

Council Proceedings for the City of Kennett, Missouri
January 20, 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, January 20, 2026.

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Crafton.

Pastor Mark Kailbourn gave the invocation.

Council Member French led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion to approve the council proceedings of the regular meeting of January 6, 2026, was made by Council Member Dry, seconded by Council Member Bryant; motion passed.

A motion to approve the council proceedings of the closed session meeting of January 6, 2026, was made by Council Member Pelts, seconded by Council Member Dry; motion passed.

A motion to approve the December 2025 Abstract of Accounts was made by Council Member Panousis, seconded by Council Member Young; motion passed.

A motion to approve the December 2025 Statement of Revenue and Expenditures was made by Council Member Panousis, seconded by Council Member Young; motion passed.

City Administrator's Report:

a. Yearly Report

Interim City Administrator Rasmussen requested Council Member Pelts discuss the invoice received from Legacy Equipment for the compost tractor. Council Member Pelts stated he and Council Member Bryant discussed the matter with Legacy Equipment. After explaining the repair process, Legacy Equipment agreed to discount the labor costs 10%. Council discussed getting quotes in writing and making clear to the repair shop that if the work goes over the quoted amount, City staff would be contacted prior to completion.

A motion to approve the payment of \$27,289.18 to Legacy Equipment from the Street Department Equipment line for the repairs of the compost tractor, was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Bryant; motion passed.

Interim City Administrator Rasmussen presented a yearly report for the Council highlighting the work done within City Hall, Finance, Fire Department, Code Enforcement, Police Department, Humane Department and Street Department.

Kennett Chamber of Commerce Update – Executive Director Christian Johnson:

Chamber Executive Director Johnson presented two logos designed by Show Me Missouri as a result of a grant received in 2025.

A motion to adopt and approve the two City of Kennett logos designed by Show Me Missouri, was made by Council Member Pelts, seconded by Council Member Dry; motion passed.

Chamber Executive Director Johnson presented the December 2025 Tourism Report and requested \$675 for advertising for the 100-mile yard sale.

A motion to approve the payment of \$675.00 to the Chamber of Commerce for advertising Kennett as a designation for the 100-mile yard sale, was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Gaddis; motion passed.

Old Business:

a. Interim Solutions – Jeff Hancock

Jeff Hancock with Interim Solutions addressed the Council regarding a search for a permanent City Administrator. He presented a brochure for the search for a permanent City Administrator.

b. Sale of KPD 2019 Ford Taurus

Council Member Pelts stated the bids received on the 2019 Ford Taurus will be rejected as the vehicle will be transferred to City Administration for use. He further stated \$9,255 will be transferred from the General Fund to the Police Equipment Reserve Fund in exchange for the 2019 Ford Taurus.

A motion to approve the transfer of \$9,255 from the General Fund to the Police Equipment Reserve Fund for the 2019 Ford Taurus from KPD was made by Council Member Panousis, seconded by Council Member French; motion passed.

New Business:

a. KFD – Purchase of Two Fire Pagers

Fire Chief Davis informed the Council that the current pagers used by the Kennett Fire Department are analog pagers. He stated the State and many other agencies, including the Kennett Police Department, have moved to a digital system. He would like to start transitioning the Kennett Fire Department from the analog system to the digital system by purchasing equipment each year. He requested the Council approve the purchase of two Fire Pagers at \$716.40 each.

A motion to approve the purchase of two pagers in the amount of \$1,432.80, to be taken out of the EMA Reserve Account, was made by Council Member Gaddis, seconded by Council Member Panousis; motion passed.

b. Street Department Positions

Council Member Bryant stated there is a need for an additional employee within the Street Department. He stated the department is currently at 50% staffing and with mowing season coming up soon, another employee would be helpful. He stated the Street Department is responsible for streets, drainage, maintenance during weather as well as mowing.

A motion to approve the hiring of an additional employee, for a total of 9 full-time Street Department employees, for the Street Department was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Pelts; motion passed.

Comments from the Council:

Council Member Dry stated there will be a MoDOT Public Hearing held on January 27, 2026, at the Kennett City Hall Council Chambers from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. regarding potential changes to the traffic pattern around Kennett Square/Dunklin County Courthouse.

Council Member Young inquired about status of the bulk pickup that KBPW is supposed to be providing. Council Member Pelts stated there is a plan in the works, and an update will be given at the next Council meeting. Mayor Crafton stated he has spoken to the CEO and requested they move the timeline up for roadside pickup.

Public Comments:

None.

Mayor Crafton stated that City Clerk Lewis has worked on a Request for Proposals for employee health insurance. He inquired if any of the Council had any changes to be made to the request. No requests for changes were made.

A motion to publish the Request for Proposals for employee health insurance was made by Council Member Pelts, seconded by Council Member French; motion passed.

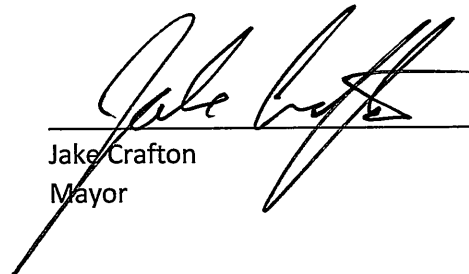
Mayor Crafton stated that City Clerk Lewis has also been working on updating several policies related to Humane Resources. He suggests forming an informal committee to review the policies prior to Council approval. The suggestion was to have the chair of each of the standing committees, Fire, Police, Street, Humane, and Finance make up this committee. No objections were made.

A motion to go into Closed Session for Legal per RSMO 610.021(1) and Personnel per RSMO 610.021(3) was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Gaddis. Vote: Yes - Council Members Lisa Dry, Mark Bryant, Harry Gaddis, Dennis Pelts, Steve Panousis, Jimmy French and Bob Young. No – None.

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

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


Mandy Lewis
City Clerk


Jake Crafton
Mayor