

**THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GERING CITY COUNCIL,
December 18, 2015**

A special meeting of the City Council of Gering, Nebraska was held in open session on December 18, 2015 at 12:00 p.m. at Gering City Hall at 1025 P Street, Gering, NE. Present were Mayor Kaufman, and Councilmembers Smith, Christensen, Gibbs, Holliday, Allred, Morrison and Cowan. Also present were City Administrator Lane Danielzuk, City Clerk Kathy Welfl and acting City Attorney Mark Kovarik. Absent was Councilmember O'Neal. Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication in the Star-Herald. All proceedings hereafter were taken while the meeting was open to the attendance of the public except as otherwise indicated.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kaufman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Mayor noted that there was a quorum of the Council and City business could be conducted.

1. Recital of the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer
2. Roll Call
3. Excuse councilmember absence (None)

Motion by Councilmember Morrison to excuse the absences of Councilmembers Allred and O'Neal from the December 14, 2015 regular City Council meeting, second by Councilmember Cowan. There was no discussion. The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Christensen, Gibbs, Holliday, Allred, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: O'Neal. Motion carried.

OPEN MEETINGS ACT - NEB.REV.STAT. CHAPTER 84, ARTICLE 14

Mayor Kaufman stated as required by State Law, public bodies shall make available at least one current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting room. Agenda items may be moved up or down on the agenda at the discretion of the Mayor. As required by State Law, additions may not be made to this agenda less than 24 hours before the beginning of the meeting unless they are considered under this section of the agenda and Council determines that the matter requires emergency action.

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Public Hearing for consideration of Class C Liquor License for B & S Rask Grill, LLC

Mayor Kaufman opened the public hearing for consideration of Class C Liquor License for B & S Rask Grill, LLC at 12:03 p.m.

Councilmember Morrison asked if they have to go through the training required by the State through the Liquor Control Commission. City Clerk Kathy Welfl replied that yes they do and she believes Stephanie Rask has already completed that. Mr. Rask replied yes and all their employees will complete it as well.

Mayor Kaufman asked if anyone in the Council Chambers wished to speak in favor or opposition of the application. Seeing none, Mayor Kaufman stated we will accept the application and attachments into the public record. The public hearing was closed at 12:04 p.m.

Motion by Councilmember Gibbs to enter the Class C Liquor License application, attachments and public hearing comments into the public record, second by Councilmember Christensen. There was no discussion. The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Christensen, Gibbs, Holliday, Allred, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: O'Neal. Motion carried.

1a. Consider approving or denying Class C Liquor License for B & S Rask Grill, LLC

Motion to approve a Class C Liquor License for B & S Rask Grill by Councilmember Gibbs, second by Councilmember Christensen. There was no discussion. The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Christensen, Gibbs, Holliday, Allred, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: O'Neal. Motion carried.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

- 1. Consider approving and authorizing the Mayor to sign Economic Development Assistance Agreement and related documents for J. Mark and Marilyn A. Simmons (Gering Laundromat).**

Mayor Kaufman stated that there are some changes that need to be made to the Economic Development Assistance Agreement related to the Laundromat. Mayor Kaufman suggested tabling this item then invited Brent Holliday, LB840 Application Review Committee Chairman, to make the recommendation at this meeting.

Brent Holliday addressed Council and stated that on December 8 the LB840 Committee met in regards to the application from the Laundromat. After considerable discussion the committee is bringing a recommendation to the Council for a \$50,000 grant to be approved and that would be a forgivable grant over five years at 20% per year as long as he's in business or maintains that business himself. If he sells or closes down that money would be payable back to the City.

Motion by Councilmember Smith to accept the recommendation of the LB840 Application Review Committee for \$50,000 on behalf of Mark and Marilyn Simmons (for the Laundromat). The details of the agreement will be worked out and signed on a later date, second by Councilmember Morrison. There was no discussion. The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Christensen, Gibbs, Holliday, Allred, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: O'Neal. Motion carried.

- 1. Consider approving and authorizing the Mayor to sign a lease agreement between Michelle Perkins and Timothy A. Perkins, and the City of Gering, a Municipal Corporation regarding the following described property: A tract of land situated in the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 28, Township 21 North, Range 56 West of the 6th Principal Meridian, Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska; otherwise known as the location of the Robidoux Trading Post.**

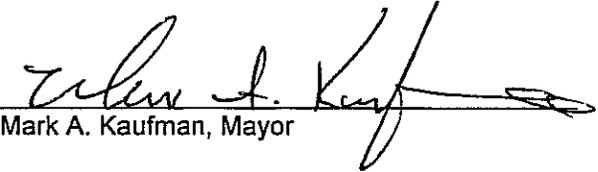
Karla Niedan-Streeks, representing the Friends of the Robidoux Trading Post, stated that the Friends of the Robidoux Trading Post was formed a year ago in August. Barb Netherland is the Chairman and other members include the Enlows who are land owners near the trading post, representatives of Scotts Bluff National Monument and local historians who have been involved with the trading post. The group was formed largely to take over the maintenance and repairs of the trading post. It is currently operating under the umbrella of the Gering Visitors and Convention Bureau. The Gering CVB and Scotts Bluff County Tourism, Scotts Bluff Area Visitors Bureau, have set a line item in their budgets that rolls over each year for repairs and maintenance of the trading post. By establishing by-laws it allows representatives of the Scotts Bluff National Monument to use some of their historical preservation funds, personnel, etc. to help with the overall repairs and maintenance of the facility. That's why their group was formed. They're out there maintaining the facility as it stands. They're looking at doing some major repairs such as removing the old chinking, putting new chinking in, etc.

Motion by Councilmember Allred to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a lease agreement between Michelle Perkins and Timothy A. Perkins, and the City of Gering, a Municipal Corporation regarding the following described property: A tract of land situated in the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 28, Township 21 North, Range 56 West of the 6th Principal Meridian, Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska; otherwise known as the location of the Robidoux Trading Post, second by Councilmember Christensen. There was no discussion. The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Christensen, Gibbs, Holliday, Allred, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: O'Neal. Motion carried.

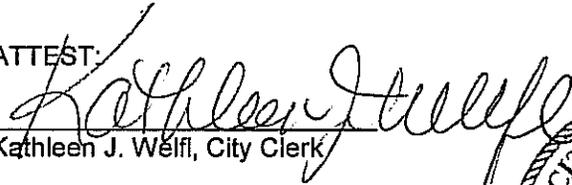
ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn by Councilmember Christensen, second by Councilmember Holliday. There was no discussion. The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Christensen, Gibbs, Holliday, Allred, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: O'Neal. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:11 p.m.


Mark A. Kaufman, Mayor

ATTEST:


Kathleen J. Welfi, City Clerk

