



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

www.cityofyankton.org

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Commission Information Memorandum

The Yankton City Commission meeting on Monday, February 14, 2022 will begin at 7:00 pm.

Non-Agenda Items of Interest

1) Community & Economic Department Update

A conservationist will be working on the City Hall lobby murals during the week of February 14th-18th. Erica Merchant of Rapid City will be completing the restoration work. She is a trained conservations and has worked with the City of Lead and the City of Deadwood on multiple restoration projects.

The oil on plaster murals were commissioned by the Board of City Commissioners in May of 1939 and completed in February of 1940. Designed by Sarah Simmons Crane, artist William Lackey completed the project in two and a half weeks of onsite work at a cost of materials, about \$50.00. The artists worked for the South Dakota Art Project, a New Deal era subsidiary of Works Progress Administration (WPA). The figures represent important moments in Yankton's past. However, no record remains that conclusively identifies all the subjects. Some are real historical figures while others appear to be allegorical representatives of groups of people who made an impact on the community.

Her assessment of the condition of the murals is that they are stable and in good shape, but in need of some minor conservation work. The loose material from stable cracks will be removed and replaced with a plaster mix replicating the original plaster formula and artwork restored with appropriate materials. While the areas of restoration are relatively small, the varnish will need to be removed from the entire mural so that the repaired areas will blend into the rest of the work and a new protective varnish applied after the work is complete, which is somewhat time consuming.

The most recent conservation work was completed on the murals in 1994. The restored murals will also benefit from the upcoming City Hall wiring and lighting project which will provide a better illumination to view the murals.

2) Library Update

Dana returned from maternity leave on Monday, January 31.

February is designated as Library Lover Month. We are inviting patrons to give a High\$5 to the Library Foundation throughout the month. We will have some fun placing hearts representing donors on our windows.

We have had a couple of nice events recently. Hygge is the Danish concept of coziness and togetherness. We offered some Community Hygge on Sunday, January 30. We had both families and individuals join us for some treats, paper crafts, and games. We plan to offer this opportunity again on February 20. Sheila Woodward was at the library to present an estate planning workshop on Saturday, January 22. We had over 50 attendees in person and about a dozen online. We are working to arrange a

second session in the near future. We are also continuing with a variety of youth activities, including an Anti-Valentine party for the teens. Rumor has it that there will be Nerf guns involved.

We have requested to be a distribution site for the Covid tests that are being dispersed by the Department of Health. We have yet to hear if and or when we will receive any tests.

3) Parks and Recreation Department Update

Enclosed in your packet is an update on the various activities in the Parks and Recreation Department.

4) Police Department Update

On February 8th Officer Pat Nolz and K9 Max were given a send-off to retirement. Officer Nolz completed 18 years and Max completed 7 years with the City of Yankton Police Department. We wish Pat and Max a happy retirement.

We have been working on our annual training and wrapped it up on Thursday, February 10th. Some of our topics this year included Fire response training, mental health de-escalation, Cold weather shooting, less-lethal recertification, Taser recertification, Search and Seizure update, evidence and citations refresher, Mid-States Organized Crime Information Center, De-Escalation Training, CPR, and First Aid Recertification. We will hold our Pressure Point Control Tactic's training later this year.

The Dakota Territory Gun Show and Federal donated 500 rounds of Federal 9mm ammunition at the Gun Show to the Yankton Police Department to use during firearms training.

Cpl. Parker announced his retirement from the department after almost 24 years of service. His last day scheduled will be February 18th.

We continue to work on our hiring practice and look forward to having our 3 newest recruits back from Law Enforcement Standards at the end of February.

5) Public Works Department Update

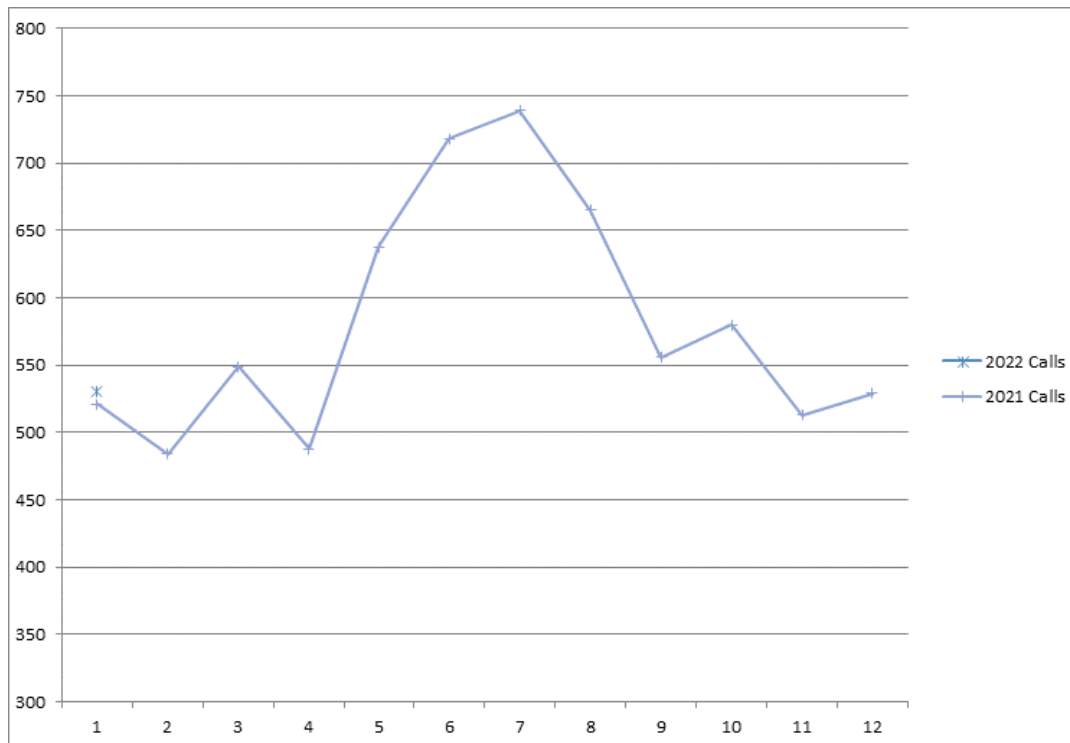
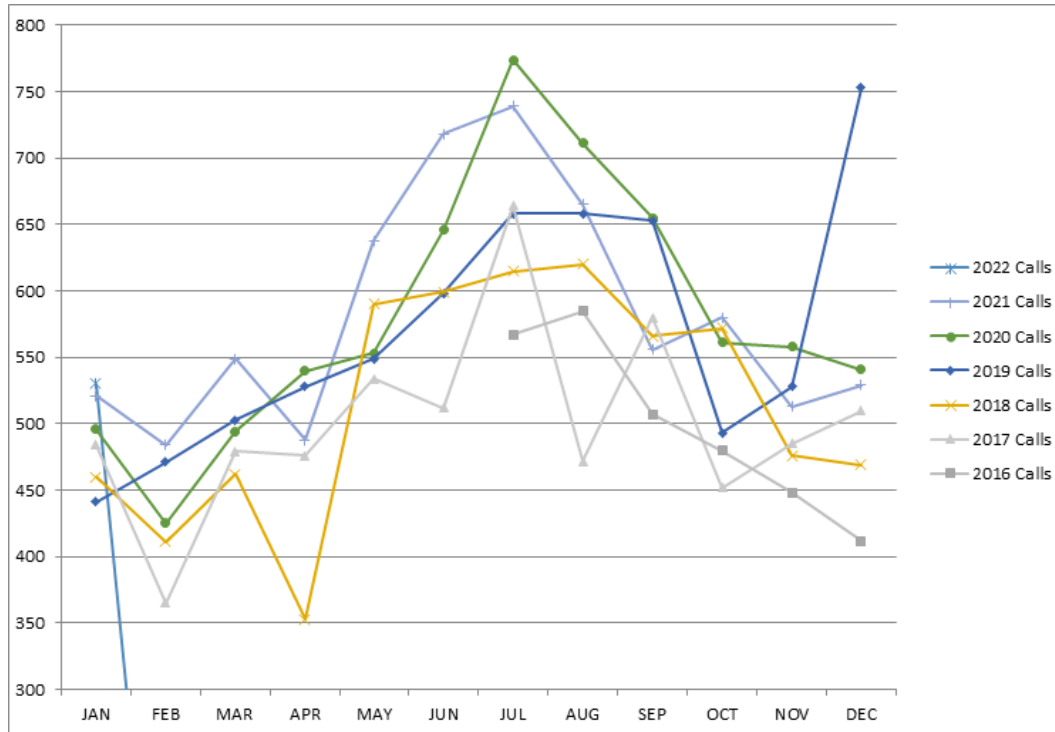
Street department staff continue to perform winter maintenance projects on equipment and the streets. Crews are also working on the annual street-tree removal list. Due to the mild temperatures there are also days when the street sweeper is able to be out sweeping streets.

Engineering staff continue to prepare plan documents for the 2022 budgeted reconstruction projects. The Whiting Drive Reconstruction plans will be soon advertised to receive bids. The 5th Street Reconstruction plans are in final preparations for review. Once the review is complete, the project will be advertised to receive bids.

There was a lot of positive feedback from the 2018 improvements made with the Walnut Street reconstruction project in the Meridian District. However, there was also a considerable amount of feedback about the potential challenges for pedestrians choosing to step through the planter areas along the 2nd Street to 4th Street corridor. Staff worked with Feimer Construction, the general contractor for the 2018 project, to develop a plan to modify the planter areas. The planned modifications will allow easier pedestrian travel through the planter areas. The modifications include removing sections of steel edging, removing the quartz stepping stones, and pouring concrete paths through the planters. Feimer Construction has started to complete the modifications to the planters and will continue to work on the locations as the weather allows.

6) Information Services Department Update

Up 1.7% over 2021



The RFP for City Hall data wiring has been distributed and we will be opening proposals in the next few weeks. We have done some of the preliminary improvements to be ready for the project. HVAC, new electrical circuit, new mounting racks, etc. We may potentially have supply chain issues with materials, but will address those individually as we move forward with the project.

We are currently advertising for two (2) 911 Communications Dispatcher openings. We have had a good interest in the latest round and have been actively interviewing candidates. The closing date for applications is February 11th.

7) Environmental Services Department Update

Staff is currently advertising RFQ for GIS and survey data collection of the water distribution and wastewater collections system. The information will be used to develop models for both the water distribution and wastewater collection systems. The GIS will also be used for data management.

Staff has been working with the Economic Development Administration on finalizing the plans and specification. EDA has notified us that all the documentation has been approved and we should be receiving our approval letter very soon. Staff will be bidding out the project as soon as we receive the approval letter. This project is scheduled to begin this spring and be completed in 2023.

8) Finance Department Update

The Finance Department has a new face greeting customers at the front desk, Sara VanderTuig. Sara comes to us from the Yankton County Treasurer's office. Her experience in government, customer service and accounts receivable has already proven an asset to the office. If you are by City Hall stop in and meet Sara.

One individual has filed a nominating petition to date for the three open seats on the city commission. Mason Schramm has submitted the requisite number of signatures to be a candidate on the ballot if an election is required. The open seats are for three-year terms that would begin in May. Potential candidates have until Friday, February 25 at 5:00 p.m. to file nominating petitions with the city Finance Office.

9) Fire Department Update

2022 continues to be a busy year for the fire department. In the last week alone there have been several grass related fires, a couple of car accidents, and a large structure fire. This is in addition to the alarms, gas smell and miscellaneous calls, such as a cat rescue, to which the administrative staff responds. We can expect that the number of grass fires will continue to increase, unless we receive adequate moisture to change the dry conditions.

The Longs propane fire was a unique situation. We have dealt with propane in the past, but nothing of something this size. We will take time at our next drill to critique the fire response. This gives us the opportunity to share knowledge and improve as a department.

On the lighter side of things, the cat rescue mentioned above was completed with the assistance of the police department. A small cat had fallen, approximately 8', down a pipe that was buried in the ground. Utilizing a rope, they were able to lift the cat to a point where they could grab it. It is our understanding that the pipe will be capped.

10) Monthly reports

Building, Salary and Yankton Police Department monthly reports are 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