for the library.
- b. Ken Davis brought his concerns with the parks and that the trash bins do not get distributed throughout the park at various locations. Due to the trash cans not being distributed, trash gets left around and gets mowed over and spread around the park.

- 3)** Mayor Thompson asked to move the action item Building Lease for Police Department-401 Second Street to the end of the meeting. Schimenti motioned and Smith seconded to move action item Building Lease for Police Department-401 Second Street- to the end of the meeting. Upon roll call vote was as follows: YEAH: Schimenti, Mach, Smith, Lawton. NO: None. Motion Carried.

**4) Presentations from Guests**

- a. Reese Bullington-Eagle Scout Project: Yutan Heritage Project
  - i. Mayor Thompson introduced Reese Bullington, who presented a proposed Eagle Scout project involving the relocation of a city historical marker. Mr. Bullington reported that he is coordinating with the Historical Society, which has agreed to assist with site selection and fund the purchase of new signage, ensuring the project results in no cost to the City. He presented proposed designs and updated verbiage for the markers. During the discussion, Mayor Thompson suggested a location near the site of the planned pollination garden. Councilmember Schimenti inquired about a preferred location; Mr. Bullington expressed interest in the area between the city park and the railroad tracks. In response to inquiries regarding project needs, Mr. Bullington noted that donations and labor assistance for site preparation would be welcome. The Council expressed a general consensus of support for the project, noting it would be a positive addition to the community.

**5) Resolutions**

- a. 2026-6 Verizon Contract
  - i. Mayor Thompson stated that the city attorney has reviewed the contract with Verizon along with their attorney. Councilmember Smith asked what the timeline would be. Administrator Oliva stated that he does not have a direct time frame, but he expects it to be started fairly quickly after the signed lease.
  - ii. A motion to approve Resolution 2026-6 Verizon Contract was made by Smith and seconded by Mach. Upon roll call vote was as follows: YEAH: Schimenti, Mach, Smith, Lawton NO:None, Motion Carried.
- b. 2026-7 Hazard Mitigation Plan
  - i. Community Planner Costa reported on his ongoing coordination with the Natural Resources District (NRD) regarding the regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. He noted that participation provides an opportunity for inter-jurisdictional

collaboration with neighboring municipalities and is essential for the City to remain eligible for various federal grants and financial assistance programs. Mr. Costa emphasized that the plan includes strategies specifically tailored to the Yutan area. He recommended participation as a significant benefit to the community, deferring to the Council for final authorization.

- ii. A motion to approve Resolution 2026-7 Hazard Mitigation Plan was made by Schimenti and seconded by Lawton. Upon roll call vote was as follows: YEAH: Mach, Smith, Lawton, Schimenti. NO: None, Motion Carried.
- c. 2026-8 Update to City Contributions for Employee Insurance Premiums and Cash-In-Lieu benefits
  - i. A motion to approve Resolution 2026-8 Update the City Contributions for Employee Insurance Premiums and Cash-In-Lieu Benefits was made by Smith and seconded by Schimenti. Upon roll call vote was as follows: YEAH: Smith, Lawton, Schimenti, Mach. NO: None, Motion Carried.
- d. 2026-9 Renewal of Health and Dental Insurance Services through League Insurance Government Health Plan (LIGHT) for the 2026-2027 Plan Year.
  - i. A motion to approve Resolution 2026-9 Renewal of Health and Dental Insurance Services through League Insurance Government Health Plan (LIGHT) for the 2026-2027 Plan Year was made by Lawton and seconded by Mach. Upon roll call vote was as follows: YEAH: Lawton, Schimenti, Mach, Smith. NO: None, Motion Carried.
- e. 2026-10 Resignation of Luke Woster and appointment of Cody Cardin as Utility Superintendent.
  - i. Mayor Thompson Appointed Cody Cardin as Utilities Superintendent. He has spoken with Cardin and would like to pay him \$35 per hour.
  - ii. A motion to approve Resolution 2026-10 Resignation of Luke Woster and appointment of Cody Cardin as Utility Superintendent with the wage of \$35 per hour was made by Lawton and seconded by Schimentni. Upon roll call vote was as follows: YEAH: Schimenti, Mach, Smith, Lawton. NO: None, Motion Carried.

## 6) Action Items

- a. Blue Valley Public Safety Maintenance Agreement
  - i. A motion to approve the Maintenance Agreement with Blue Valley Public Safety was made by Mach and seconded by Lawton. Upon roll call vote was as follows: YEAH: Mach, Smith, Lawton, Schimenti. NO: None, Motion Carried.
- b. Renew Keno Application
  - i. A motion to approve the renewal of the Keno Application was made by Mach and seconded by Lawton. Upon roll call vote was as follows: YEAH: Smith, Lawton, Schimenti, Mach. NO: None, Motion Carried.
- c. Interlocal Agreement-Mosquito Control
  - i. A motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement-Mosquito Control with Wahoo was made by Smith and seconded by Mach. Upon roll call vote was as follows: YEAH: Lawton, Schimenti, Mach, Smith. NO: None, Motion Carried.
- d. Laser Grading work on Hayes Ballfields with Mack Bros Construction
  - i. Mayor Thompson received two quotes for laser grading the ballfields and one of the quotes was over \$37,000 and that is why it was not included within the packet. The purpose of doing this is to help with water drainage and to fix any of

the issues with the fields. Councilmember Smith asked about the time frame. Mayor Thompson stated that they would work around the game schedules and it should only take a day to complete the project.

- ii. A motion to approve Laser Grading work on Hayes Ballfields with Mack Bros Construction in the amount of \$8,215.00 was made by Schimenti and seconded by Smith. Upon roll call vote was as follows: YEAH: Schimenti, Mach, Smith, Lawton. NO: None, Motion Carried.
- e. Acceptance of Darin Egr Resignation from CRA
  - i. A motion to accept the resignation of Darin Egr From the CRA was made by Smith and seconded by Lawton. Upon roll call vote was as follows: YEAH: Smith, Lawton, Schimenti, Mach. No: None, Motion Carried.
- f. Acceptance of Lynn Hapke Resignation from the Library Board
  - i. A motion to accept the resignation of Lynn Hapke from the Yutan Library Board was made by Schimenti and seconded by Lawton. Upon roll call vote was as follows: YEAH: Lawton, Schimenti, Mach, Smith. NO: None, Motion Carried.
- g. Acceptance of Library Director Laurie Van Ackeren Resignation
  - i. A motion to accept the resignation of Library Director Laurie Van Ackeren was made by Smith and seconded by Mach. Upon roll call vote was as follows: YEAH: Schimenti, Mach, Smith, Lawton. NO: None, Motion Carried.
- h. Acceptance of Christina Jefferies and Barb Juedes Resignations from the Library
  - i. A motion to accept the resignation of Christina Jefferies and Barb Juedes from the Library was made by Schimenti and seconded by Lawton. Upon roll call vote was as follows: YEAH: Mach, Smith, Lawton, Schimenti. NO: None, Motion Carried.

## 7) Discussion Items

- a. Ordinance for Electric Scooters and Electric Bikes
  - i. Mayor Thompson introduced a proposed ordinance regarding electric bikes and scooters, noting he had developed the draft in consultation with the City Attorney. He emphasized that the increase in motorized micro-mobility devices necessitates new regulations to ensure the safety of children and residents. Councilmember Smith inquired whether the ordinance included a helmet mandate. Administrator Oliva clarified that while a helmet requirement was included in the previous month's sample ordinance, such provisions are notoriously difficult to enforce. During public comment, Justin Barney expressed opposition to the ordinance, characterizing it as an unnecessary response to social media complaints. He argued that public safety is a matter of parental responsibility and motorist awareness rather than legislative action. Councilmember Schimenti countered by highlighting the specific safety risks posed by scooters compared to pedestrians; specifically, that operators often travel against traffic and struggle to yield to the roadside when approaching local businesses like Cubby's or Dollar General.
- b. Spending Authority
  - i. Administrator Oliva advised the Council of necessary re-codification efforts due to existing classification errors within the city code. City Attorney Freeman-Caddy addressed the need for code updates regarding the claims

process, specifically noting the timing between authorized budgets and the timing of claim approvals. She raised the issue of administrative spending authority during extenuating circumstances and highlighted the practice in other municipalities of utilizing pre-approved vendors for emergency expenditures occurring between Council meetings.

c. City Sales Tax

- i. Administrator Oliva provided a summary of previous discussions regarding the potential implementation of a municipal sales tax. He explained that any such tax requires a designated allocation, citing property tax relief and capital sinking funds as potential options. Oliva emphasized that with the upcoming highway project, a sales tax would allow the city to capture revenue from transient traffic and regional deliveries. He advised the Council that the process must be finalized by the end of August and noted that a public workshop and open forum must be scheduled by June 26th.

8) **Moved Action Item**

- a. Mayor Thompson dismissed himself at 8:05 pm, due to potential conflict, forms have been filed with the City Clerk
- b. Building Lease for Police Department-401 Second Street
  - i. Council President Schimenti opened the discussion regarding the relocation of the Police Department to a dedicated facility. He noted that while several locations had been previously evaluated, the property at 401 Second Street has recently become available. Sarah Redding, representing Thompson and Sons, was present to discuss leasing terms. Chief Luthy II addressed the necessity of the move, citing a lack of privacy at the current facility and the need to shield city staff from sensitive department matters. He noted that the relocation would also provide additional space for the Utility Department and improve operational efficiency by centralizing police cruisers and equipment. In response to concerns from resident Kevin Bradford regarding officer isolation and liability, Chief Luthy II clarified that the facility would be equipped with surveillance and interrogation room cameras, supplemented by officer body cameras. Council President Schimenti noted that the cost of a new build or addition would exceed \$500,000, requiring bonding, making a lease a more viable fiscal alternative. Ms. Redding presented the terms for two-year and four-year lease options, including specific concessions. Following a discussion initiated by Councilmember Smith regarding security and the potential for break-ins, Chief Luthy II stated that standard locking protocols and a potential evidence locker security system would mitigate risks. Councilmember Lawton inquired about the possibility of a future purchase; Ms. Redding indicated the owners would consider a sale if the City were under an active lease.
  - ii. Action: Councilmember Smith introduced a motion for a four-year lease; the motion was withdrawn for lack of a second. Councilmembers Mach and Lawton expressed a preference for the two-year lease option.
    1. A motion to approve Leasing 401 Second Street for the Police Department with the option of a two year lease was made by Smith and seconded by Lawton. Upon roll call vote was as follows: YEAH:Mach, Smith, Lawton, Schimenti. NO: None, Motion Carried.

9) **Supervisor Reports**

- a. Library Director
- b. Maintenance Department
- c. Police Chief
- d. Community Planner-
  - i. Councilmember Schimenti inquired about the rationale behind the current draft of the Comprehensive Plan. Community Planner Costa explained that he is focusing on developing a version of the document that is highly accessible to the public. He emphasized that the goal is to create a streamlined plan that residents can easily obtain, review, and comprehend, ensuring transparency in the city's long-term planning process.
- e. City Clerk
- f. City Administrator-Annual TIF Report

## 10) Items for Next Meeting Agenda

**Meeting Adjourned-**A motion to adjourn at 8:34 pm was made by Lawton and seconded by Mach. Upon roll call vote was as follows: YEAH: Smith, Lawton, Schimenti, Mach. NO: None, Motion Carried.

**NEXT MEETING DATE –**  
**Library Board- May 4th, 2026, 6:30 P.M.**  
**Planning Commission-May 12th, 2026, 7:00 P.M.**  
**City Council Meeting-May 19th, 2026, 7:00 P.M.**

Anyone desiring to speak before the mayor and city council should contact the city clerk by the Monday preceding the city council meeting by 4:00 p.m. Anyone desiring to speak on any item on the agenda is invited to do so but should limit himself/herself to 3 minutes. After being recognized by the mayor, give your name and address for the record. Anyone desiring to speak for a longer period of time should make arrangements with the city clerk prior to the meeting. All speakers shall address the mayor and city council only. Anyone attending the meeting that may require auxiliary aid or service should contact the city clerk in advance.