Agenda
Yutan City Council
Tuesday, July 21st, 2026
6:00 P.M. – Yutan City Hall
112 Vine St, Yutan NE 68073

The mayor and city council reserve the right to enter into a closed session per Section 84-1410 of Nebraska State law. The sequencing of agenda items is provided as a courtesy; the mayor and city council reserve the right to address each item in any sequence they see fit.

6:00 Meeting to Order
- Statement from the Mayor Regarding the Posted Location of Open Meetings Act
- Statement from the Mayor Regarding the Meeting Code of Conduct
- Roll Call
- Pledge of Allegiance

1) Discussion Items

a. Budget Workshop #1
   i. Infrastructure and Capital Outlay

Meeting Adjourned

NEXT MEETING DATES
Library Board Meeting-August 3rd, 2026 at 6:30
Planning Commission - August 11th, 2026 at 7:00
Council Meeting -August 18th, 2026 at 7:00

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.

Briefing Document: City of Yutan Capital Improvements Plan

Date: July 21, 2026

Subject: Review of Capital Improvements Plan Discussion (FY 2027-2029)

Purpose: This briefing document summarizes the key themes, most important ideas, and critical facts from the City of Yutan's Capital Improvements Plan discussion for FY 2026-2028. The primary objective of this discussion was to "identify and prioritize projects that address immediate and critical needs across various city departments, ensuring the continued provision of essential services and the long-term sustainability of city infrastructure".

I. Overarching Themes

The discussion highlights several key themes guiding the proposed capital improvement projects:

- **Addressing Immediate and Critical Needs:** A significant number of projects are categorized as "Immediate" in their need, indicating urgent issues requiring prompt attention to maintain safety, prevent further deterioration, and ensure basic service delivery.
- **Long-Term Sustainability and Growth:** While immediate needs are prioritized, the plan also considers projects that contribute to the "long-term sustainability of city infrastructure" and "community growth". This includes investments in essential services like water, sewer, and public safety.
- **Enhancing Community Quality of Life:** Many proposed projects aim to improve the aesthetic appeal of the city, provide better public spaces, enhance recreational opportunities, and improve communication with residents, all contributing to a higher quality of life.
- **Operational Efficiency and Modernization:** Several projects focus on upgrading outdated equipment, improving technology, and modernizing facilities to enhance efficiency, reduce costs, and improve service delivery across departments.

II. Key Project Categories and Most Important Ideas/Facts

The proposed capital improvement projects are categorized by department, each with specific needs and rationales.

A. City Office

- **Painting the Front Facade (IN Process):** "Improves the aesthetic appeal of City Hall, contributing to a positive civic image and demonstrating care for public property". (Need: Immediate, Cost: $2,500).
- **Insulating the Front Half of the Office (NOT STARTED):** "Improves energy efficiency, reducing heating and cooling costs". "Enhances comfort for staff and visitors in the affected areas, leading to a more productive environment". (Need: Immediate, Cost: $2,500).
- **New Marquee for City Information and Security Cameras (NOT STARTED - 3 Additional Cameras added):** "A modern marquee allows for dynamic and timely dissemination of city announcements, event schedules, and emergency information to the public...security cameras enhances overall safety and surveillance capabilities around city facilities". (Need: Long-term, Cost: $75,000).

B. Library

- **Accessibility Improvements (ADA Compliance) (Complete):** "Ensuring the library is fully accessible to all citizens is a legal and ethical imperative...promotes inclusivity and ensures equal access to community resources for all residents". (Need: Immediate, Cost: $5,000).
- **Public Computer/Workstation Refresh (Started Gathering Information):** "Outdated computers can hinder public access to information, job searching, and educational resources". (Need: Long-term, Cost: $10,000).
- **New Flooring for Library (Not Started):** "Improves safety by eliminating hazards, enhances the overall appearance and cleanliness of the library, and creates a more welcoming environment for patrons". (Need: Immediate, Cost: $20,000).

C. Public Safety Department

- **Radio System Upgrade/Compatibility that includes Cell Phones and iPads) (New Hot spot):** "Critical for effective communication during emergencies and daily operations, ensuring officer safety and coordinated response". "Modernizing communication tools improves efficiency, information access, and overall police operations". (Need: Immediate, Cost: $5,000).
- **Body Camera/Dash Camera System Refresh (Started Gathering Information):** "Technology evolves rapidly, and updated systems offer better clarity, storage, and reliability for accountability and evidence collection... Enhances transparency, officer accountability, and provides crucial evidence for investigations". (Need: Near-term Cost: $20,000).
- **Locating a New Building for a Police Station (Completed - Long term lease signed for new location):** "The current police station may be approaching capacity, lacking adequate space for officers, equipment, evidence storage, and private consultation areas... Essential for accommodating growth in police force, providing appropriate and secure facilities for operations, training, and community interaction, and ensuring long-term efficiency of public safety services". (Need: Long-term, Cost: $100,000).

D. Public Works Department (Streets, Water, Sewer)

- **A. Streets:**
  - **Targeted Road Resurfacing/Reconstruction (Critical Deterioration) (Complete):** "Addressing roads with severe cracking, potholes, or structural failure prevents further deterioration, reduces vehicle damage, and improves safety... Ensures public safety, smooth traffic flow, and reduces long-term maintenance costs by avoiding more extensive repairs". (Need: Immediate, Cost: $10,000).
  - **Stormwater Drainage Improvements (Known Flooding Areas) (Not started):** "Addressing areas prone to flooding protects public and private property and ensures safe passage during heavy rain events". (Need: Immediate, Cost: $10,000).
  - **Small Equipment Replacement (Not Started):** "Ensures the department has the necessary tools for various maintenance tasks, including minor street repairs, landscaping, and other essential public works duties". (Need: Immediate Cost: $75,000).
  - **Shop Upgrades (Not started):** "Enhances operational efficiency, safety, and proper material storage". (Need: Near-term Cost: $60,000 and $3,000).

- **General Rationale for Public Works:** "Modernizes critical public works facilities, improves working conditions, enhances the longevity of city vehicles, and ensures efficient and environmentally responsible storage of road treatment materials".

- **B. Water:**
  - **Water Main Replacement and Construction to Increase Capacity (Not Started but estimate by JEO for cost):** "Replacing old, brittle, or frequently leaking water mains reduces water loss, improves water pressure, and minimizes service disruptions". "Increasing capacity is crucial for accommodating current and future demand, especially with community growth and development". (Need: Near-term Cost: $300,000 to $1.5 million).
  - **Adding Generator Backup at Itan Well (Project complete):** "Ensuring consistent power supply to the main well is critical for continuous water service, especially during power outages and emergencies". (Need: Immediate, Cost: $85,000).
- **Drilling a New Well and Wellhead Protection Area (Grant was denied):** "As the community grows, or if existing wells show signs of declining capacity or quality issues, a new well is necessary to secure a reliable and sufficient long-term water supply". (Need: Long-term Cost: $40,000).
- **C. Sewer:**
  - **Sewer Line Repair/Replacement with Camera Identification (Completed over 30% for city):** "Addressing failing sewer lines prevents backups, environmental contamination, and costly emergency repairs". (Need: Immediate, Cost: $20,000).
  - **Manhole Repair of Broken Street Panels (50% Done):** "Sunken manholes caused by broken street panels create significant traffic hazards, can damage vehicles, and lead to further road deterioration". (Need: Immediate, Cost: $10,000).
  - **Adding Lagoon Storage with Construction of 4th Pond (Not Started):** "Increasing lagoon storage capacity is essential for managing growing wastewater volume, improving treatment efficiency, and ensuring compliance with environmental regulations, particularly for a growing community". (Need: Near-term to Long-term, Cost: $350,000).

E. Parks

- **New Construction of Concession Stand (Not Started, Design Phase):** "If current facilities are inadequate or non-existent, a concession stand can enhance user experience, provide a revenue source, and support park activities". (Need: Near-term Cost: $250,000).
- **Installation of Trail Benches (Concrete Pads Complete):** "Provides resting points along walking trails, improving accessibility and comfort for park users... Enhances the usability and enjoyment of existing and future trail systems, encouraging outdoor activity". (Need: Immediate, Cost: $10,000).
- **New Pavilion Construction (Not started):** "Provides a covered gathering space for events, picnics, and general public use, especially near popular areas like pickleball courts... Offers a valuable amenity for community events and recreational activities, enhancing the park's utility and appeal". (Need: Near-term Cost: $45,000).
- **Sidewalk to School (Not Started):** (Cost: -$60,000) - Note: The negative cost may indicate a potential grant or removal of a project.

III. Prioritization Framework: Immediate Needs vs. Future Wants

The City Council is encouraged to evaluate these projects based on a set of criteria, with a strong emphasis on immediate needs:

- **Public Health & Safety:** (Highest priority) Does the project directly impact the health, safety, and well-being of Yutan residents?
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Is the project required to meet state or federal regulations?
- **Asset Preservation:** Does the project prevent further deterioration of existing infrastructure, thereby avoiding more costly repairs in the future?
- **Operational Efficiency:** Does the project significantly improve the efficiency of city services or reduce ongoing operational costs?
- **Service Reliability:** Does the project ensure continuous and reliable delivery of essential services (e.g., water, sewer, police response)?
- **Economic Impact:** Does the project support local economic development or attract new investment? (Considered, but generally lower priority than immediate needs).
- **Quality of Life Enhancement:** Does the project improve the general quality of life for residents without being a critical need? (Generally, a "want" for this discussion).

IV. Conclusion and Next Steps

The City Council's discussion will provide initial feedback on the perceived urgency and importance of these projects. This feedback is crucial to developing a more detailed Capital Improvement Plan for the FY 2027-2029 budget cycle, which will include "estimated costs and potential funding sources". The current document serves as a foundational step in identifying essential investments for the city's immediate well-being and long-term prosperity.

Discussion: Ideas for Departmental Project Additions for FY 2027-2029

With the successful completion of several major modernization milestones—including hybrid meeting technology, GIS mapping, automated utilities, and the initial installations of community amenities like the splash pad and traffic radar signs, the City of Yutan is well-positioned to focus on unique, high-impact projects.

Given our footprint as a compact, one-square-mile bedroom community, the following "outside the box" concepts prioritize community identity, pedestrian/UTV, E-Bike safety, and maximizing our existing recreational assets for all age groups.

A. City Office & Library

- Outdoor Library Patio Expansion: Converting exterior space adjacent to the library into a paved, Wi-Fi-enabled outdoor reading garden and seating area. Internally, funding a capital expansion for a "Library of Things" (a non-traditional lending library for items like power tools, baking equipment, and board games) to maximize the library's value to a small community.
- Municipal Facility Energy Resilience: Given the increasing demand on the power grid, installing solar panels paired with battery backup systems on the roofs of the City Office and Library would reduce long-term utility overhead and ensure these public buildings can operational during extended power outages.

B. Public Safety Department

- Strategic Expansion of Traffic Calming & RRFBs: Expanding our speed radar sign network to secondary choke points. Additionally, installing Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs)—push-button flashing lights—at higher-traffic pedestrian crosswalks near the school and parks to protect children and residents walking or riding bikes.
- Perimeter Security (ALPR Systems): Because the city has a small footprint with limited main entrance/exit roads, installing fixed Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) at the town borders can provide a boost to local security, immediately alerting officers if stolen vehicles or individuals with active warrants enter the community.

C. Public Works Department (Streets, Water, Sewer)

- Community Gateway Signage & Streetscaping: Designing and constructing permanent, visually appealing "Welcome to Yutan" gateway monuments at the primary entrance to town, alongside a phased replacement of old street signs with customized, decorative signage.
- Concrete Joint Sealing & Panel Maintenance Program: Because our streets are primarily concrete rather than asphalt, establishing a dedicated, recurring capital fund (or purchasing specialized joint equipment) is critical. Routinely sealing concrete joints prevent water infiltration and freeze-thaw heaving, extending the life of the street panels.

D. Parks Department

- Splash Pad Phase II (Shade & Social Infrastructure): Upgrading the existing, splash pad by installing permanent cantilever shade sails, non-slip surface recoating, and more picnic tables/benches around the perimeter so parents can comfortably stay longer.
- Fenced Municipal Dog Park: Establishing a dedicated off-leash dog park using a portion of existing city-owned green space. This requires relatively low capital investment (chain-link fencing, double-gate entry, waste stations, and a water line) but provides a high quality-of-life return for residents.
- All-Inclusive / ADA-Accessible Playground Upgrades: The city should evaluate retrofitting existing park playgrounds with inclusive equipment (e.g., wheelchair-accessible gliders) to ensure recreational spaces are usable by children of all physical abilities.

As a compact bedroom community of 1,300 residents, Yutan is uniquely positioned to capitalize on regional tourism from the Omaha/Lincoln metro area and nearby recreation hubs (such as the Platte River). The primary "outside-the-box" capital proposal for this budget cycle is the development of a **City-Owned RV Park**.

This initiative would serve as a significant municipal revenue generator and attract visitors to support local businesses. Developing this site will require coordinated efforts across all city departments.

Automated Booking & Revenue Management: The City Office could oversee the procurement of an online, self-serve reservation and payment software system. This ensures the RV park generates revenue with minimal daily administrative overhead or staff intervention.