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## OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

[www.cityofyankton.org](http://www.cityofyankton.org)

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### Commission Information Memorandum

The Yankton City Commission meeting on Monday, April 27, 2026 will begin at 6:00 pm.

#### Non-Agenda Items of Interest

##### 1) Finance Department Update

Please see the enclosed the Monthly Finance Report for March 2026 and the Q1 2026 Revenues and Expenditures Report.

##### 2) Human Resources & Employee Engagement Department Update

Applications are being accepted for Police Officer. Interviews are on-going.

April's employee wellness challenge is finishing up. The challenge for April was random acts of kindness. Employees were asked to complete 20 random acts of kindness for the month.

The Annual Employee Bake Off was held April 15th in City Hall. The winners were Colleen Bailey (cake and cookies) and Cassi Pietz (bars/brownies and People's Choice Award).

Congratulations to Robert Hoefs who was selected as our first quarter employee of the quarter. Robert is an equipment operator in our Public Works Department and has been employed with the City of Yankton for almost three years.

##### 3) Parks & Recreation Department Update

An update on the various activities in the Parks & Recreation Department is included in this packet.

##### 4) Community & Economic Development Department Update

Building and Code Inspector Jacob Olson and Building Official Gregg Homstad attended the South Dakota Building Officials' Association (SDBOA) annual spring education session in Sioux Falls on April 9th for a course on application of the International Existing Building Code (IEBC). This edition of the code is a recent addition to our list of adopted codes and is designed to facilitate the re-use of existing building stock for new occupancies. Continuing Education credits earned through these classes are used to re-certify staff's existing International Code Council (ICC) credentials.

The building report is available at <https://www.cityofyankton.org/departments-services/community-economic-development/building-services-permits/building-permit-reports>.

## **5) Information & Technology Services Department Update**

We have lost communication with the heating controller at City Hall. Staff is actively working with a contractor to replace and/or repair the main controller. IT staff is also assisting with the networking setup of the new FAA weather station equipment at the airport. Tentative install for the hardware is the last week of April.

Power Source and Ferguson were onsite at the west water tower last week to coordinate testing and moving the antenna for the meter reading equipment. No appreciable reception gains were made. In addition, we examined additional site location options for improving coverage of the system overall.

## **6) Environmental Services Department Update**

Kyle was one of two members representing the South Dakota Section at the American Water Works Association (AWWA) annual “Water Matters Fly In” held in Washington, DC. Meetings were scheduled with the offices of Senator Rounds, Senator Thune and Representative Johnson to discuss state revolving funding, cyber security, and PFAS regulations. Kyle will be attending the AWWA Regional Meeting of Section Officers in Indianapolis as well. Travel and cost for the events is paid for by AWWA.

The wastewater treatment project continues to move forward. The Aerobic Granular Sludge (AGS) process is scheduled to begin operation in late June. The process will start with a 2-reactor system. The original aeration basin will then be converted to the 3rd reactor for the final start up. The project is on schedule for a final completion in late summer of 2027.

## **7) Police Department Update**

Chief Foote, Assistant Chief Rothenberger, and Captain O’Farrell attended the 2026 Joint Chiefs’ and Sheriffs’ Association Conference in Deadwood. Chief Foote served as President of the Chiefs’ Association this year and led the conference with support from the outstanding staff of the South Dakota Municipal League. Attendees received valuable training on mental health, disaster response, and leadership at all levels.

KYNT’s Jeff Erickson received the Chiefs’ and Sheriffs’ Associations’ Citizen of Merit Award for his many years of work with the “Heroes Program” which is broadcast on KYNT every Friday at 0740. Congratulations to Jeff for consistently highlighting Yankton’s first responders.

Chief Foote and Captain Bruening attended a tabletop exercise at HSC focused on evacuation planning.

On April 23, members of the City of Yankton Police Department attended the funeral of retired Sergeant Ronald “Arnie” Ensenbach. Arnie retired from the department after a 33-year career.

Administrative Assistant Ashley Hobza participated in Heartland Humane Society's Vaccine and Microchip Clinic by selling City pet licenses on site.

## **8) Fire Department Update**

Last week, firefighters from Yankton Fire Department and Vermillion Fire Department spent two full days conducting joint aerial apparatus training. One day of training was held in Vermillion and the second day was hosted in Yankton.

This regional training is an important investment in interoperability between our departments. In the event of a larger structure fire or complex rescue incident, both departments may rely upon one another for mutual aid support.

Yankton operates an aerial tower apparatus equipped with a bucket platform, while Vermillion utilizes a straight-stick aerial ladder without a bucket. These two different apparatus types can work in a complementary manner.

Chief Tim Linke spent last week in Pierre attending a specialized class on radio programming. The department is very fortunate to have strong support from Yankton County Emergency Management whose team already possesses this capability. By expanding this knowledge within the fire department, we are able to provide additional support when needed and improve system resiliency.

Chief Tim Linke also is receiving information on the new Fire Loss Assignment & Mitigation Evaluation Score (FLAMES) developed by American Association of Insurance Services. Historically, the insurance industry has relied on Insurance Services Office (ISO) Public Protection Classification ratings when evaluating community fire protection that influences insurance premiums. However, the industry is increasingly moving toward newer models.

FLAMES is an evaluation system that focuses not only on fire response capabilities but also on risk reduction, mitigation, prevention efforts, and community risk reduction outcomes. The system includes a fire loss assignment score based on predicted fire frequency and severity by zip code.

The department is proactively monitoring this transition in the insurance industry and evaluating what steps may be in Yankton’s best interest.

**9) Public Works Department Update**

Street Department crews are replacing curb and gutter at various locations throughout the City. Crews are also street sweeping and mowing.

The 2026 Citywide Cleanup event is complete. In addition, the City crews picked materials left out for curbside pickup from April 6th through April 14th. Below is a summary of material tonnage for the past four years.

	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Curbside Material By City Crews	186.67 tons	217.17 tons	153.81 tons	107.07 tons	109.46 tons
Resident Drop Off At Transfer Station	224.08 tons 1180 loads	150.54 tons 905 loads	229.67 tons 1220 loads	143.43 tons 864 loads	305.15 tons 1083 loads
Total Tons	410.75	367.71	383.48	250.5	414.61

**2026 Construction Projects:**

Traffic control signage for the alley reconstruction from 4th Street to 6th Street, between Green Street and Maple Street, and the 3rd Street project from Mulberry Street to Picotte Street was installed on April 20th. Pavement sawing and removals started shortly after the signage was in place.

Feimer Construction has completed the watermain boring portion of the project along 8th Street under the railroad tracks at Cedar Street, Walnut Street, and Douglas Avenue. Street pavement patch work will be done to complete the project.

The South Dakota Department of Transportation continues to work with Muth Electric Inc. on the Broadway traffic signal replacement project. Muth has been upgrading the street lights along Broadway from the Discovery Bridge to 23rd Street with new LED light heads and wiring. Muth has also been working on the traffic signal replacement portion of the project. The new 8th Street and 21st Street signals are installed and in operation, and the old signals have been removed. Pavement removals are also underway for the lane modifications and ADA upgrades at the intersections. New pavement is being poured as work at the intersections progresses.

**10) Library Update**

Join us for a Home Décor Swap at the library. Bring your gently used items and trade them for something fresh (and free!). Never been to a swap before? It's the easiest way to refresh your space without spending a dime.

Beginning Sunday, April 26, through Friday, May 8, participants can donate their gently-used home décor and kitchen items for early access to the swap.

The Swap Store will be open on Saturday, May 9, and Sunday, May 10. Swappers shop first from 9-10 am on Saturday. Beginning at 10 am on Saturday, the swap will be open to the public.

**11) Monthly reports**

The Joint Powers monthly report is included for your review.

Have an enjoyable weekend and do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about these or other issues. If you will not be able to attend the Commission meeting on Monday, please inform my office.

Sincerely,

Amy Leon  
City Manager