



---

---

## OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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

VOL. 56, NUMBER 12

### Commission Information Memorandum

The Yankton City Commission meeting on Monday, June 28, 2021, will begin at 7:00 pm.

#### Non-Agenda Items of Interest

##### 1) Parks and Recreation Department Update

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

##### 2) Police Department Update

Rock Bottom Burgers provided a meal to each officer in the Yankton Police Department. RBB continues to show its support for the police department by showing our law enforcement random acts of kindness.

School Resource Officer Preston Crissey has been in Pierre at DARE training participating as a DARE Mentor. SRO Crissey is the only DARE Mentor in the State of South Dakota. He assists with new officers who are becoming Dare Instructors by helping with lesson plans and learning how to instruct the curriculum to elementary, middle, and high school students.

Officers Frey and Wilson completed training on instructor development. This gets them one step closer to becoming state-certified firearms instructors. This also gives them the tools needed to conduct in-house training for the police department.

Officer Brooke Jackson made contact with a little girl with an extravagant lemonade stand and a sign stating first responders drink free. Officer Jackson handed out sticker badges and cop cards to the little girl and her siblings. This was a refreshing treat during the heatwave last week.

##### 3) Community & Economic Department Update

Building material and construction costs, and their impact on the overall building market, are a prominent topic in many of the conversations in the Community and Economic Development Department. All job site conversations contain at least one reference to the current price for a sheet of oriented strand board (OSB) sheathing (\$41 down from \$50+) which cost less than \$10 two years ago.

At the mid-point of the year our local building market appears to be relatively healthy despite the unprecedented material price increases. Thus far in 2021 we have issued permits for a total of 10 single family homes and 40 units of multi-family housing with another 45 units that may yet be permitted in the second half of the year. Using 2019 as a comparison we had issued permits for 12 single-family homes and one four-plex through June. The average total valuation for all building, renovation and addition permits at this point in the year for the past eight years is \$14.8 million while in 2021 we are sitting at a projected \$13.5 million.

Anecdotally, there have been a small number of both residential and commercial projects that have been postponed until pricing and availability return to something approaching normal. Currently, the general mood is one of cautious optimism that the worst is behind us.

Fortunately, it appears that early May was the high point for wholesale lumber with prices dropping 41% in the past month. The downward trend should continue through the summer as reduced demand and increased supply stabilize the market.

While it is unlikely that lumber will return to where it was pre-pandemic and it will take some time for any wholesale price declines to cycle through to the lumber yards. The prices for other building components such as copper, plastic tubing (PEX) and spray foam insulation continue to be far above where they were 18 months ago and price/availability projections at this point are uncertain. Labor costs and workforce availability in the building trades are other factors having a negative impact on the construction industry at this time. Hopefully as we get closer to 2022, contractors and home and business owners will be able to get back to planning and building for a more typical market in the future.

#### **4) Human Resources Update**

We completed our 2<sup>nd</sup> UKG payroll with our implementation teams support. We will be transitioning to the UKG Hypercare support team, which is a liaison to full UKG community support. We thank everyone for their work and support of the new UKG system and continuing remembrance to review and submit their timesheets timely.

We celebrated two more retirements since the last HR update, Mary Robb and Rich Dewald. Mary's was held at the street shop as she said goodbye to the Yankton team after 16 years. Rich's was held in the city hall gym, at Rich's request, so the grandchildren could run and play. Rich was with the City for 42 years and we thank them both for the dedication and commitment and we wish them all the best in their retirement.

Dispatcher interviews are ongoing. The background has been completed for one conditional offer and we'll move forward with post-offer testing.

Jeremiah Braxton has been selected as the Equipment Operator and Dave Walsh has been moved to Sanitation Truck Operator. Josh Voeltz has been moved to Transfer Station Attendant. We will be advertising for Sanitation Truck Operator.

Dillon Bollinger has joined the Yankton Police Department as of June 21, 2021.

We've conducted several interviews for the Police Department and have conditional offers extended. We'll keep you posted as the extensive backgrounds are worked through.

Interviewing has been completed for the Wastewater's Sr. Lab Technician. We are reviewing the candidates with information to follow soon on the outcome.

The Health Insurance Committee had its annual first meeting to review information from Dawn Knutson from Midwest Employee Benefits. With Mary Robb's retirement, Amanda Schieffer has joined the committee along with current members; Brad Bies, Duane Johnson, Brooke Jackson, Amanda Stucky and Dwayne Schantz. Feel free to reach out to any of the members to express yourself as they look to make recommendations for next year's benefit plans.

## **5) Public Works Department Update**

Street Department crews have been patching asphalt streets and alleys at various locations throughout the City. Crews have also been preparing streets slated for chip sealing this year. The 2021 chip seal list is attached. The transfer station remains busy with contractor construction debris and residential household debris coming into the facility for disposal.

## **23<sup>rd</sup> Street Construction and Utility Installation**

Staff is reviewing the materials submittal for the project. Once approved, the Notice to Proceed will be issued.

From the phone conversations with Hulstein Excavating, we don't expect the project to start before July 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **Spruce Street Reconstruction**

The majority of the water main has been installed. The contractor is currently performing bacterial testing on it. They will complete the tie-in for the main and start swapping over service lines once a passing result is achieved.

## **Active Transportation**

Bid opening for the sidewalk east of the Middle School is July 1<sup>st</sup>. A recommendation for bid acceptance will be placed on the agenda for July 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **6) Finance Department Update**

Regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), we are still waiting for further guidance on when funds will be available from the State of South Dakota. Staff is working on collecting information and researching U.S. Department of the Treasury guidelines.

Please see the enclosed Monthly Finance Report for May.

## **7) Environmental Services Department Update**

Staff completed the second round of Lead and Copper sampling. The City of Yankton was required to complete additional Lead and Copper sampling due to the start-up of a new treatment process. All samples collected were below the required regulatory limits. Homes tested during the process will be receiving results of the test. The City of Yankton will now be put on a reduced sampling and collect Lead and Copper samples once every three years.

Senior Wastewater Plant Operator, Matt Hoilien has been promoted to Senior Wastewater Lab Technician. Matt will be filling the position vacated by the retirement of Rich DeWald. Rich had been with the City for 42 years.

## **8) Library Update**

In mid-June we partnered with the Heartland Humane Society to bring some adoptable dogs to the library for a story walk. Participants got to meet three dogs as they read the story, *Pick A Pup* by Marsha Wilson Chall. We love partnering with other organizations in town and we are thankful to the Heartland Humane Society, their volunteers and of course the friendly dogs that made the event so much fun! On June 21, we welcomed Staff Chief Eagle for a performance at the library. There were over 140 in attendance as she taught the crowd about Lakota traditions, culture, and hoop dancing. She interacted with several children in the audience and let them take part in the experience.

The Yankton Community Library was awarded a \$100,000 grant from the American Rescue Plan Act through the South Dakota State Library. We are excited to get started on the projects that were in the proposal including digitizing over 400 microfilm reels and updating the library's computers and computer wiring.

**9) Information Services Department Update**

The new website for the Huether Family Aquatics Center has been updated with pictures from the first few weeks of operation. We will be adding a video to the landing page but the site is nearing final completion. Check it out at <https://www.yanktonaquatics.com> 911 / Dispatch is advertising for one Communications Dispatcher position.

**10) Monthly reports / Minutes**

Joint Powers Solid Waste monthly reports are included for your review. Minutes from the Airport Advisory Board and Planning Commission are also 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