

REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL – YORK, NEBRAKSA
July 2, 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 Act was posted on the East Wall of the Council Chambers.

Mayor: Barry Redfern: Present. Councilmembers: Doreen Lopez: Present, Jeff McGregor: Present, Tony North: Present, Jeff Pieper: Present, Stephen Postier: Absent, Jennifer Sheppard: Absent, Scott Van Esch: Present, Jerry Wilkinson: Absent. The following City Officials were present: City Administrator Dr. Sue Crawford, City Attorney Charles Campbell, Police Chief Edward Tjaden, Public Works Director James Paul, Zoning Administrator Dan Aude, City Treasurer Pellie Thomas and City Clerk Amanda Ring.

Notice of this meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the York News Times on June 25, 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.

Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2026 meeting. Ayes with a motion by Scott Van Esch and a second by Tony North. Stephen Postier: Absent, Jennifer Sheppard: Absent, Jerry Wilkinson: Absent, Doreen Lopez: Yea, Tony North: Yea, Scott Van Esch: Yea, Jeff Pieper: Yea, Jeff McGregor: Yea.

Claims of Elected Officials

Motion to approve the claim for Tony North of North Printing and Office Supply in the amount of \$1,387.39. Ayes with a motion by Jeff McGregor and a second by Jeff Pieper. Stephen Postier: Absent, Jennifer Sheppard: Absent, Jerry Wilkinson: Absent, Doreen Lopez: Yea, Tony North: Abstain (With Conflict), Scott Van Esch: Yea, Jeff Pieper: Yea, Jeff McGregor: Yea.

Motion to approve the claim for Jeff Pieper of Pieper's Inc. in the amount of \$808.52. Ayes with a motion by Doreen Lopez and a second by Scott Van Esch. Stephen Postier: Absent, Jennifer Sheppard: Absent, Jerry Wilkinson: Absent, Doreen Lopez: Yea, Tony North: Yea, Scott Van Esch: Yea, Jeff Pieper: Abstain (With Conflict), Jeff McGregor: 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 Jeff McGregor and a second by Doreen Lopez. Stephen Postier: Absent, Jennifer Sheppard: Absent, Jerry Wilkinson: Absent, Doreen Lopez: Yea, Tony North: Yea, Scott Van Esch: Yea, Jeff Pieper: Yea, Jeff McGregor: Yea.

Claims

Motion to approve the claims for June 19, 2026 through July 2, 2026. Ayes with a motion by Jeff McGregor and a second by Doreen Lopez. Stephen Postier: Absent, Jennifer Sheppard: Absent, Jerry Wilkinson: Absent, Doreen Lopez: Yea, Tony North: Yea, Scott Van Esch: Yea, Jeff Pieper: Yea, Jeff McGregor: Yea.

City Administrator Report

Dr. Crawford encouraged the Council and public to check out the city's website for America 250 events going on throughout the weekend. The Firecracker Frenzy is happening on July 3, 2026, with an additional drone show this year and she shared a reminder on the city ordinance that fireworks are only to be lit June 28 through July 4, with no rain delay written in the ordinance. There is a ceremony co-sponsored with the Visitors Bureau and the Creative District to celebrate the sculpture there. Information on the sculpture is located at the Museum and the Library.

Matt Leif addressed the Council

Matt Leif, 1801 E. Paradise Pond View, York, thanked the Council for allowing him to speak. He referenced the article from the York News Times from June 23, 2026. He requested that the Council look into the necessity of the calls or is it an inefficient use of police resources. He then shared his personal experience with the York Police Department. In the past two months, the police have responded 5 or 6 times to his house because of his cat wandering off his property. He stated he would like to see the police process change to a phone screen before the police show up to his property for the calls regarding his cat. He was issued a citation by the police for his pet. He is taking that citation to court and stated he wants a hearing and trial, so the police officer on duty has to come and defend the citation. He stated it's a ridiculous waste of police resources and the Council shouldn't have to spend another \$106,000 in the coming budget year, so the police can chase down cats that wander in the community. Mr. Leif stated he was unaware there was an ordinance committee and would like to speak to them about the pet ordinances.

SDL for Fresh Foods Inc.

Motion to approve the Special Designated Liquor License for Fresh Foods York Inc. for a beer, wine, and liquor tasting and sampling event on Thursday, August 6th, 2026, at 2345 N. Nebraska Avenue for the York County Fair. Ayes with a motion by Tony North and a second by Scott Van Esch. Stephen Postier: Absent, Jennifer Sheppard: Absent, Jerry Wilkinson: Absent, Doreen Lopez: Yea, Tony North: Yea, Scott Van Esch: Yea, Jeff Pieper: Yea, Jeff McGregor: Yea.

TAPCO – Crosswalk Systems for School Zone

James shared this would be for the school zone safety project. There are 32 crosswalk systems that will be installed, and they will be installed prior to the beginning of the 2026 school year. There is a 3-week lead time on this order. TAPCO is a part of Omnia Partners contract for the public bidding process. The city employees will install these once received.

Motion to approve the quote from Traffic and Parking Control Co., LLC for 32 Configurable Crosswalk System Controllers in the amount of \$75,920.00. Ayes with a motion by Doreen Lopez and a second by Jeff Pieper. Stephen Postier: Absent, Jennifer Sheppard: Absent, Jerry Wilkinson: Absent, Doreen Lopez: Yea, Tony North: Yea, Scott Van Esch: Yea, Jeff Pieper: Yea, Jeff McGregor: Yea.

Second Public Hearing - Closeout of CDBG Repurpose Funds

The Mayor announced this was the time and place for the second public hearing and notice of completed use and closeout of CDBG Economic Development and Housing Program Income (Repurpose Funds). He read the following statement from James Owens, Senior Community Development Specialist, Southeast Nebraska Development District. "This second public hearing for the City of York's CDBG Economic Development and Housing Program Income Repurpose Project is a formality under the Community Development Block Grant that is done toward the end of the grant performance period once national objectives are met and all costs have been incurred and paid out. This hearing provides the public the opportunity to weigh in one final time on the project and voice any concerns or support they had or may have in relation to this project. Following the discontinuation of the City's CDBG Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund and Housing Revolving Loan Fund, the Nebraska Department of Economic Development approved the City to repurpose the combined program income, approximately \$264,000, toward eligible public improvements. These funds were applied to three activities on City-owned property: an extension of the City's transportation trail system to improve access to food and jobs, an emergency generator for the community auditorium and storm shelter, and the purchase and installation of two new traffic signal controllers in the downtown area. This project met the national objective of benefit to Limited Clientele, meaning these funds removed architectural barriers to meet Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines and assisted persons with mobility limitations, primarily benefiting low-to-moderate income persons. The trail extension and generator have been completed, and the remaining program income of was applied toward the traffic signal controllers, with the City covering the balance of that cost with local Street Funds. Only a few things remain for this project prior to close-out. SENDD is currently working on obtaining all monitoring and final reporting documentation. No funds are remaining or will need to be de-obligated." There was no other public comment.

NPPD Letter Agreement – Project Access York

Dr. Crawford introduced the agenda item. The city is working with NPPD to facilitate a utility relocation prior to the trail and bridge being constructed. It will be covered by grant funding. There have been conversations between all parties to ensure BABA compliance. Dan Gregory, retail account manager for NPPD, shared that this is a standard contract. The three-phase line will be moved to underground power lines. NPPD has assigned a team to verify BABA compliance for this project. Project will not be billed until the work is complete.

Motion to approve the Letter Agreement from NPPD for the relocation of NPPD Electric Distribution Lines for Project Access York - Pedestrian Bridge, estimated costs totaling \$658,582.00. Ayes with a motion by Scott Van Esch and a second by Jeff Pieper. Stephen Postier: Absent, Jennifer Sheppard: Absent, Jerry Wilkinson: Absent, Doreen Lopez: Yea, Tony North: Yea, Scott Van Esch: Yea, Jeff Pieper: Yea, Jeff McGregor: Yea.

Resolution 2026-17 – PS&E for Project Access York

Dr. Crawford stated this resolution is agreeing to have Olsson and NDOT release the plans for the trail to put the project out to bid. The City is at the PS&E (preliminary plans, specifications and estimates) and is anticipating to start bidding for this project by October 2026. NDOT is still in negotiation with project owners. The project moves forward while negotiations are still taking place. The Mayor opened this up for public comment. Amy Lehman, 1430 S. Grant Ave, York expressed concerns regarding the Project Access York project and its associated USDOT agreement. She questioned whether the Mayor was authorized by the City Council to execute the agreement and requested that the City obtain a legal opinion regarding the agreement's authorization and enforceability. She also stated that, based on her review of Council records, she did not find documentation approving the agreement prior to its execution. Ms. Lehman further stated that, in her opinion, the benefit-cost analysis submitted with the federal grant application did not comply with USDOT guidance and could affect the project's eligibility for federal funding. She requested that the City review the benefit-cost analysis, determine whether the agreement was properly authorized, and postpone further action on Project Access York, including acceptance of the PS&E package and bid letting, until those matters had been reviewed. She also offered to provide supporting documents to the Council. Dr. Crawford and the Mayor spoke about the NDOT administering the grant and the NDOT is the responsible liaison to ensure all requirements are being met. Council member North stated his appreciation for NDOT administering the grant and restated that the project is on a tight timeline. Dale Epp, 1320 18th Street, Henderson, shared his concerns about the easement for access to his field and getting fuel to his motor. He is concerned that there is a permanent easement that has been removed and this has and will create more issues once the trail is constructed. There was no other public comment.

RESOLUTION

APPROVAL OF PRELIMINARY PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, AND ESTIMATES (PS&E)

City of York

Resolution No. 2026-17

Whereas: City of York (City) and State entered into an LPA Program Agreement for State to assist City in the development and construction of an LPA Federal-aid transportation project;

Whereas: The State or the design consultant has developed the project plans to the point where they are ready to submit to State’s PS & E Section for final edits for a bid letting;

Whereas: The LPA Program Agreement requires the city to review the preliminary PS & E package and either request modification or approve them as acceptable at this stage;

Whereas: City wishes to approve the preliminary PS & E package as prepared.

Be It Resolved by the City Council of the City of York that:

The Mayor, Barry Redfern, is hereby authorized to sign the bottom of this resolution and submit it to the State signifying the City’s approval of the preliminary PS & E package.

NDOR Project Number: DPS-93(15)

NDOR Control Number: 43010

NDOR Project Description: Project Access York

Motion to approve the Resolution 2026-17 for the approval of preliminary plans, specifications, and estimates (PS&E) for Project Access York - DPS-93(15). Ayes with a motion by Tony North and a second by Scott Van Esch. Stephen Postier: Absent, Jennifer Sheppard: Absent, Jerry Wilkinson: Absent, Doreen Lopez: Nay, Tony North: Yea, Scott Van Esch: Yea, Jeff Pieper: Yea, Jeff McGregor: Yea.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the Mayor adjourned the meeting, the time being 6:09 p.m.

Amanda Ring, City Clerk

Barry Redfern, Mayor