

# Minutes

Kennedy City Council Meeting  
October 11, 2011

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Truedson called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M. in the Kennedy City Office. Council Members present included Duane Peterson and Mary Ryden. Council Members Kevin Hanson and Paul Larson were absent due to work related beet harvest. Also present were Mary Cooney, Greg Mitziga, and Kathy Rynning.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** Jim Petersburg would like to buy the school's whirlpool.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** M. Cooney was out ill during the past month and therefore minutes were not completed. They will be presented next month.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** None.

**CLERK'S REPORT:** The door hanger Water Bill Disconnection Notices were very effective with all active accounts being brought up to date, with the exception of one. The City received a letter stating Northwest Regional Development Commission is looking for representatives. As T. Truedson is currently on the commission, the council agreed not to nominate anyone else at this time. The City received an e-mail from Kittson County Engineer Kelly Bengtson, requesting the City consider writing a letter to American Crystal Sugar and the BCTGM Union Local 267-G encouraging both parties to return to the negotiating table and find a prompt resolution to the current employee lock-out. M. Ryden made a motion for M. Cooney to write said letter and Mayor Truedson sign. D. Peterson seconded. Motion carried. M. Ryden made a motion to accept the Clerk's Report as presented. D. Peterson seconded. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** City of Kennedy received a request for a letter of engagement from the accounting firm and previous City of Kennedy auditors Drees, Risky & Vallager for the City's 2011 audit. Treasurer Cooney inquired if the council objected to her shopping around a bit for auditors, prior to committing to the same firm. Reasons given for this request included the firm's audit cost, \$5100, and also the fact that the large number of CDs cashed in during 2009 was not red flagged and called to the attention of the council at the time of the audit, nor was any other action taken by the auditor to assure Kennedy's city council was aware of the financial impact cashing-in these CDs was having on the city's financial reserve. Council directed M. Cooney to research area auditors and report findings next month. Two River Golf Course Extravaganza invoice has been questioned by Ron Anderson, golf course treasurer. Cooney will notify him that \$150 "Kitchen Clean-up" fee was a typo and should have been \$150 for "Cold Storage". M. Cooney requested a vote on submitting the final federal EDA grant paperwork. D. Peterson made a motion to complete the federal EDA grant paperwork. M. Ryden seconded. Motion carried. D. Peterson made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. M. Ryden seconded. Motion carried.

**MAINTENANCE REPORT:** G. Mitziga hauled Wiktel pile of dirt from the alley behind the Wiktel location to the city dirt pile. Work was done at the burn pile, including hauling-in gravel and leveling the road, as well as hauling ash out. City sprayed for dandelions using spray donated by K. Hanson and C. Swenson. Areas sprayed included the ball field, in front of the school, in front of the fire hall, and around water tower. Sewer clean-up service was completed. New recycling dumpsters are working quite well, but we need to remind residents to throw away glass now, only recycle the appropriate plastic, and *aluminum cans only*. Work on graveling alleys has been ongoing. M. Ryden made motion to accept the Maintenance Report as presented. D. Peterson seconded. Motion carried.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:** City received a letter from attorney J. Hanes regarding authorized city personnel with signing authority. As the city currently has two Fire Department grants in process, who does the city want to authorize to complete outstanding applications, paperwork and ongoing reports? T. Truedson made a motion that all city grant work be completed in the office by City Clerk M. Cooney and signed by the current clerk or mayor. D. Peterson seconded. Motion carried. Council further agreed, former clerk Shannon Mortenson may volunteer to work with Fire Chief Aaron Kirkeby and M. Cooney, originating and maintaining grant work in the city office with all paperwork ultimately submitted by M. Cooney. The city has been contacted by grant rep. Andrew Gag, "The next step in Rural Development's process is to obtain a draft copy of the proposed RFP for the emergency response vehicle that the City would like to purchase. The RFP should include both the cover letter and the proposed specifications for the vehicle. Along with that information should be a brief cover letter that explains how the bids will be obtained. Once those items have been reviewed and approved by Rural Development we will send the City an official letter authorizing the bidding of the project. The City will need to attempt to obtain multiple bids on the vehicle." T. Truedson, G. Mitziga, or M. Cooney will speak with A. Kirkeby. Three fire calls came in this month. (1) A vehicle fire on Highway 11; (2) Kenard & Jason Anderson building in rural Kennedy; and (3) Hay shed in

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Orleans. D. Peterson made a motion to accept the Fire Dept. Report as presented. M. Ryden seconded. Motion carried.

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT:** John Lauber from the Minnesota Department of Commerce came to the City of Kennedy for a routine “energy grant monitoring visit” on September 22, 2011. G. Mitziga, M. Cooney and consultant Neil Doty were present for the meeting. His first question was, “Why isn’t the turbine turning?” M. Cooney gave him a report on the project and answered questions regarding the paperwork, much of which is missing. G. Mitziga provided him with a report on turbine maintenance. J. Lauber will discuss Kennedy’s energy grant status with his superiors and get back to us. He suggested we contact our senator, LeRoy Stumpf, in an effort to get NextGen to do something about the lackluster performance of the turbine. T. Truedson made a motion for M. Cooney to draft a letter to Senator Stumpf and Mayor Truedson will sign. M. Ryden seconded. Motion carried. A breakfast investment meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 20, 2011, at 7:00 A.M., with guest speaker Neil Doty. The meeting will be held at the Kennedy Café. Council agreed to push back school winterization until after next council meeting, therefore giving citizens opportunity to step forward should they want to invest and/or take on management of the Go-Green Center. M. Ryden made a motion to accept the School Committee Report as presented. D. Peterson seconded. Motion carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** City will finish taking pictures of the buildings on our condemnation list and then proceed with the next step to condemn. D. Peterson made a motion to request City Attorney J. Hane proceed with drafting notice of condemnation letter T. Truedson seconded. Motion carried. Clerk will continue to research sources for financial assistance in the razing of condemned buildings.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The single closed bid received for the city’s 97 Ford Pickup for opened. Tony Mathias bid \$750. D. Peterson made a motion to accept Mathias’s bid for \$750 for the city’s Ford Pick-up. M. Ryden seconded. Motion carried. It was decided to discuss Jim Petersburg’s request to purchase the school’s whirlpool next month when K. Hanson and P. Larson are back. Kennedy Snowbird water policy was discussed. T. Truedson made a motion that two options exist for the snowbirds: (1) City disconnects and connects water at the curb stop for the city’s standard rate of \$40, with no other costs being incurred during resident’s absence; or (2) all standard fees are ongoing, including water based upon usage, with no discounts given during the resident’s absence. D. Peterson seconded. Motion carried.

**PAY BILLS:** D. Peterson made motion to pay the bills as presented. T. Truedson seconded. Motion carried.

**NOVEMBER MEETING DATE:** The November meeting will be held on Monday, 11/7/2011, at 7 PM in the City Office.

There being no further business brought forward for the council’s attention, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM by motion of D. Peterson, seconded by M. Ryden. Motion carried.

Signed November 07, 2011  
Mary Cooney, Clerk (Attest)

Signed November 07, 2011  
Todd Truedson, Mayor