

Council Proceedings for the City of Kennett, Missouri

July 21, 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, July 21, 2026.

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Crafton.

Council Member Pelts gave the invocation.

Council Member Young led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion to approve the council proceedings of July 7, 2026, was made by Council Member Pelts, seconded by Council Member Waynick; motion passed.

A motion to approve the June 2026 Abstract of Accounts was made by Council Member Dry, seconded by Council Member Panousis; motion passed.

A motion to approve the June 2026 Statement of Revenue and Expenditures was made by Council Member Panousis, seconded by Council Member Waynick; motion passed.

Approval of KBPW May 2026 Financial Statements was postponed until the next Council meeting after a motion to approve made by Council Member Waynick failed to receive a second.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

a. Approval of Thomas, Speight & Noble, CPAs Fiscal Year 2026 Agreement

Mayor Crafton informed the Council that the agreement with Thomas, Speight & Noble, CPA is for the annual audit. The cost of the audit will be \$43,500.

Motion to approve the agreement with Thomas, Speight & Noble, CPA was made by Council Member Panousis, seconded by Council Member Young; motion passed.

b. Approval of Community Block Development Grant (CDBG) Request for Proposal (RFP) Recommendation

City Administrator Combs reminded the Council of the work session earlier in the evening. She stated that two proposals were received, Chaillands Demo and Excavation and Trutest Environmental Solutions, LLC. Trutest Environmental Solutions proposal was: 202 West Harrison - \$560, 406 E. Washington - \$560, 1017 Clipper - \$560, 1424 East Ave - \$560, and 1606 Bradley - \$560 for a total of \$2,800. Chaillands Demo and Excavation proposal was: House 1 - \$650, House 2 - \$300, House 3 - \$350, House 4 - \$350, House 5 - \$300 for a total of \$1,950.

After scoring by each Council Member present, the highest score and lowest responsible bidder was determined to be Trutest Environmental Solutions, LLC. It was Administrator Combs' recommendation to accept the proposal from Trutest Environmental Solutions.

A motion to approve and authorize the mayor to sign an agreement with Trutest Environmental Solutions, LLC on behalf of the City was made by Council Member Carter, seconded by Council Member Dry; motion passed.

c. Appointment of Members to Kennett Park Board

A motion to approve Malinda Harris for a first term, and Meghan Scherer and Dustin Pritchett for a second term to the Kennett Park Board was made by Council Member Carter, seconded by Council Member Panousis; motion passed.

d. 60-day Provisional License

Administrator Combs stated that Mr. Cook has continued to make progress with his rental properties passing inspections. It is her recommendation that Mr. Cook no longer be required to submit to a provisional license. Mayor Crafton stated he supports the recommendation.

Motion to place Riley Cook on a regular status as a landlord was made by Council Member Pelts, seconded by Council Member Young; motion passed.

Administrator Combs stated that Mr. Cunningham's situation will be discussed at a later time.

e. Comprehensive Plan

City Administrator Combs stated the draft Comprehensive Plan has been distributed to the Council. She stated that the next step is for the plan to be reviewed and approved by the Planning & Zoning Commission. Next, a Public Hearing will need to be scheduled for public comment.

Motion to send the draft Comprehensive Plan to the Planning & Zoning Commission for discussion was made by Council Member Carter, seconded by Council Member Panousis; motion passed.

City Administrator's Report:

Administrator Combs updated the Council regarding specific departments.

Administration – Some employees will be attending specific training in the CenterPoint program on Wednesday morning. The KCDC construction is on going and requests for proposals will be posted in the next few days.

Human Resources – There is still one opening for a Street Department Laborer and one opening for a Police Officer.

Humane Department – The pound is currently full due to a hoarding situation. Once space allows, more dogs will be removed from the same property.

Police – Telephone scams are on the rise for the area. Victims are encouraged to contact the Kennett Police Department or Dunklin County Sheriff's Department.

Fire/Code – Separate from the CDBG demotion grant, another five houses have been selected for demolition. Request for Proposals for asbestos testing will be put out for 1247 Gladys, 1445 East Ave., 1703 Bradley, 1705 Bradley and 1609 Bradley. These properties have completed the condemnation process.

Street – Asphalt crews are expected to continue work on Quail Run this week. Street Department employees are posting notices on residents' doors.

Comments from the Council:

Council Member Waynick inquired about the Three Rivers College property (aka old Emerson property) being cleaned up. Code Enforcement Officer Mode stated an abatement notice has been submitted but there was a question of who would do the actual clean up, city employees or a contractor. Council Member Carter stated he would like to work with Administrator Combs and Street Superintendent Moss to come up with a cost effective plan for the cleanup.

Public Comments:

None.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made.

A motion to adjourn the council proceedings of July 21, 2026, was made by Council Member Pelts, seconded by Council Member Tate; motion passed.


Mandy Lewis
City Clerk


Jake Crafton
Mayor