

REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL – YORK, NEBRAKSA
September 3, 2026
5:30 PM

A meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of York, Nebraska, was convened in open and public session at 5:30 o'clock p.m. in the Council Chambers.

The Mayor announced that the Open Meetings is available for review on the documents table in Council Chambers.

Notice of this meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the York News Times on August 27, 2026, the City's designated method for giving notice, a copy of the proof of publication being attached to these minutes. Notice of this meeting was given to the Mayor and all members of the City Council and a copy of their acknowledgment and receipt of notice and the agenda is attached to these minutes. Availability of the agenda was communicated in advance notice to the Mayor and City Council for this meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Mayor: Barry Redfern: Present. Councilmembers: Doreen Lopez: Present, Jeff McGregor: Present, Tony North: Present, Jeff Pieper: Present, Stephen Postier: Present, Jennifer Sheppard: Present, Scott Van Esch: Present, Jerry Wilkinson: Present. The following City Officials were present: City Administrator Dr. Sue Crawford, City Attorney Charles Campbell, Public Works Director James Paul, City Treasurer Pellie Thomas, Library Director Dr. Holli Duggan, Sergeant Ben Rodenborg and City Clerk Amanda Ring.

Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2026 meeting. Ayes with a motion by Jerry Wilkinson and a second by Scott Van Esch. Scott Van Esch: Yea, Jeff Pieper: Yea, Jeff McGregor: Yea, Doreen Lopez: Yea, Tony North: Yea, Jennifer Sheppard: Yea, Stephen Postier: Yea, Jerry Wilkinson: Yea.

Claims of Elected Officials

Motion to approve the claim for Tony North of North Printing and Office Supply in the amount of \$766.53. Ayes with a motion by Jerry Wilkinson and a second by Stephen Postier. Scott Van Esch: Yea, Jeff Pieper: Yea, Jeff McGregor: Yea, Doreen Lopez: Yea, Tony North: Abstain (With Conflict), Jennifer Sheppard: Yea, Stephen Postier: Yea, Jerry Wilkinson: Yea.

Motion to approve the claim for Jeff Pieper of Pieper's Inc. in the amount of \$1,109.37. Ayes with a motion by Jerry Wilkinson and a second by Jeff McGregor. Scott Van Esch: Yea, Jeff Pieper: Abstain (With Conflict), Jeff McGregor: Yea, Doreen Lopez: Yea, Tony North: Yea, Jennifer Sheppard: Yea, Stephen Postier: Yea, Jerry Wilkinson: Yea.

Motion to approve the claim for Stephen Postier of the York County Development Corporation in the amount of \$9,061.75. Ayes with a motion by Jerry Wilkinson and a second by Doreen Lopez. Scott Van Esch: Yea, Jeff Pieper: Yea, Jeff McGregor: Yea, Doreen Lopez: Yea, Tony North: Yea, Jennifer Sheppard: Yea, Stephen Postier: Abstain (With Conflict), Jerry Wilkinson: Yea.

Claims

Motion to approve the claims for August 21, 2026 through September 3, 2026. Ayes with a motion by Jerry Wilkinson and a second by Jeff McGregor. Scott Van Esch: Yea, Jeff Pieper: Yea, Jeff McGregor: Yea, Doreen Lopez: Yea, Tony North: Yea, Jennifer Sheppard: Yea, Stephen Postier: Yea, Jerry Wilkinson: Yea.

City Administrator Report

Dr. Crawford shared that the public hearing for the budget was to be had tonight, but the York News-Times neglected to publish the notice for the public hearing. There will be an acknowledgment from the paper with the updated publication for the public hearing for the budget on September 17, 2026. She stated that the city treasurer gives enough time in the case that something might disrupt the schedule, such as this. Even with having to move the public hearing, the budget will still be submitted before the deadline.

SDL – Blended Distilling

Motion to approve the Special Designated License for Blended Distilling for a tasting and sales event at Kirtsey's Clothing and Gift Boutique, 723 N. Lincoln Ave., on October 21, 2026. Ayes with a motion by Jeff Pieper and a second by Stephen Postier. Scott Van Esch: Yea, Jeff Pieper: Yea, Jeff McGregor: Yea, Doreen Lopez: Yea, Tony North: Yea, Jennifer Sheppard: Yea, Stephen Postier: Yea, Jerry Wilkinson: Yea.

Mayor Appointments

Motion to approve the reappointment of Brian Melby, Angie Kroger and Jane Brogan to the Board of Adjustment for a term ending September 1, 2029. Ayes with a motion by Scott Van Esch and a second by Tony North. Scott Van Esch: Yea, Jeff Pieper: Yea, Jeff McGregor: Yea, Doreen Lopez: Yea, Tony North: Yea, Jennifer Sheppard: Yea, Stephen Postier: Yea, Jerry Wilkinson: Yea.

Fraternal Order of Police Agreement

Dr. Crawford stated there were good conversations that occurred during the negotiation process. A key update was the comparability of wages. This contract is for a period of three years. The Mayor agreed there were good conversations throughout this process. Councilmember Postier asked about the arbitration language that was added. Dr. Crawford stated it is similar to other cities arbitration language.

Motion to amend the period of the agreement to September 21, 2026 through September 30, 2029. Ayes with a motion by Jerry Wilkinson and a second by Scott Van Esch. Scott Van Esch: Yea, Jeff Pieper: Yea, Jeff McGregor: Yea, Doreen Lopez: Yea, Tony North: Yea, Jennifer Sheppard: Yea, Stephen Postier: Yea, Jerry Wilkinson: Yea.

Motion to approve the agreement between the City of York and Fraternal Order of Police, York Lodge No. 31 for the period of September 21, 2026 through September 30, 2027, to include the amendment in the prior motion to update the period of the agreement to terminate September 30, 2029. Ayes with a motion by Jeff McGregor and a second by Jeff Pieper. Scott Van Esch: Yea, Jeff Pieper: Yea, Jeff McGregor: Yea, Doreen Lopez: Yea, Tony North: Yea, Jennifer Sheppard: Yea, Stephen Postier: Yea, Jerry Wilkinson: Yea.

York Professional Firefighters Local Agreement

Dr. Crawford stated that the key comparability issue was captain's wages. Their wages will increase over the next two years. There is a smaller increase for the other employees in the second year.

Motion to amend the period of the agreement to September 21, 2026 through September 17, 2028. Ayes with a motion by Jerry Wilkinson and a second by Scott Van Esch. Scott Van Esch: Yea, Jeff Pieper: Yea, Jeff McGregor: Yea, Doreen Lopez: Yea, Tony North: Yea, Jennifer Sheppard: Yea, Stephen Postier: Yea, Jerry Wilkinson: Yea.

Motion to approve the agreement between the City of York and the York Professional Firefighters Local 1648 for the period September 21, 2026 through September 30, 2027; to include the previous motion to update the period of the agreement through September 17, 2028. Ayes with a motion by Tony North and a second by Jennifer Sheppard. Scott Van Esch: Yea, Jeff Pieper: Yea, Jeff McGregor: Yea, Doreen Lopez: Yea, Tony North: Yea, Jennifer Sheppard: Yea, Stephen Postier: Yea, Jerry Wilkinson: Yea.

Resolution 2026-25 – Job Classifications
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-25

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council of the City of York, Nebraska, hereby fix and prescribe job classifications, pay grades and set maximum wage levels at step 7 of the Pay Range Schedule to become effective on September 21, 2026, pursuant to authority granted in Ordinance No. 2447 of the City of York. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2026-2027 budget includes funds required to defray these salary adjustments.

Title			Pay Grade		
*	Airport Operations Manager	46.0		Maintenance Worker I w/o CDL	35.0
*	Asset Manager/Planning Director	45.5		Maintenance Worker I w/CDL	35.5
	Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer	39.5		Maintenance Worker II w/CDL	36.5
	Ballfield Complex Maint. Supr.	40.0		Maintenance Worker III w/CDL	38.0
	Building Inspector	43.5		Museum Complex Coordinator	40.0
*	City Administrator	60.0	*	Parks & Recreation Director	50.0
*	City Attorney – Part Time	44.0		Parks Supervisor	45.0
*	City Clerk	48.5		Plant Operator I – Wastewater	39.0
*	City Treasurer	50.5		Plant Operator II – Wastewater	41.5
	Convention Center Coordinator	36.5		Plant Operator III – Wastewater	44.0
*	Convention Center Director	47.5		Plant Superintendent – Wastewater	47.0
	Custodian I	30.5	*	Police Captain	49.5
	Custodian II	34.5	*	Police Chief	52.0
	Custodian Supervisor	36.0		Police Officer	P-1
	Equipment Mechanic	42.5		Police Sergeant	P-2
	Fire Captain	F-4.5		Public Works Clerk	36.5
*	Fire Chief	52.0	*	Public Works Director – Engineer	53.5
	Fire Medic I	F-1	*	Public Works Director – Non-Engineer	51.5
	Fire Medic II	F-2	*	Project Manager	45.5
	Fire Medic III	F-3		Records Administrator	37.0
	Foreman I	40.5	*	Recreation Coordinator	41.0
	Foreman II	42.5		Secretary I	34.0
*	Human Resources Director	50.0		Secretary II	35.5
	Laborer	35.0		Street Supervisor	45.0
	Landfill Clerk	35.0		Support Services Officer	35.5
	Landfill Operator	37.5		System Operator I – Water	37.0
	Landfill Superintendent	41.5		System Operator II – Water	40.0
	Librarian	35.5		Utilities Billing Manager	39.5
	Library Assistant III	35.5		Water Superintendent	47.0
*	Library Director	47.5		YPR Clerk	36.5

(*denotes exempt employee)

Dr. Crawford shared that there was a wage study done approximately four years ago from information the city received from the League of Nebraska Municipalities. Wages were reviewed and compared this year as well and there are only a few positions that needed an adjustment. She thanked the Council for the cost-of-living adjustments to help keep employees' wages comparable as the years progress.

Motion to approve Resolution 2026-25 to set job classifications, pay grade and set maximum wage levels at step 7 of the pay range schedule to become effective September 21, 2026 through September 30, 2027. Ayes with a motion by Scott Van Esch and a second by Jeff McGregor. Scott Van Esch: Yea, Jeff Pieper: Yea, Jeff McGregor: Yea, Doreen Lopez: Yea, Tony North: Yea, Jennifer Sheppard: Yea, Stephen Postier: Yea, Jerry Wilkinson: Yea.

Third reading:

Ordinance No. 2445 –

ORDINANCE NO. 2445

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND PORTIONS OF CHAPTER 54 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF YORK, NEBRASKA, PRESCRIBING SEWER RATES, REPEAL OF ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith, AND PROVIDING FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF SAID ORDINANCE.

Motion to approve Ordinance No. 2445 to amend portions of Chapter 54 of the Municipal Code of the City of York, Nebraska, prescribing sewer rates, repeal of all ordinances in conflict herewith and provide the effective date of said ordinance. Ayes with a motion by Tony North and a second by Doreen Lopez. Scott Van Esch: Yea, Jeff Pieper: Yea, Jeff McGregor: Yea, Doreen Lopez: Yea, Tony North: Yea, Jennifer Sheppard: Nay, Stephen Postier: Yea, Jerry Wilkinson: Yea

Third Reading:

Ordinance No. 2446 –

ORDINANCE NO. 2446

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND A PORTION OF CHAPTER 40, GARBAGE AND TRASH, REPEAL OF ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith AND PROVIDING FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE.

Councilmember Sheppard stated she was not in favor of an increase last year and an increase this year. She questioned why there is no free limb disposal. This affects more than the city, it affects the county as well and anyone else who dumps at the landfill. She referenced past budgets comparing actual versus budgeted amounts and stated it might be better to raise rates again in a couple of years. Councilmember Postier shared he echoed a lot of what Councilmember Sheppard shared. He felt raising the minimum dump fee might deter people from hauling there and what might that trickle effect be on property owners in town? Will they store landfill items on their property until they have enough to justify paying the minimum dump fee? He also suggested a free dump site for limbs. Councilmember North also agreed that the minimum increase was too big of a jump. He stated he also understands the study and why we need to follow the suggestions recommended. James commented on the subject stating that rates were not increased for a significant period of time, and now we are increasing trying to get rates back comparable to other entities around the city. This service is an enterprise fund and are not supposed to be subsidized by tax dollars. The Mayor stated his biggest concern is not to get behind on the fees and the funds the city holds in reserves.

Motion to approve Ordinance No. 2446 to amend a portion of Chapter 40, Garbage and trash, repeal of all ordinances in conflict herewith and providing for the effective date of this ordinance. Ayes with a motion by Tony North and a second by Jerry Wilkinson. Scott Van Esch: Yea, Jeff Pieper: Yea, Jeff McGregor: Yea, Doreen Lopez: Yea, Tony North: Yea, Jennifer Sheppard: Nay, Stephen Postier: Nay, Jerry Wilkinson: Yea

Ordinance No. 2447 –

ORDINANCE NO. 2447

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF YORK, NEBRASKA TO ADOPT A PAY SCHEDULE SETTING FORTH PAY GRADES AND STEPS FOR CITY EMPLOYEES TO BE EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 21, 2026; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE FOR THIS ORDINANCE.

Dr. Crawford shared this has the 3% cost of living adjustment included in this pay range schedule.

Motion to suspend the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days for Ordinance No. 2447. The motion was adopted by a three-fourths vote of the Council and the statutory rule suspended for consideration of said Ordinance on its second and third readings. Ayes with a motion by Scott Van Esch and a second by Jerry Wilkinson. Scott Van Esch: Yea, Jeff Pieper: Yea, Jeff McGregor: Yea, Doreen Lopez: Yea, Tony North: Yea, Jennifer Sheppard: Yea, Stephen Postier: Yea, Jerry Wilkinson: Yea

Motion to approve Ordinance No. 2447 to adopt a pay range schedule setting forth pay grades and steps for city employees to be effective September 21, 2026. Ayes with a motion by Tony North and a second by Jeff McGregor. Scott Van Esch: Yea, Jeff Pieper: Yea, Jeff McGregor: Yea, Doreen Lopez: Yea, Tony North: Yea, Jennifer Sheppard: Yea, Stephen Postier: Yea, Jerry Wilkinson: Yea

First Reading:
Ordinance No. 2449 –

ORDINANCE NO. 2449

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF YORK, NEBRASKA TO AMEND SECTION 52-229 (ORDINANCE NO. 2431) TO PROVIDE A DEFINITION FOR “SCOOTERS”: TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE FOR THIS ORDINANCE.

Charley stated that Chief Tjaden requested a definition for what is considered to be a scooter. A scooter is not defined as a device that has a seat. Conversation was held regarding 'electric mobility devices', which are not regulated.

Executive Session

Consider going into closed session for discussion about potential real estate purchases and imminent litigation
Motion to go into closed session for discussion about potential real estate purchases and imminent litigation at 6:09, to include Lisa Johnson and Eva Allyn from the Nebraska Department of Transportation. Ayes with a motion by Stephen Postier and a second by Scott Van Esch. Scott Van Esch: Yea, Jeff Pieper: Yea, Jeff McGregor: Yea, Doreen Lopez: Yea, Tony North: Yea, Jennifer Sheppard: Yea, Stephen Postier: Yea, Jerry Wilkinson: Yea

Motion to come out of executive session where no action was taken. Ayes with a motion by Jeff Pieper and a second by Jerry Wilkinson. Scott Van Esch: Yea, Jeff Pieper: Yea, Jeff McGregor: Yea, Doreen Lopez: Yea, Tony North: Yea, Jennifer Sheppard: Yea, Stephen Postier: Yea, Jerry Wilkinson: Yea

Motion to postpone acting on authorizing a petition for eminent domain to be filed in the York County Court against McDonald's Corporation to obtain easements required for Project Access York. Ayes with a motion by Jeff McGregor and a second by Doreen Lopez. Scott Van Esch: Yea, Jeff Pieper: Yea, Jeff McGregor: Yea, Doreen Lopez: Yea, Tony North: Yea, Jennifer Sheppard: Yea, Stephen Postier: Yea, Jerry Wilkinson: Yea

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the Mayor adjourned the meeting, the time being 6:26 p.m.

Amanda Ring, City Clerk

Barry Redfern, Mayor