



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

www.cityofyankton.org

VOL. 59 NUMBER 8

Commission Information Memorandum

The Yankton City Commission meeting on Monday, April 22, 2024 will begin at 7:00 pm.

Non-Agenda Items of Interest

1) Finance Department Update

The April 9, 2024 election had a voter turnout of 11.07% with 1,125 out of 10,159 active registered voters showing up at the polls. This was a decrease from the 14.19% turnout in the City's election in April 2023. There was a total of 197 absentee voters in this election compared to 388 in April 2023. The election canvass was held on Friday, April 12th.

The official vote tally for each candidate is as follows: Bridget Benson-654 (23.23%); Craig Sommer-516 (18.33%); Mike Villanueva-911 (32.36%); and David Carda-734 (26.07%). The Commission's annual re-organizational meeting will be held on May 13th with Bridget Benson, Mike Villanueva, and David Carda taking the Oath of Office.

Please see the enclosed the Q1 2024 Revenues and Expenditures Report.

2) Parks & Recreation Department Update

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

3) Community & Economic Development Department Update

Staff is wrapping up the 2023-2024 annual street and sidewalk tree branch clearance project. Ordinance requires that street trees are maintained by adjacent property owners to allow a 12-foot clearance over street and a 10-foot clearance over public sidewalks. Residents received an insert in their September 2023 utility bill reminding them of the requirements. In addition to the insert, staff utilized local print and radio media along with City of Yankton social media to spread the word. A City-wide canvass was completed in October 2023, and 204 notices were mailed to property owners describing the trimming requirements and how to dispose of the trimmings free of charge at the transfer station. A final notice was sent to 41 properties in early January 2024 notifying owners that the City would be contracting for the trimming of any remaining nuisance tree branches. Staff contracted for trimming at 15 properties that remained out of compliance on March 15, 2024.

4) Police Department Update

The Build Dakota Scholarship signing for Tommy Brinkerhoff was held on April 9. Tommy will graduate from Yankton High School next month and attend Southeast Technical College in the fall. Tommy's tuition, fees, books and other required program expenses will be paid equally by the City of Yankton Police Department and the Build Dakota Scholarship Program. Tommy will begin working for the Yankton Police Department following his graduation from Southeast Technical College in the spring of 2026. Upon turning 21 years of age later in that summer, Tommy will be sworn in as a City

of Yankton Police Officer. We are excited to use this new recruiting tool to find good future officers who have a passion law enforcement and helping people.

On April 10 Officer Eddy assisted with mock job interviews sessions hosted by local employers, Yankton High School and the Department of Labor and Regulation. Officer Eddy interviewed students who might have an interest in law enforcement or just wanted to improve their interviewing skills. After interviewing the students, Officer Eddy provided the students with tips on how to improve their interviewing skills.

Sheriff Crissey, Chief Foote, and Dispatch Supervisor Hussein attended the pinning ceremony of Robert Whistler on April 10. Robert was appointed to Major of the South Dakota Highway Patrol Operations Division. Robert started his career as a City of Yankton Police Dispatcher in 1997 before being hired by the South Dakota Highway Patrol. Robert has kept in touch with those who worked with him and has been living in Vermillion the last few years.

The City of Yankton Police Department held its first Retirement Appreciation Day on April 11. We invited 15 former Yankton Police Officers to come in and take the morning to shoot and qualify to carry as a retired Law Enforcement Officer. The members of the Department made a meal and had lunch with these retirees. A total of 11 retirees were in attendance and participated in the shoot and the lunch. We appreciate everything these retirees have done to shape the Yankton Police Department and keeping the community safe.

The Yankton Police Department has partnered with Yankton High School to raise awareness for Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Parked near the main entrance to YHS is a vehicle that had been involved in a distracted driving incident in Yankton County. This is a stark reminder to the students that motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of teen death in the United States. YPD and the Yankton School District encourage everyone to be safe and alert drivers.

Chief Foote and Commander Rothenberger attended the South Dakota Police Chiefs Association meeting and joint conference with the Sheriffs' Association in Deadwood on April 16-18. During this conference Brooke Greenig of River District Counseling was awarded the Citizen of the Year award for her work with Chief Foote on the hiring and retention of police officers by putting officer mental health first. This starts before an officer is hired and continues on as the officer moves forward in their career, an important step in retention of officers.

5) Human Resources & Employee Engagement Department Update

We are now accepting applications for Public Safety Administrative Assistant in the Police Department. This position is open due to the upcoming retirement of Marietta Sprakel as Police Records Clerk on May 17, 2024. The position is open until May 3, 2024.

We are now accepting applications for Airport Maintenance/Traffic Control Superintendent in the airport division of our Public Works Department. This position is open due to the pending retirement of Robert Ryken on May 17, 2024. The position is open internally until April 29, 2024.

We are currently accepting applications for a Finance Generalist in the Finance Department. This position is open until April 26, 2024. The Finance Generalist position is open due to the resignation of Macyn Flanigan.

Yankton Housing has an opening for Part Time Office Assistant and will be open until filled.

We continue to accept applications for full time Police Officers. Interviews are ongoing and applications are still being accepted.

Interviews are complete for the position of Grounds Maintenance Worker in the Parks and Recreation Department. Emily Nowak has been selected to fill this position. Emily was a past seasonal employee. She enjoyed her time working for the Department and is looking forward to being on full time.

The City of Yankton's April's presentation by Well 365 out of Sioux Falls focused on Healthy Snacking. The goal of this presentation is to provide information to know what truly a healthy snack is. The presentation will help employees with ideas on how they can plan, prep, and prepare healthy snacks no matter if they are on the go, in the office or simply looking for healthier snack ideas.

Limited summer seasonal positions are still open. With returning employees and applicants already accepted, some positions are full. Interested applicants can visit cityofyankton.org and click the link to our employment application. If this option is not available to the applicant, they can contact the HR office at 605-668-5222 and an application can be mailed out.

April's wellness challenge is wrapping up. The challenge for April was hydration. Employees who are participating are asked to drink a minimum of 64-oz per day for a minimum of 21 out of the 30 days in April. Employees are simply asked to track their activities and submit their log at the end of the month to be entered into a drawing for a prize.

The Annual Employee Bake Off is scheduled for April 24th in City Hall Room B. We are looking forward to another year of our employees showcasing their baking talents.

6) Fire Department Update

Regarding response trends, 90% of the time we have 27 or more responders on any given emergency incident. This impressive statistic represents over 70% of our Department and demonstrates the effectiveness of our volunteer staffing.

Three of our newest probationary members have successfully passed the first challenge of state certification testing for Firefighter I. This achievement is a requirement for membership. They will now begin their Firefighter II coursework this week.

Our dedicated captains and members continue to provide essential training. Adam Frick, our Lead Instructor and Recruit Training Coordinator, plays a pivotal role in shaping our future firefighters.

We've had several responses that kept our firefighters busy recently. Notably, there was an incident at Yaggie's on Ferdig Street involving an explosion caused by a welder's torch and grain dust. Fortunately, there were no civilian injuries. This event provided an excellent opportunity for our members to deploy the ladder truck and practice using appropriate incident command functions. Assistant Chief Brad Moser effectively led the response. Yankton County Emergency Management's Unmanned Aerial Vehicle played a crucial role by providing a bird's-eye view of the scene during the incident.

7) Public Works Department Update

Street Department crews are addressing potholes at various locations throughout the City as well as repairing catch basins. Crews are also street sweeping and preparing for mowing operations to begin.

The 2024 Citywide Cleanup event is complete. The Transfer Station was open for resident drop-off from March 16th through April 13th. In addition, the City Crews picked up materials left out for

curbside pickup from April 1st through April 5th. Below is a summary of material tonnages collected this year as well as the results for the past three years.

	2024	2023	2022	2021
Curbside Material By City Crews	153.81 tons	107.07 tons	109.46 tons	243.01 tons
Resident Drop Off At Transfer Station	229.67 tons 1220 loads	143.43 tons 864 loads	305.15 tons 1083 loads	144.08 tons 928 loads
Total Tons	383.48	250.5	414.61	387.09

The Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event is scheduled for Saturday, April 27. For more information on this event, please visit <http://www.cityofyankton.org> or call (605) 668-5211.

21st Street from West City Limits Road to Summit Street:

All of the contract documents have been returned and a preconstruction meeting was held on April 11. The contractor, Masonry Components, started removals the week of April 15. The contractor’s schedule has the project finished before the required completion date of July 26. City staff had a meeting with the Yankton School District to discuss specifics of the project and coordinate the construction in an effort to minimize traffic congestion during their events.

Cedar Street from 2nd Street to 5th Street & Cedar Street Parking Lot:

Design is complete and under staff review.

Karen Drive/Bradley Street/Valley Road Water Main Replacement:

Revisions for the plans are underway. Staff are planning to begin advertising for bids the week of April 22.

8th Street from Burleigh Street to Peninah Street:

The contract documents have been returned for this project. The contractor has indicated that this project will not begin until later in the season.

8) Information & Technology Services

IT staff is working with the Police Department to evaluate the various options for body and in car cameras. Motorola recently purchased the company the City has used for equipment. Along with the purchase is a greater emphasis on cloud-based storage and subscription services associated with the cameras. Our radio vendor has secured the equipment to restore monitoring at our radio site. We are now waiting for them to provision it and schedule installation.

9) Library Update

The Yankton Community Library was one of a few libraries in the state to be granted funding by the South Dakota Humanities Council to raise awareness of Missing or Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) and human trafficking in our community. We will host two programs at the Library that are

free and open to the public. Due to the difficult nature of the subject matter, these programs are best for older teens and adults.

On Saturday, April 27 at 1:00 P.M. we will present *Murder in Big Horn* which is a 2023 mini-documentary series that examines the disappearances and possible murders of several Indigenous women in rural Big Horn, Montana. The series is rated TV-MA and runs approximately 2 hours and 34 minutes. The licensing for this showing was generously granted by Showtime.

On Tuesday, April 30 at 6:00 P.M. we will host a panel discussion featuring four experts. This is a great opportunity for those who have questions and wish to learn more about MMIP and how to support our Indigenous communities. The panelists include Dr. Elise Boxer, Director of the Institute of American Indian Studies and Associate Professor of History at the University of South Dakota; Ariel Swallow, a PhD Candidate in Clinical Psychology at the University of South Dakota; Marlys Big Eagle, National Native American Outreach Services Liaison with the U.S. Department of Justice; and Alison J. Ramsdell, United States Attorney for the District of South Dakota. Yankton Mayor Stephanie Moser will moderate the discussion.

There will be free childcare available at the Library for ages 3 to 10 for adults who wish to attend the panel discussion. Personal protective devices will be given for free at the end of the program while supplies last. For those who can't attend in person, you can attend virtually at: <https://meet.goto.com/977657957>.

These programs are funded by the “United We Stand—Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons” initiative from the South Dakota Humanities Council, an Affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

10) Environmental Services Department Update

Kyle recently travelled to Washington, D.C. as the Water Utility Chair for the South Dakota Section of the American Water Works Association. The American Water Works Association (AWWA) holds a “Water Matters Fly In” event every year. This year three major topics were discussed.

The first topic was the “polluter pays” principle for Per- and Polyfluorinated Substances (PFAS) clean up. AWWA has been working with Wyoming Senator Lummis (R) on Senate Bill 1430 (Water Systems PFAS Liability Act) and Utah Representative Curtis (R) on a similar bill in the house. The bill protects Utilities from liability related to the cleanup and disposal of PFAS.

The second topic was investment in the nation’s water infrastructure. AWWA is asking for full funding for the Drinking and Clean Water State Revolving Loan Programs at \$3.25 billion each. AWWA does not support the practice of diverting funds from annual State Revolving Fund (SRF) capitalization grants for earmarks. These earmarks reduce the funds available to states. Funds diverted for congressional earmarks do not revolve back into the SRF, and reduce the sustainability of the funds. The National Rural Water Association and the South Dakota Rural Water Association are currently lobbying for several large earmark projects for the State of South Dakota. AWWA supports finding another source for the large earmark projects to protect and maintain the sustainability of the SRF program.

The final topic was building cybersecurity in the water sector. AWWA supports the formation of the Water Risk and Resilience Organization (WRRO) to provide a foundation for implementing cybersecurity requirements, developed collaboratively by the water sector with oversight from the Environmental Protection Agency. This organization is modeled after the North American Electrical

Reliability Corporation which develops cybersecurity requirements for the bulk electrical providers with oversight from the Federal Energy Commission.

Kyle and Ted Lewis from the City of Sioux Falls met with legislative aids and policy advisors from the offices of Representative Johnson, Senator Rounds and Senator Thune while in Washington, D.C.

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