

Minutes

Kennedy City Council Meeting
September 12, 2011

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Truedson called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M. in the Kennedy City Office. Council Members present included Paul Larson, Duane Peterson and Mary Ryden. Council Member Kevin Hanson arrived at 7:45. Also present were Mary Cooney, Greg Mitziga, Arnold Christian, Kathy Rynning, Doris Mortenson and Dianna Balstad.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: 1) McClintic and Helderman properties clean-up. 2) Identify assets the city can sell or ways the city can raise the \$6,500 it would cost to blow-out the school's water pipes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: M. Ryden made a motion to approve the August 2011 minutes. P. Larson seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC FORUM: Kathy Rynning and Doris Mortenson were in attendance to present their concerns about the Go Green Vote and the School Profit & Loss numbers the city has presented to the public. Mortenson stated the words, "...the city portion..." were not included on the ballot, e.g., "...A yes vote on the ballot indicates your support of a fifty percent (50%) property tax increase on *the city portion of* your property taxes for the next two years..." Mortenson's opinion was that such an omission *on the ballot* could result in votes being cast in a way other than they might be had those words had been included. Rynning questioned the accuracy of the school building operation numbers as presented to the public and provided the council with a handout she prepared that demonstrated the numbers she thought were accurate. Both Mortenson and Rynning asked the council to consider their concerns. Data or information that supported their positions or indicated their concerns were also those of other residents was not presented to the council.

CLERK'S REPORT: An ad has been placed in the Kittson County Enterprise soliciting closed bids for the sale of the city's 1997 Ford Pick-up, with bids to be opened at the next Kennedy City Council monthly meeting. Mayor Truedson signed the new Water Bill Payment Policy Resolution, which resolves to disconnect water account holders delinquent in payment by two weeks or more. Council was presented with sample door hanger disconnection notices, to be posted on the doors of delinquent water bill account holders. The door hanger would be the final three-day notice prior to disconnection, following the original bill's notice of due date, a past due notice included with the next month's bill, and the published disconnection date for all delinquent account holders as it appears in the city's monthly newsletter the *Kennedy Klips*. There was agreement among the council, without exception, to use the door hangers moving forward. Collection means for all disconnected, long-term delinquent accounts was discussed and the attachment of delinquent amounts to the tax bills of property owners was agreed upon, with all other delinquent account holders to be taken to small claims court. Anderson's Sanitation "Delinquent Garbage Assessment Roll" was reviewed and confirmed as accurate with regard to property resident's names and addresses, and was signed and ready for return to Anderson's. Kittson County's "Forfeited Land for Non-payment of Taxes" was reviewed with addresses identified and confirmed. Clerk requested council's approval to use some of her accumulated comp time to take a family member to chemo every other Tuesday for the next six months. M. Ryden specified that the public be notified about any change in hours. P. Larson made a motion to allow city clerk to use comp time for the purpose of taking a family member to chemo. 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's Financial Reports were presented. T. Truedson received a round of applause for reaching the summer rec financial goal. T. Truedson made a motion to transfer \$2,733.77 from the Baseball Fund to General Checking for Coach Keller's salary and expenses. M. Ryden seconded. Motion carried.

T. Truedson made a motion to transfer \$100 from General Checking to the Park Board to keep the Park Board Account active. D. Peterson seconded. Motion carried. T. Truedson made a motion to use money from the Park Board to build a few new picnic tables. K. Hanson seconded. Motion carried.

P. Larson made a motion to renew the \$15,000 CD 02663890-32 for a period of six (6) months. D. Peterson seconded. Motion carried.

M. Ryden made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. D. Peterson seconded. Motion carried.

MAINTENANCE REPORT: B. Hultgren finished working for city maintenance on Friday, August 23. G. Mitziga asked Hultgren to work for the city again next summer and Hultgren agreed. G. Mitziga attended water training in Warren on September 6. City of Hallock street sweeper and operator was in Kennedy on Tuesday, September 6. A good job was done, although two streets were not completed before the end of the day. Two picnic tables in Sorenson Park were broken and destroyed. As stated previously, G. Mitziga will use Park Board funds to buy

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lumber to build replacements. J & R Wastewater Services will perform annual sewer cleaning in September for a cost around \$5,000. Warming house needs about 4 or 5 8-foot sheets of tin repair. P. Larson made motion to accept the Maintenance Report as presented. D. Peterson seconded. Motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: There was one false alarm during the month. The false alarm again originated at the Kittson Memorial Nursing Home. K. Hanson made a motion to accept the Fire Dept. Report as presented. M. Ryden seconded. Motion carried.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT: As the turbine is still not in operation, J. Hane has suggested to City put its concerns in a letter format to NextGen. P. Larson will sign the letter. The City has been notified of a pending September 22 visit by John Lauber from the State of Minnesota Department of Commerce, the source of the \$100,000 grant for the Go Green project's wind turbine. The visit is a routine site visit to assess accountability and transparency of the projects funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Council agreed that Truedson, Hanson and Cooney will meet with J. Lauber. Consultant Neil Doty has requested another investors meeting for the City of Kennedy and the Go Green project, suggesting that this time we try a breakfast meeting. Cooney was directed to schedule the meeting. Re-keying the school's exterior doors and blowing the water pipes out will be held off until after the end of October. The Go Green vote results were received from Kittson County Auditor Marilyn Gustafson today at 4:30 P.M. A total of 117 ballots were received, with 16 YES votes, 99 NO votes, and 2 defective votes. The council agreed to honor the wishes of the people and not raise taxes for the specific purpose of financing the operation and maintenance costs at the "Go-Green" Business facility. The option for individual Go-Green investors still exists and council agreed to give public until the end of October, after the investors meeting, to contact the City if interested. P. Larson made a motion to accept the School Committee Report as presented. D. Peterson seconded. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: The Kennedy Condemnation Policy Inspection Form was reviewed. Inspections will take place in October. City spent @\$2,750 on summer help this year. The city will use the \$1,600 from the insurance payment and the profit from the sale of the city pick-up, however, a source for the \$450 above budget still needs to be identified. The proposed 2012 Budget was reviewed. P. Larson made a motion that mayoral and council wages be forfeited for the year 2012. T. Truedson seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The 2012 Budget was finalized. P. Larson made a motion to set the 2012 tax levy at a seven percent (7%) increase. D. Peterson seconded. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: A brief discussion was had about the steps to cleaning up the McClintic and Helderman properties. G. Mitziga stated that some clean-up was taking place at McClintic's, however it was exterior only. No update on Helderman's. Both of these properties are on the condemnation list. No vote for any other specific action was taken.

PAY BILLS: D. Peterson made motion to pay the bills as presented. P. Larson seconded. Motion carried.

OCTOBER MEETING DATE: The October meeting will be held on Monday, 10/11/2011, at 7 PM in the City Office.

There being no further business brought forward for the council's attention, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM by motion of D. Peterson, seconded by K. Hanson. Motion carried.

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

Signed November 07, 2011
Todd Truedson, Mayor