



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

www.cityofyankton.org

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Commission Information Memorandum

The Yankton City Commission meeting on Tuesday, May 26, 2026 will begin at 6:00 PM.

Non-Agenda Items of Interest

1) Finance Department Update

Friday, July 3, is the first day that interested parties may circulate nominating petitions. Commissioners whose terms expire are Ben Brunick, Brian Hunhoff, and Stephanie Moser. Any individual who is interested in running for a seat on the Commission must be a resident of the City of Yankton as well as be a registered voter within the City. Petitions may be picked up at the City Finance Office at 416 Walnut or obtained online at the Secretary of State's website. The deadline for filing nominating petitions is Tuesday, August 25, at 5:00 PM.

Utilities has been increasingly busy as snowbirds return to town and other customers turn on sprinklers. We now have the option for customers to complete connection and disconnection requests online. For more information follow the links below:

[Connect Request for Utility Services](#)

[Disconnect Request for Utility Services](#)

Please see the enclosed Monthly Finance Report for April 2026.

2) Human Resources & Employee Engagement Department Update

The position of 911 Communication Dispatcher has been filled by Jamie Freeman. Jamie has over 20 years of experience working as a paramedic. She was employed as a Dispatcher for Sanford Air-Med for the past six years.

Jose Garcia started full time as a police officer on May 18. Jose graduated from Mount Marty University earlier this month with a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice.

We are happy to announce the upcoming retirement of Julia Hussein. We will celebrate Julia's retirement with a gathering on Friday, June 12, from 3:00-5:00 PM at Fire Station #2. The position of 911 Communication Supervisor will be open due Julia's retirement. The position will be open until filled.

Michael Feilmeier has announced his plans to retire on June 12 after over 30 years of service as Transfer Station Truck Operator in our Public Works Department. We wish the best for Mike in his retirement.

May's employee wellness challenge is finishing up. The challenge for May was to drink 100 ounces of water for 25 days of the month.

AFSCME collective bargaining negotiations have been rescheduled to June 3. This will be a wage opener.

The Health Insurance Committee will hold the first meeting to begin discussions on health insurance for the 2027 plan year on June 2.

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 successfully passed his International Residential Code (IRC) certification exam and is now officially a certified Residential Inspector.

International Code Council (ICC) exams are designed to provide a structured means of determining proficiency in a wide variety of building disciplines.

The Community and Economic Development Department places a premium on education and a commitment to professional development. By doing so we position ourselves to provide exemplary services to residents, builders, and developers as they grow the community's housing stock.

[City of Yankton Monthly and Year-to-Date Building Report.](#)

5) Environmental Services Department Update

The wastewater plant project had a scheduled power outage at the plant on Sunday, May 17. The outage included the majority of the facility. Staff came in at 5:00 AM, collected daily samples, and worked with the contractor to shut down the power around 5:45 AM. The contractor utilized a temporary power feed from the old system to run one of the aeration pumps. City staff utilized small generators to power the individual programmable logic controllers to control wetwell levels and the aeration pump. The aeration pump flow was then routed through the piping and pumped out to the equalization basin on Paddle Wheel Point.

The equalization basin was installed as part of the past Economic Development Administration (EDA) project. The equalization basin's main purpose is to allow staff to divert up to 1 million gallons of flow to the basin during large events. The current project has utilized the equalization basin several times during the current project to divert flow to complete portions of the project. Staff set up and started the samplers to collect the daily samples and had the plant running in auto by 4:30 PM. The diverted flow was slowly brought back to the head of the plant at roughly 250 gallons per minute over the next several days.

HDR and City staff talked through the startup process for the Aerobic Granular Sludge (AGS) tanks. We discussed different scenarios for seeding and start up timing of the reactor tanks #1 and #2. The project team landed on a slower approach due to the volume of seed bacteria required. We will be wasting directly to the new AGS tanks for the seed sludge over a period of 7 to 10 days to get the required 300,000 gallons of return and waste activated sludge bacteria. AquaNereda will be onsite for a minimum of several weeks through the startup process in order to get the treatment batch timing correct. We are still on schedule to start this process after the 4th of July.

6) Police Department Update

YPD celebrated National Police Week the week of May 10. We proudly honor the dedication, service, and sacrifice of law enforcement officers across the nation. We also remember and honor the officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

On May 11, YPD proudly provided traffic control efforts for the Special Olympics torch run and extended its best wishes to all athletes.

Officer Weber attended Basic Crisis Negotiations training in Vermillion on May 11 hosted by the National Tactical Officers Association (NTOA), which consisted of negotiation strategies and techniques through a mix of classroom instruction, incident debriefs, and scenario-based exercises.

Officers Anderson and Doyle attended 40 hours of Field Training Officer (FTO) training May 11-15 in Sioux City. This is designed to teach law enforcement officers how to effectively mentor, supervise, and evaluate newly hired recruits.

On May 14, YPD hosted its annual Retiree Shoot and Luncheon with retired officers. The qualification event allows retired law enforcement officers to maintain their firearm certification, followed by a luncheon and time to reconnect. We appreciate their years of service and continued connection to our department and community.

7) Fire Department Update

Deputy Chief Prendable continues to work collaboratively with Gregg Homstad to conduct walkthroughs of assembly occupancies (event venues, churches, theaters, bowling alleys, and similar facilities) and select apartment buildings throughout the community.

Firefighters Jon Moser and Chris Eilers attended a course through the Fire Department Training Network in Indianapolis titled Designing, Constructing, and Operating Container-Based Training Props.

The department is nearing completion of a multi-year effort to update hose and nozzle packages on frontline structural suppression apparatus.

8) Public Works Department Update

Street Department crews are working to get the City asphalt plant up and running so patching operations can begin at various locations throughout the City. The new truck-style street sweeper has arrived and has been put into service. Pavement marking painting in the City parking lots and streets is underway.

2026 Construction Projects

Third Street from Mulberry Street to Picotte Street: Masonry Components has installed the curb and gutter from Mulberry Street to Picotte Street and completed the intersection paving at Pearl Street. The mainline paving and sidewalk installation are the two items remaining, which should be complete in the next 1-2 weeks.

Alley from 4th Street to 6th Street, between Maple Street and Green Street: Masonry Components has completed the concrete paving and driveway approaches on the project. Joint sealing and asphalt patching will be forthcoming to complete the project.

23rd Street Bridge Replacement: Katzer Concrete is scheduled to install curb and gutter the week of May 18 with mainline paving anticipated to take place the week of May 25.

Staff are waiting for contractors to schedule preconstruction meetings for the several projects that have been bid out and awarded. Once the preconstruction meetings are held there will be a better understanding of schedule of construction for each project.

The Chan Gurney Municipal Airport – Douglas Avenue Utility Expansion bid opening is May 28. Staff will have an acceptance of bid recommendation complete for the June 8th Commission meeting.

The Active Transportation Project and the Downtown Alley Reconstruction plans are in review and the projects will be advertised for bids in the coming weeks.

9) Library Update

We are pleased that the Check Out South Dakota State Parks program has been renewed for 2026. Three passes are available for YCL cardholders to check out at no charge for up to three days once per month. The program is a partnership through the South Dakota State Library and South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks.

We are able to offer a variety of outstanding programs through strong community partnerships. Recent collaborations have allowed us to offer CPR training facilitated by Yankton County Emergency Management and a session on voting and election procedures presented by Lisa Yardley and Yankton County Auditor, Patty Hojem. In addition, we featured a unique art display by Laura Fejfar, a Majestic Bluffs resident we connected with through our outreach program.

Upcoming events include the Party in the Park Summer Kick-Off in partnership with Yankton Area Arts and City of Yankton Parks and Recreation and a Babysitting Clinic for youth 12-18 years old based on the 4-H babysitting curriculum. The class will be led by Yankton Community Library staff with assistance from community volunteers

10) Monthly Reports

The Joint Powers monthly report is included for your review.

Have an enjoyable Memorial Day 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 Tuesday, please inform my office.

Sincerely,

Amy Leon
City Manager