

# Minutes

## Kennedy City Council Meeting November 7, 2011

**CALL TO ORDER:** Deputy Mayor Larson called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Kennedy City Office. Council Members present included Kevin Hanson, Duane Peterson and Mary Ryden. Mayor Truedson telephoned that he would be late. Also present were Mary Cooney and Greg Mitziga.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** D. Peterson made a motion to approve the September 2011 minutes as presented. M. Ryden seconded. Motion carried. At 8:30, upon T. Truedson's arrival, T. Truedson made a motion to approve the October 2011 minutes. M. Ryden seconded. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** None.

**CLERK'S REPORT:** MN Dept. of Transportation updated the population numbers on Kennedy's "City Name" highway signs. On October 21, 2011, the City of Kennedy sent a letter to American Crystal and the BCTGM Union Local 267 encouraging both parties to find a fair and equitable resolution to the current employee lock-out. County Auditor's office informed clerk that a signed resolution was required to attach delinquent water bills to property taxes. D. Peterson made a motion to attach delinquent water bills to property owner's real estate taxes. K. Hanson seconded. Motion carried. The city office will be moved back to 414 N. Atlantic Avenue on or around November 15. A new hot water heater is needed in that office. Charlotta Mattson owes the city 30 hours, so M. Cooney will contact her to help with the move. M. Cooney will notify residents of move prior to the move. Kennedy's outdoor skating rink needs a manager for this winter. Council directed M. Cooney to contact Dane Ryden and inquire if he would be interested. K. Hanson made a motion to accept the Clerk's Report as presented. D. Peterson seconded. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** City's Cash Balance Sheet, Unpaid Bills Detail, and Checks Issued in October were reviewed and accepted as presented. Minnesota's Department of Revenue's LGA and MVC 2011 numbers were also reviewed. It was noted the city will incur approximately \$10,000 above the estimated losses due to unbudgeted expenses including maintenance summer help and closing/winterizing school. The city has realized just about \$4900 in unbudgeted income (\$1600 insurance dividend, \$700 pick-up profit, and \$2600 unexpected MVC), so will have to raise approximately \$5100. D. Peterson made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. K. Hanson seconded. Motion carried.

**MAINTENANCE REPORT:** G. Mitziga worked with Paul's Stump Removal on October 24 and a total of 41 stumps were removed. No charges were incurred by the city, with 13 billed to residents and the rest at Red River Church and Maria Church. Students from Kittson Central were in town on October 19 to help residents with fall clean-up. It was a very successful day. The council directed M. Cooney to write a thank-you letter to the students. Shane Weleske was in town on November 1 to work with Mitziga on curb-stop digs and repairs at locations including the properties of Darcy Nygard's, B. Field, Margaret Sandberg, and the Gateway 66 Station. Paul Larson's water leak was also repaired. The city's snow blower is underpowered and if not replaced will probably cause damage to the tractor. John Deere has a model with 540 PTO that is available for \$1600 plus the existing snow blower trade-in. K. Hanson made a motion to trade-in existing snow blower and to purchase the proposed snow blower for the additional \$1600. D. Peterson seconded. Motion carried. Council directed M. Cooney to write a letter to David Kaul requesting he move car, boat, and trailer from the street as soon as possible, so they do not impede city snow plow upon the first snow. G. Mitziga will take a vacation day on November 10 and be at "Water School" Nov 29-Dec 1. K. Hanson will cover for Mitziga while he is gone with M. Cooney providing Hanson's contact upon request or with a posted sign when she is gone. M. Ryden made motion to accept the Maintenance Report as presented. K. Hanson seconded. Motion carried.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:** There were two calls this month: (1) department was on standby for what turned out to be a false alarm at the Hallock nursing home; and (2) a grass fire north of Kennedy, which was the result of Dean Carlson ditch burning, where the department watched for possible highway obstructing smoke. On October 27, M. Cooney provided Aaron Kirkeby with a copy of what was requested, in writing, by grant rep. Andrew Gag, however, at this date the paperwork is still outstanding. Council discussed the Fire Department's inquiry about renting the two vacant bus garage stalls. Fire Dept. would like the two spaces next to Earl Mattson, thus requiring at least two existing renters to move, and the department is also requesting a reduction in rent in exchange for leasehold improvements. K. Hanson made a motion to rent the two available, vacant stalls to the Fire Dept. at the existing rate of \$500/year, or rent the shop for \$500/year plus electricity until such time as a long-term tenant leases

# Minutes

## Kennedy City Council Meeting November 7, 2011

---

the shop space. D. Peterson seconded. Motion carried. Council directed M. Cooney to write these terms up and provide them to the Fire Department. We will notify Mitch Karol of available bus garage stall by next Friday, November 18, if we haven't yet heard from the Fire Department. M. Ryden made a motion to accept the Fire Dept. Report as presented. K. Hanson seconded. Motion carried.

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT:** During his September 22, 2011, Kennedy school site visit, John Lauber, from the Kennedy turbine grant funds provider Minnesota Department of Commerce, suggested the City of Kennedy notify Senator LeRoy Stumpf about the turbine's continued existing operational issues. M. Cooney questioned whether the city should *first* contact Dan Julh, and then contact city attorney J. Hane, prior to calling attention to these issues at the state level. Council directed Cooney to write the Juhl letter, speak to Hane, and report back to the council next month. Cooney reported J. Hane will help close-out the federal EDA grant paperwork, but questions exit and need to first be answered. A special council meeting is being requested for the specific purpose of answering outstanding questions on the federal EDA grant. The council members from 2009-2010, the city clerk/treasurer/project manager from 2009-2010, the current council members, and the current clerk/treasurer are asked to be present. P. Larson made a motion to call a special council meeting for the purposes of answering outstanding questions and completing the paperwork on the federal EDA grant. K. Hanson seconded. Motion carried. Cooney was directed to schedule re-keying of school's exterior doors as soon as possible. G. Mitziga was directed to schedule school's water pipe winterization as soon as possible. G. Mitziga was directed to purchase and install hasps to cold storage room doors and all bathroom doors. Cooney will notify Kennedy residents and cold storage tenants by mail of the changes taking place. The winter use of the gym will be researched by K. Hanson and council will be updated next month. The discussion of opening the school for events during the months of April through October was tabled until after the first of the year. M. Ryden made a motion to accept the School Committee Report as presented. D. Peterson seconded. Motion carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Clerk requested council approval for the condemnation, at this time, of *only* properties *without* outstanding water bills. Concern was expressed about the feasibility of receiving water bill payment with property taxes if properties were condemned. The council requested identification of the properties this would exclude and were told: (1) the McClintic property; (2) the Jason Olson property; and (3) the Helderman property. Council directed clerk to proceed with condemnation process on the previously identified properties, with the exception of the three properties identified as having outstanding water bill balances. The council indicated their intention to condemn these three properties once their outstanding water bills have been paid.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Further discussion was had about the sale of school building contents, *excluding* fixtures, which could be sold. Council directed M. Cooney to compile a list, research the sale, and report back next month.

**PAY BILLS:** M. Ryden made motion to pay the bills as presented. K. Hanson seconded. Motion carried.

**DECEMBER MEETING DATE:** The December meeting will be held on Monday, 12/5/2011, at 7 PM in the City Office.

There being no further business brought forward for the council's attention, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM by motion of D. Peterson, seconded by M. Ryden. Motion carried.

---

SGINED 12/12/2011  
Mary Cooney, Clerk (Attest)

---

SGINED 12/12/2011  
Todd Truedson, Mayor