

Council Proceedings for the City of Kennett, Missouri

May 5, 2026

6:30 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Kennett, Missouri met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall on Tuesday, May 5, 2026.

Those in attendance were Mayor Jake Crafton, Council Members Lisa Dry, Randy Carter, Harry Gaddis, Dennis Pelts, Jimmy French and Bob Young, City Attorney Terry McVey, City Administrator Melissa Combs, City Clerk Mandy Lewis, Finance Director Jan McElwrath, Street Superintendent Gerald Moss, Fire Chief Lance Davis, Humane Officer Tena Petix, Code Enforcement Officer Victor Mode, and Assistant Chief of Police Joe Stewart. Absent were Council Members Mark Bryant, James Waynick, Lora Tate, and Steve Panousis.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Crafton.

Rev. Mark Kaibourn gave the invocation.

Council Member Gaddis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion to approve the council proceedings of the regular session of April 21, 2026, was made by Council Member Pelts, seconded by Council Member Young; motion passed.

A motion to approve the closed session council proceedings of April 21, 2026, was made by Council Member Pelts, seconded by Council Member Young; motion passed.

A motion to approve the February and March 2026 Abstract of Accounts for Kennett Board of Public Works was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Dry; motion passed.

Old Business:

Mayor Crafton recognized Mr. Don Collins for his 33 years of service to the Kennett Park Board.

New Business:

a. Appointment of Member to Board of Adjustments/Appeals

Mayor Crafton nominates Mr. Brain Farrar to the Board of Adjustments/Appeals.

A motion to approve Brian Farrar to the Board of Adjustments/Appeals was made by Council Member Pelts, seconded by Council Member Young; motion passed.

a. Kennett Memorial Airport Agricultural Leave – Thad Loggins

Mayor Crafton states the Agricultural Leave with Thad Loggins has been approved by the Kennett Memorial Airport Board.

A motion to approve the Agricultural Lease with Thad Loggins was made by Council Member Carter, seconded by Council Member Pelts; motion passed.

b. Approval of Purchase American Flags

Christian Johnson with the Kennett Chamber of Commerce requests funds from the General Fund to purchase 50 – 3x5 ft American Flags and 20 poles. He provided quotes from Hobbs General Store (\$1,311.50) and Barker Farm & Hardware (\$1,450.00). He stated that these flags will be placed beginning the week before Memorial Day and be taken down after the Delta Fair in September.

A motion to approve the purchase, with the funds to be taken out of the General Fund, of 50 3x5 ft American Flags and 20 poles from Hobbs General Store in the amount of \$1,311.50, was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Gaddis; motion passed.

c. Approval of Lawn Mower Bids for Street Department

City Administrator Combs informed the Council that bids were received for the purchase of a new lawn mower for the Street Department. However, she states the bids were for different models. She stated that her recommendation would be to go back to the two top bidders, First Choice Farm & Lawn and Bootheel Outdoor Equipment, and get the prices for both the Rebel and Rouge Bad Boy mowers. Council Member Young stated he went to Bootheel Outdoor Equipment and obtained a quote for both the Rebel and Rouge mowers from Bootheel Outdoor Equipment. Street Superintendent Moss also provided an additional quote for a Rouge Bad Boy mower from First Choice Farm & Lawn. Administrator Combs stated the Rebel from Bootheel Outdoor Equipment was \$8,900 and the Rouge was \$10,999. From First Choice Farm & Lawn the Rebel was quoted at \$8,917 and the Rouge was quoted at \$10,979. After discussion, the topic was postponed until May 19, 2026, City Council Meeting.

d. Approval of Additional Street Department Equipment/Vehicles to be Bid Out

Administrator Combs stated the Street Department would like to put two additional vehicles and a woodchipper out for bid. She informed the Council that this would be in addition to the vehicles and equipment that was approved at the last meeting.

A motion to approve the sale by sealed bids of a Woodchuck woodchipper and two 2005 Ford Truck was made by Council Member Carter, seconded by Council Member Gaddis; motion passed.

e. Approval of TAP Grant Sidewalk Bids (College Street & Clipper Street)

Administrator Combs stated bids for the TAP Grant Projects on College and Clipper Streets were opened on April 28, 2026. Although Jones Concrete was the lowest bidder on the College Street project, MODOT found them to be a Non-Responsive Bidder and disqualified them. Due to this disqualification, Lappe Concrete Finishing was the lowest bidder on both projects. Administrator Combs states that when completed, there will be a sidewalk from Kennett High School to Kennett Middle School, then all the way to First Street across from Sonic.

A motion to approve the bid of Lappe Concrete Finishing for College Street and Clipper Street TAP Grant projects was made by Council Member Carter, seconded by Council Member Pelts; motion passed.

f. Approval of Agreement with Kennett Community Development Corporation (KCDC)

Administrator Combs reminded the Council that funds had been designated at an earlier meeting for the KCDC building project. She stated that the Agreement with KCDC is in connection to those funds.

A motion to approve the Agreement with the Kennett Community Development Corporation was made by Council Member Carter, seconded by Council Member Pelts; motion passed.

g. Rezone 808 W. Clipper Street Properties from R-1 to R-2

Mayor Crafton stated this matter would be on the May 19, 2026, City Council Meeting Agenda.

h. Discussion on Personal Property Maintenance

Council Member Young continued the discussion regarding the personal property maintenance issue he brought up at the last meeting. He stated that after seeing Code Enforcement Officer Mode's statement, he feels this needs to be looked at further. Mayor Crafton stated that manpower can affect the ability to fully enforce ordinances. He stated at this point there is one property maintenance employee who has written over 200 citations and 1,000 warning letters. City Attorney McVey stated prosecuting the offenders doesn't always solve the issue. Administrator Combs asks the Council to allow her, and Code Enforcement staff to take a look and see what options are available to the City.

City Administrator's Report:

City Administrator Combs reminded the public that Business Licenses expire on June 30th. She stated that she and Finance Director McElwrath are working on an Economic Development Zone project and will provide updates as they become available. Administrator Combs stated that she intends to meet with Finance Director McElwrath this week to

review the 2027 budget which will be brought to the Finance Committee, then the Council as a whole. She informed the Council that a contractor that is registered with the MO Dept of Natural Resources has been hired to test for asbestos for a single demolition project. If the tests come back negative, the goal is to have the project completed by June 13, 2026. Bid specifications will be put out soon for landscaping and janitorial services for the property at 805 First Street, Kennett, MO. She announces the award of \$4,500 from Walmart's Shop with a Cop grant. Administrator Combs informed that \$90,000 has been deposited as reimbursement for the Indian Park lighting project. She also informed that the FEMA Grant for damages from the storm last year has been closed. Funds should be received in the next few weeks.

Comments from the Council:

Council Member Young asked about trash cans being removed from the road after 24-hours. Mayor Crafton stated that there is an ordinance, but the lack of manpower makes it difficult for enforcement. Council Member Young also inquired about loud vehicles speeding in residential areas late at night. Council Member Pelts states the Kennett Police Department has stepped up writing speeding tickets. Assistant Chief of Police Stewart stated the noise ordinance is hearing the sound from 50 feet away.

Council Member Pelts stated that there was an ad in the newspaper, a post on Facebook and a report on the news regarding citations being issued for loose dogs. He stated to the public that the Humane Department will take possession of animals running loose and citations will be issued. City Attorney McVey stated the Judge is coming down harder on repeat offenders.

Public Comments:

None.

A motion to go into Closed Session for Legal per RSMO 610.021(1) Real Estate per RSMO 610.021(2) was made by Council Member Pelts, seconded by Council Member Young. Vote: Yes - Council Members Lisa Dry, Randy Carter, Harry Gaddis, Dennis Pelts, Jimmy French and Bob Young. No – None.

A motion to go into Open Session was made by Council Member Pelts, seconded by Council Member Gaddis. Vote: Yes - Council Members Lisa Dry, Randy Carter, Harry Gaddis, Dennis Pelts, Jimmy French and Bob Young. No – None.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Pelts, seconded by Council Member Gaddis; motion passed.


Mandy Lewis
City Clerk


Jake Crafton
Mayor