

# Minutes

Kennedy City Council Meeting  
July 15, 2013

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor T. Truedson called the meeting to order at 5:10 P.M. Council members present included Kevin Hanson, Justin Osowski, Cindy Urbaniak and P. Larson. Also present were City employees Greg Mitziga and Mary Cooney, and city resident Diana Balstad.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** C. Urbaniak made a motion to approve the May 2013 and June 2013 minutes as presented. J. Osowski seconded. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Diana Balstad was present to discuss recycling bin contamination. G. Mitziga explained the City receives a fine for contaminated bins and, in an effort to avoid the fines, city maintenance attempts to remove contamination from the bins on a weekly basis. If non-recyclable materials are found in the bins and the items have names on them, the City will remind the individual of the acceptable items. The City's goal is to remind citizens in a friendly manner with non-accusatory and non-confrontational language. All parties concerned will work towards better performance with regards to the city's recycling program and its goals.

D. Balstad also expressed her concern about the mosquitos in town and what appeared to her as less than adequate spraying frequency. The guidelines for spraying were discussed, including time of day, wind speed, temperature, and cost to the city. The council indicated that once a week spraying would be the city's goal in the months May through September.

**CLERK'S REPORT:** A MN Judicial Branch Ordinance Validation Effort letter was presented. Does the city want to participate in an effort to include infractions of city ordinances on an individual's record? Does the city want to spend the dollars required to participate in such a program? Council indicated the City of Kennedy does not have enough city ordinance infractions to be of concern and, also, that city dollars could be better spent elsewhere.

The clerk presented information on a city office restoration project. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development has funds available for restoration and building projects in rural Minnesota. Should the City choose to seek funds through this option, there are engineering and handicapped access requirements that must be included in the project. The clerk has met, on site, with representatives from the engineering firm of Widseth Smith Nolting and, also, the firm of KLJ. The project punch list identified by these engineers included: roof recoating/repair, window replacement, door replacement, tucking on exterior structure, concrete repair on building facade, exterior cleaning, and the addition of handicapped access. The estimated cost, including design and engineering, was \$70,000-80,000±. The clerk sought indication from the council on their support of a city office restoration project of this magnitude. The majority of the council indicated that while they were in support of doing city office repairs, they were not in the favor of the scope defined here. The clerk will continue to explore alternative scope, pricing and financing options for the city office repair.

P. Larson made a motion to accept the Clerk's Report as presented. C. Urbaniak seconded. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The City's financial report was presented, including Checks Issued in June, 2013; Unpaid Bills Detail as of July 14, 2013; 7/14/2013 Cash Balance Sheet; 06/26/2013 Bank Statements, and Open Invoices as of July 14, 2013. Large receivables this month included \$10,250 from Kittson Central School District for ball park lease and stage backdrop, and \$59,564.86 from Kittson Co. Auditor for the first half of 2013 taxes and specials, including payment of one "attached" delinquent water bill.

The City of Hallock's 2013 Summer Rec invoice and the number of Kennedy participants was discussed. Council agreed to pay invoiced amount and to renegotiate fees for next year.

T. Truedson made a motion to use the unused portion of the 2013 propane budget to purchase prepay propane. C. Urbaniak seconded. Motion carried.

K. Hanson made a motion to accept the Treasurer Report as presented. J. Osowski seconded. Motion carried.

**PAY BILLS:** C. Urbaniak made a motion to pay all bills as presented, totaling \$16,109.11. P. Larson seconded. Motion carried.

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**MAINTENANCE REPORT:** Attached, with the following additions.

Brent Thorsteinson notified the clerk that the tractor will be delivered next week, or shortly thereafter. G. Mitziga has a list of items on the tractor to be changed or inspected prior to acceptance.

Eight hours of G. Mitziga mosquito spraying overtime was approved.

The city will contract out mowing of private properties within the City of Kennedy that are not being mowed. The fee will be billed back to the owners. If the owners fail to pay, the amount will be attached to their taxes.

Clerk and G. Mitziga presented estimates for painting city shop. J. Osowski and K. Hanson will get additional names of painting vendors for the city shop.

The water tower hut is on the list for residing this year but maintenance has yet to get to the project this summer. There is money available in this year's water budget for this project. G. Mitziga will also get pricing on siding for the bus garage.

Kittson County has offered to do some tar patching within the city limits of Kennedy, starting on Western Avenue. The council indicated Kittson Avenue also needs patching, as do a number of other areas in town. T. Truedson made a motion to work with the County on tar patching streets, at G. Mitziga's discretion, within Kennedy city limits, not to exceed a total of \$2800. C. Urbaniak seconded. Motion carried.

G. Mitziga is scheduled for vacation 7/22-7/26/2013. K. Hanson will cover for him while he is gone.

J. Osowski made a motion to accept Maintenance Report as presented. P. Larson seconded. Motion carried.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:** Attached.

C. Urbaniak made a motion to accept Fire Department Report as presented. J. Osowski seconded. Motion carried.

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT:** The turbine still continues to run inconsistently.

B. Field rent still remains outstanding.

Turf restoration work from the 2010 geothermal loop field installation was seeded in June.

K. Hanson presented a bid from Lancaster Lumber for the ball field grandstand replacement. Council is seeking more information and comparison pricing.

K. Hanson left council chambers, for the evening, at 7:45 P.M.

A 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee meeting is scheduled for July 22, at 5:00 p.m., at the VFW middle room.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Long-term delinquent water bills now have 136 days to set-up a payment schedule. To date, neither party has responded.

Regarding condemnation of the Halbert property, the city may raze the Halbert property as of 12:01 a.m., August 1, 2013. Regarding condemnation of the Newman property, Newman appeared at the July 2, 2013, court date via telephone and did object to the proceedings. The judge took the matter under advisement and will notify city attorney J. Hane of her decision.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Clerk continues to work with Hane on the next set of demolition properties. Budget is a concern.

**AUGUST MEETING DATE:** The August council meeting will be held on Monday, August 5, 2013, 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 8:15 PM by motion made by P. Larson and seconded by J. Osowski. All in favor and the motion carried.

Signed 9/9/2013

Mary Cooney, Clerk (Attest)

Signed 9/9/2013

Todd Truedson, Mayor

# City of Kennedy Maintenance Report

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July 15, 2013

1. June 11-12, 2013 – Sprayed city park and school acreage for dandelions.
2. June 17, 2013 – Burned tree pile.
3. June 19, 2013 – Street sweeping.
4. June 21, 2013 – Applied gravel to alleys on the east side of town.
5. June 22, 2013 – Applied gravel to Senior Center lot.
6. June 24, 2013 – Applied gravel to ball park road (2 loads).
7. June 25, 2013 – Cleaned up city lots of broken branches from wind storm.
8. June 27, 2013 – Cleaned up grandstand from wind storm with Kevin, Justin, and Blake.
9. July 1, 2013 – Cleaned up after Celebrate Kennedy and returned picnic tables, fences, concrete blocks, hay bales, etc. Picked up garbage.
10. July 8, 2013 – Cleaned up trees by ice rink and Bonnie Johnson's property.
11. July 11, 2013 – Worked on moving gravel in VFW lot.
12. July 11, 2013 – Worked with Otter Tail on damaged pole and sidewalk from 1/16/2013 Hwy 75 accident.

# **City of Kennedy Fire Dept. Report**

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**July 15, 2013**

1. No monthly meeting held in June.
2. Responded to two fire calls, including: 1) Heat sensor at the Farmers Elevator in Kennedy; and, 2) Burnt toast triggered alarm at Kittson Memorial Nursing Home.
3. Have received 800 MHz radio upgrade and received 4 new radios.
4. No action on new station sign.