



**YANKEETOWN TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

JANUARY 5, 2026 - 6:00 PM

YANKEETOWN TOWN HALL

6241 HARMONY LANE, YANKEETOWN, FLORIDA

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The regular meeting of the Yankeetown Town Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Laurence Vorisek – Present, Council Member Bob Terrian – Present, Council Member Allen Casey – Present, Council Member Tim Ecker – Absent, Town Administrator Seante M. Gyukeri - Present (non-voting), Town Attorney Blake Fugate - Present (non-voting), A quorum was established.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. MINUTES

a. December 8, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

Mayor Vorisek asked if Council had any questions or corrections. No questions were raised.

Motion by Bob Terrian, second by Allen Casey, to approve the December 8, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes.

Motion passed 3-0 unanimously.

2. YANKEETOWN SCHOOL - MONTHLY REPORT

Mayor Vorisek noted the standing agenda item; the school representative was not present. No formal report was given.

3. SAVINACIUS - MONTHLY REPORT / GRANT UPDATES

Jaison provided grant updates, including the State Appropriation request submitted prior to the November deadline for a waterline replacement project (approximately \$1 million) extending the cast iron replacement from the area near 61st Street toward 50th Street/past the water plant.

Council discussed outreach to state representatives and the value of community support (including a potential resident petition). Savinacius advised that follow-up requests for information often include questions about community support, and that letters/petitions and Council support can strengthen consideration.

Savinacius reported that statewide disaster infrastructure funding awards are ongoing, and additional announcements are expected in early 2026, including for Big Bend impacts (Idalia/Helene/Debbie).

Regarding HMGP (Idalia elevations), Savinacius reported twelve (12) residential elevation projects remain funded; seven (7) involve homes over 50 years old and are awaiting environmental/historic preservation review. Savinacius stated the Town will continue working with the State and assigned staff to help move the application through the review process.

In response to a question regarding the 64th and 67th Street drainage grant timing, Savinacius stated the State indicated a decision is expected in early 2026. Council noted the engineering update previously approved was intended to keep the projects plan ready in the event of award.

4. ANIMAL CONTROL - MONTHLY REPORT

Council noted the Animal Control Monthly Report was provided in the meeting packets and available to the public. In summary, Animal Control responded to calls for service, patrols, welfare checks, and follow-up actions during December.

Council discussed that the report appeared to be generated from a spreadsheet and lacked sufficient detail. Council directed staff to contact Inglis Animal Control to improve the reporting detail and to ensure the Town receives usable call statistics.

Additional discussion included an incident involving a cat picked up on the east end of Town with suspected toxoplasmosis; Animal Control reportedly paused intake while testing and quarantining, and the Town requested that significant public health issues be clearly communicated.

Council also discussed a recent incident near the park involving a pit bull reported to be chasing residents and potential vandalism. Council emphasized that incidents involving property damage should be reported to law enforcement, and animal-related incidents should be reported to Animal Control.

5. INTERGOVERNMENTAL EQUIPMENT SALE DISCUSSION

Council discussed the Town's fire equipment arrangement with Inglis, including the request to purchase the Town's tanker (2004 tanker; approximately 2,000-gallon). The preliminary offer discussed was approximately \$10,000-\$12,000.

Mayor Vorisek noted much of the tanker acquisition was believed to have been grant-funded, and staff will confirm any remaining restrictions; the Town Attorney advised any grant restrictions were likely expired given the age of the equipment, but documentation will be reviewed if located.

The Town Attorney explained that if Council classifies the tanker as surplus and the transfer is to another governmental entity within the County/District, the Town may negotiate a price directly without a public auction process. If sold to a private party, a governmental auction process would be required.

Council discussed that proceeds must remain within fire-related uses but may potentially support fire hydrant-related expenditures if budgeted appropriately. Council also discussed obtaining a market value estimate from fire-equipment vendors and investing proceeds (e.g., CD/money market) for future fire-related needs.

Council consensus was for Council Member Terrian (fire liaison) to continue discussions with Inglis and gather additional information (mileage/hours/specifications and valuation) for Council review at a future meeting.

6. GOLF CART DISCUSSION

Laurence reported receiving a complaint regarding residents traveling from Palm Drive to Riverside, noting there is no direct route without briefly using/approaching State Road 40. Laurence reported speaking with law enforcement regarding enforcement and safety considerations.

Council discussed that use of SR 40 is restricted. While limited right-of-way travel may not commonly be ticketed, it may still be unlawful. Council discussed the possibility of seeking DOT review for a designated crossing, noting DOT would likely require an engineering/safety analysis and associated costs.

Council also discussed exploring whether the speed limit criteria (35 mph or less) impacts golf cart legality; Council will continue to research the matter.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

WATER AVAILABILITY FEE RESOLUTION - REVISIT

Council discussed the previously adopted Water Availability Fee Resolution (Resolution 2025-02) and noted uncertainty regarding the intended scope (vacant lots vs. all properties) and documentation of the prior motion/recording. Council agreed to schedule a workshop to review and discuss resolution, and to return for action at a regular meeting.

COAST GUARD STATION

No updates were provided. Council directed the item to remain under Unfinished Business.

P&Z COMP PLAN DISCUSSION

Randy (P&Z) provided an update on comp plan issues and ongoing efforts to ensure the Town website contains a complete, current comprehensive plan. Randy also discussed revisions under consideration for the tree ordinance (including protections/standards related to palms and large pines) and noted additional comp plan clean-up items are being addressed. The matter is expected to be discussed further at the next P&Z meeting.

COUNCIL REPORTS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Member Allen Casey reported no updates for the month.

Council Member Bob Terrian provided a summary from the Inglis meeting, including notice that three (3) seats in Inglis will be up for election and qualifying begins January 26. Terrian also summarized law enforcement call statistics reported for December: 972 total calls; 41 identified as Yankeetown calls, with an additional 33 that may have been Yankeetown due to incomplete addressing; and five (5) calls logged in the County due to location labeling. Terrian reported 22 security

checks, four (4) traffic stops, twelve (12) other calls, and three (3) disturbances. Yankeetown is still at 10% less of all calls. No fire report was provided.

MAYOR REPORTS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Vorisek reported the water tower was no longer overflowing after a relay repair affecting the pump controls (reported cost approximately \$15,000).

Mayor Vorisek also reported the Town transitioned to peroxide as a disinfectant to reduce disinfection byproducts (TTHMs). The first test results since the change showed TTHM levels reduced to approximately half of the allowable limit. Mayor Vorisek noted the system will periodically return to chlorine for an annual pipe disinfection cycle (approximately three days each time).

Mayor Vorisek provided an update on a historic-related agreement/grant process: staff received confirmation the agreement is pending an additional signature and is expected to be executed after January 20, 2026, after which it will proceed for final processing/approval.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Town Administrator Gyukeri reported Code Enforcement activity was slower due to the holidays and that court dates are expected to be held in January. Gyukeri reported continued work to transition billing back in-house, including ordinance/rate review and coordinating final transfers/setup (targeting February, or March if needed).

Gyukeri reported the Town is completing election-related requirements (publications/hiring and coordination with Inglis as applicable). Gyukeri recognized the Town's Office Assistant, David, for scanning and digitizing records and making updates to the Town website.

Gyukeri reports December water bills were delayed due to the holidays and spreadsheet errors and that bills were expected to be mailed promptly.

AREA RESIDENT COMMENTS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

No residents came forward to speak.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bob Terrian, second by Allen Casey, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 3-0 unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Seante M. Gyukeri
Town Administrator