

# Minutes

Kennedy City Council Meeting  
May 7, 2012

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Truedson called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Council Members present were Duane Peterson and Paul Larson, Kevin Hanson and Mary Ryden. Also present were Mary Cooney, Greg Mitziga, Aaron Kirkeby and Joann Winger.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** Joann Winger regarding the condemnation of her property.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes were not ready and will be presented for approval at the next meeting.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Joann Winger stated she was disappointed in the manner by which she was notified of the condemnation of her property. Clerk Cooney stated it was a legal matter and therefore handled by the City Attorney, with all property owners notified in the same manner. J. Winger questioned how her property was inspected if she did not give permission to enter the premises. G. Mitziga stated that the group of inspectors, including county Sheriff Kenny Hultgren, could see enough through the windows to warrant the condemnation of the building. Winger was told it is the Council's responsibility to keep the City safe for its residence and enforce local and state law when appropriate. Mayor Truedson stated that it was not the intention of the Council, the City employees, or the City Attorney to offend her in any way. Winger stated she intended to take the building down, but she needed more time. Several members of the Council stated the City would work with her in any way possible. Additionally, Winger was told a letter with additional property removal details is forthcoming to all property owners of condemned property. Winger left the chambers after the public forum.

**CLERK'S REPORT:** The Northwest Minnesota Art Exhibit was a great success, with about two hundred visitors to the City of Kennedy during the 10 day exhibit.

The option of no longer charging the Kennedy Donaldson Senior Center for water and sewer was discussed. The City used to provide the Center with financial support and has not been able to do so the last several years. The cost of the water used by the Center is nominal but the savings to the Center would be between \$400-\$500. It was also discussed that the garden crew could take care of the Center's lawn mowing and the City could do its snow removal. This accumulated savings would approach about \$1000/year, which is comparable to what the city used to donate. M. Cooney stated the garden crew would take care of all summer mowing. P. Larson made a motion to no longer charge the Kennedy Donaldson Senior Center for city water or sewer and for the City to provide snow removal free of charge. M. Ryden seconded. Motion carried.

Celebrate Kennedy will have the same activities as last year, plus a few new ones including horse and buggy rides, per Kim Dziengel, fire truck rides, and a quilt show. Council and staff need to be ready to volunteer for activities by next month's meeting. Council directed Cooney to run a Celebrate Kennedy ad in the Kittson County Visitors Guide.

Council will think about a donation to the Community Garden and be ready to discuss at next month's meeting.

Clerk will be on vacation from May 17 through the 28<sup>th</sup>. Clerk will find someone to come in for about an hour a day to pick up messages and return calls as necessary. We can pay about \$7-\$12/hour for this time. K. Hanson made a motion to find someone to come into the office at least one hour per day during the Clerk's vacation. T. Truedson seconded. Motion carried.

P. Larson made a motion to accept the Clerks Report as presented. M. Ryden seconded. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** CDs -34, -35, -36, and -37 are all due for renewal on 5/11/2012. D. Peterson made a motion to renew CDs -34 through -37 for a period of one year. K. Hanson seconded. Motion carried. K. Hanson made a motion to accept the Treasurer Report as presented. D. Peterson seconded. Motion carried.

**PAY BILLS:** M. Ryden made a motion to pay the bills as presented. D. Peterson seconded. Motion carried.

**MAINTENANCE REPORT:** G. Mitziga presented the Maintenance Report as attached. Additionally, street cleaning has been reschedule for May 9, due to Hallock crew conflict with previous date. G. Mitziga vacation scheduled May 21-28. K. Hanson will complete maintenance rounds and records during G. Mitziga's absence. K. Hanson made motion to accept Maintenance Report as presented. D. Peterson seconded. Motion carried.

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**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:** G. Mitziga presented the Fire Department Report as attached. Additionally, Fire Chief Aaron Kirkeby stated the van will be picked up in Philadelphia. A. Kirkeby presented one bid on the van retrofit. Council requested additional bids are sought, as this is a competitive bid process. Council agreed to call a special council meeting on Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00, to select the rescue van vendor from the bids presented. D. Peterson made a motion to accept the Fire Dept. Report as presented. M. Rydenn seconded. Motion carried.

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT:** The turbine stopped on 4/8/2012 and was fixed again on 4/20/2012. It is still running as of this date.

T. Truedson stated he has started work on the turf restoration in the areas of the geothermal loop field. The west field is good. The east is rough. Talked to \_\_\_\_\_ for grass seed.

Jim Nies offered \$335 for the cabinets in the former home economics room, Room #205. M. Ryden made a motion to accept the Jim Nies bid of \$335 for cabinets in Room #205. K. Hanson seconded. Motion carried.

Chief Kirkeby stated that Andy Kirkeby is interested in items in the kitchen. Council members directed Kirkeby to make a written offer. Additionally, the council determined it was time to start the sale of the school contents and fixtures. Should we have a sale and/or silent auction during Celebrate Kennedy? Tabled.

D. Peterson made a motion to accept the School Committee Report as presented. K. Hanson seconded. Motion carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Clerk will do follow up letters to the eight property owners currently in the condemnation process. The letter will further describe the benefits of a group price and an incentive from the City of Kennedy. P. Larson made a motion that the City of Kennedy offer \$500 to each condemned property owner as an incentive to demolition on the City's time table this summer. A response back to the Council prior to the June 11 council meeting is required. K. Hanson seconded. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:** No new business was discussed at this time.

**JUNE MEETING DATE:** The June council meeting will be held on June 11, 2012, at 7:00 P.M. at 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 P. Larson, seconded by M. Ryden. All in favor, motion carried.

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Signed June 11, 2012  
Mary Cooney, Clerk (Attest)

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Signed June 11, 2012  
Todd Truedson, Mayor