

THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GERING CITY COUNCIL, OCTOBER 10, 2016

A regular meeting of the City Council of Gering, Nebraska was held in open session on October 10, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Gering City Hall, 1025 P Street, Gering, NE. Present were Mayor Kaufman and Councilmembers Christensen, Gibbs, Holliday, Allred, O'Neal, Morrison and Cowan. Also present were City Administrator Lane Danielzuk, City Clerk Kathy Welfl and City Attorney Jim Ellison. Absent was Councilmember Smith. Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication in the Gering Citizen, the designated method of giving notice. All proceedings hereafter were taken while the meeting was open to the attendance of the public except as otherwise indicated.

CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Mayor stated 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

Motion by Councilmember Gibbs to excuse the absence of Councilmember Smith from the September 26, 2016 Regular City Council meeting. Second by Councilmember Cowan. There was no discussion. The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Christensen, Gibbs, Holliday, Allred, O'Neal, Morrison and Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Smith. 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.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approve minutes of the September 26, 2016 Regular City Council meeting
2. Approve Claims

Claims:

9-17-16 to 9-30-16

21ST CENTURY EQUIPMENT \$324.51 CABLE/ARMREST FOR JD, 24/7 FITNESS \$125.00 WELLNESS, A & A PORTA POTTIES \$135.00 PORTA POT, ACTION COMM \$314.40 PAGER RPR, ACUSHNET CO \$465.51 GOLF GLOVES/SHOES, AHLERS BAKING INC \$13.44 LB840 MTG REFRESHMENTS, ALAMAR UNIFORMS \$924.20 UNIFORM OFFICE VEST MASSIE, ALL STAR PRO GOLF \$133.51 PENCILS, ALLO COMMUNICATIONS \$2,726.76 TELEPHONE/INTERNET CHRG, AMAZON \$186.63 (2) CHILDRENS BOOKS/(8) DVD'S, AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOC \$182.00 MEMBERSHIP, ANDERSON CAMYLA \$150.00 TREE REBATE, ARMADA MEDIA CORP \$600.00 RADIO ADVERTISING, AULICKS TLC \$1,558.72 TREES, B & C STEEL \$22.72 RPR'S FOR CONTAINER, BAILY EMILY \$40.20 OVERPAID FINAL 29032812, BENZEL PEST CONTROL \$223.85 PEST CONTROL, BEST WESTERN \$259.18 BRUNTZ IWORQ TRAINING, BLUFFS SANITARY SUPPLY \$488.53 RR SUPPLIES, BOMGAARS \$99.99 SAWZALL, BOUND TO STAY BOUND BOOKS \$13.84 (1) CHILDREN BOOK, BROADWAY OFFICE CENTRE \$1,250.87 (2) FOLDING TABLES, BUDGET TIRE & SRV \$10.00 TIRE RPR, BUSH REFRIGERAION INC \$9,550.00 WALK IN FREEZER, C & M AIR COOLED ENGINE \$702.70 ROLLER ASSEM JACOBSON, CALLAWAY GOLF CO \$910.87 GOLF BALLS, CAPITOL CELEBRATIONS LLC \$43.96 (1) BOOK, CAPSTONE \$495.00 PURCHASE NEW DESK, CAPSTONE PRESS INC \$56.08 (2) CHILDRENS BOOKS, CASEY'S GENERAL STORE #27 \$115.22 FUEL SHRM CONF COOLEY, CEMENTER'S MOBILE MIX \$682.50 CONCRETE, CEN CON LLC \$5,440.00 BORES FOR VARIOUS LOCATIONS, CENTER POINT LARGE PRINT \$45.54 (2) LRG PRINT BOOKS, CENTURY TOOL INC \$3,859.00 KIMBALL AVE PROJECT, CENTURYLINK \$2,602.02 TELEPHONE/INTERNET CHRG, CHARTER COMM \$99.98 TV/INTERNET CHRG 2550 CLBHSE, CHEVRON \$33.99 FUEL JACKSON ALER TRNG, CHIEF SUPPLY \$362.89 (11) PR OF GLOVES/UNIFORMS, CITY INSURANCE FUND \$140,621.96 HEALTH PREM 125, CITY PAYROLL TRUST \$6,332.55 FSA MEDICAL 125, CLOSSON PAT \$31.00 CDL LICENSE RENEWAL, COLORADO ASSOC OF LB \$682.00 (2) REG FOR CO ASSOC LIB CONF, CONNECTING POINT \$4,287.00 COPIER, CONOCO \$27.50 FUEL JACKSON ALER TRNG, CONTRACTORS MATERIALS \$855.81 ATTCHMT SLINGS/DEAD BLOW HAMMR, COUNTRY LIVING \$34.97 (1) MAG SUBS, CREATIVE SIGNS DIVISION/C \$1,700.00 LABELS FOR CANS, CREDIT MAGAGEMENT SRV \$216.33 GARNISHMENT 2, CREDIT MGMT SRV 2 \$329.91 GARNISHMENT 2, CRESCENT ELECTRIC SUPPLY \$935.56 CONDUIT/CONNECTORS, D & H ELECTRONIC SUPPLY \$659.22 MICROPHONE SYSTEM, DALES TIRE & RETREADING \$162.24 G10 FLAT RPR, DANKO EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT \$689.35 RPLCE RIGHT WINDSHIELD #31, DENNIS SUPPLY CO \$26.82 EVAP FOAM, DHHS DIVISION/PUBLIC HEALTH \$1,060.00 WATER LAB, DIAMOND TRAFFIC

PRODUCTS \$2,949.00 (6) TRAFFIC COUNTERS, DIRECTPARTS \$452.92 CUSHMAN RPR'S, DOMINGUEZ BRITTANY \$75.00
 RV ROOM DEPOSIT REFUND, DOOLEY OIL INC \$3,744.68 OIL, DOT FHWA \$5,000.00 SCB NTL MONUMENT PATHWAY
 PYMT, DUTTON - LAINSON CO \$3,501.26 STREET LIGHT ARMS, ECOLAB \$306.00 RODENT CONTROL, ELECTRIC PUMP
 \$12,326.04 WWTP PUMP RPR, EMBASSY SUITES \$340.22 HOTEL SHRM CONF COOLEY, ENCORE COMM PRODUCTS
 \$959.20 (20) BALLARD COVERS, ENERGY LABORATORIES INC \$456.00 WATER LAB, ENVIRO SRV INC \$1,616.00 WW LAB,
 ESC ENGINEERING \$18,840.31 D ST SUB ENGINEERING, EXPRESS COLLECTIONS INC \$195.74 GARNISHMENT 2,
 FASTENAL CO \$809.34 GLOVES/BATTERIES/EARPLUGS, FAT BOYS TIRE/AUTO \$161.49 SILVERADO MAINT, FIRST STATE
 BANK \$352.55 IBEW UNION DUES, FLOYDS SALES/SRV \$6,197.03 G-1 PARTS, FORT DEARBORN LIFE INC CO \$113.52
 FIREFIGHTER LIFE INS, FREMONT MOTOR SCOTTSBLUFF \$137.66 PICKUP PARTS, FRESH FOODS \$98.57 BOTTLED
 WATER, FYR - TEK \$46.95 SCBH O RING, GALE \$195.07 (6) LRG PRINT BOOKS, GARY'S CLEANING/RESTORATION
 \$3,000.00 CLEAN CARPETS, GERING CITIZEN \$1,322.63 CONDENSED MINUTES, GERING VALLEY PLUMBING/HEATING
 \$568.80 MAINT ON UNITS, GERING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT \$184.00 REG FEE COMM TRAINING, GIBBS LAWRENCE \$49.68
 TRVL EXP WNED MTG, GREASE N GO \$80.68 OIL CHANGE 08 DODGE RAM, GREENKEEPER CO INC \$3,950.00
 FERTILIZER, GREENWALT BEVERLY \$75.00 RV ROOM DEPOSIT REFUND, GROUND UP CONSTRUCTION \$510.00 SEPT
 CLEANING, H & A MINI MART \$20.98 FUEL FOR TJADEN FT DODGE TRNG, HD SUPPLY WATERWORKS LTD \$2,833.04
 POND 9 RPR, HEILBRUN \$4,535.88 (2) STAGE AIR COMP, HENKELS MACHINE/WELDING \$860.10 PUMP RPR, HENSLEY
 BATTERY/ELECTRIC \$3,335.10 (30) GOLF CART BATTERIES, HIGH PLAINS AUTO CLUB \$3,500.00 FATHERS DAY CLASSIC
 BBQ KENO, HOBBY LOBBY \$59.88 SUPPLY'S FOR (2) CRFT STRYTIME, HOLIDAY INN KEARNEY \$989.45 LEAGUE HOTEL
 CHRG DANIELZUK, HOM SOLUTIONS \$15,689.52 OVERPAID ONLINE PYMT, HOME DEPOT \$398.41 FOUNTAIN RPR'S,
 HONEY WAGON EXPRESS \$140.00 CLEAN GREASE TRAPS, HUBBARD CANDI \$75.00 RV ROOM DEPOSIT REFUND, ICMA
 ELECTRONIC RETIREMENT \$546.42 ICMA CITY ADMIN, IDEAL LINEN SUPPLY INC \$394.28 PAPER TOWELS,
 INDEPENDENT PLUMBING/HEATING \$363.28 SPRINKLER HEADS, INFINITY CONSTRUCTION INC \$421,396.12 COUNTRY
 CLUB PROJECT, INGRAM LIBRARY SRV \$1,925.83 (22) BOOKS, INTERNAL REVENUE SRV \$40,733.50 FED/FICA TAX,
 INTRALINKS TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS \$10,749.27 REPLACE 07 DESKTOP, IRBY TOOL/SAFETY \$32,620.28 NPPD PROJECT
 WIRE, JACKSON LARRY \$1,250.00 REFUND WATER TAP FEE, JC GOLF ACCESSORIES \$243.33 BALL RPR
 TOOLS/MARKERS, JIRDON \$16,260.72 PESTICIDES, JOHN HANCOCK USA \$13,504.33 JH RETIRE 6% JOHN MEJIA \$1,246.55
 GFOA TRAVEL EXP, JOHNSON CASHWAY CO \$1,576.78 GREEN HOUSE TOOLS, JOHNSON MILTON \$281.13 REFUND
 GOLF MEMBERSHIP, K L WOOD & CO LLC \$84,067.89 REPLACEMENT 2016 WATER MAIN, K4 TRUCKING LLC \$2,295.00
 HAUL DIRT BALLFIELD, KARENS CLEANING \$425.00 SEPT CLEANING SRV, KAUFMAN TONY \$1,328.46 ACYPL TRAVEL
 EXP, KAWASAKI KORNER \$196.37 FUEL PUMP MULE, KNEB \$358.50 RADIO ADVERTISING, KOIS BROTHERS EQUIPMENT
 CO \$3,899.00(150) LIDS, KOVARIK ELLISON MATHIS \$10,582.01 SALES TAX/INFRASTRUCTURE, KRIZ - DAVIS CO
 \$3,210.75 CROSSCONN, KUM & GO \$17.61 FUEL FOR TJADEN FT DODGE TRNG, LL JOHNSON DISTRIBUTING \$13,551.45
 ROTOMASTER BLADE GRINDER, LEAGUE ASSOC/RISK MANAGEMENT \$114.66 SHREDDER INSURANCE, LEAGUE OF NE
 MUNICIPALITY \$1,440.00 GLOVING SCHOOL, LITTLE AMERICA HOTEL \$26.03 FUEL JACKSON ALER TRNG, LOGOZ LLC
 \$1,307.84 HOODIES, LONG RIDER-BOOKS \$591.43 (25) BOOKS, MASEK GOLF CAR CO \$288.77 GOLF CART RENTAL,
 MATHESON TRI - GAS INC \$2,196.11 POWERMAX 30XP, MB KEM ENTERPRISE \$2,114.00 (2) DOOR OPENERS, MEAT
 SHOPPE \$20,930.58 CATERING COSTS, MENARDS \$656.15 PUMP FOR WT FALL, MERIDITH BOOKS \$36.28 (1) BOOK, MG
 TRUST CO LLC \$6,292.21 MG T - POLICE, MICHAEL TODD & CO \$152.71 TOOLS, MIDWEST AUTO SUPPLY INC \$50.00
 SEAT FOR FORD, MIDWEST TURF & IRRIGATION \$183.70 (100') ¾ HOSE. MISSION BELT CO \$89.49 BELTS, MONEY WISE
 OFFICE SUPPLY \$477.98 PRINTER CARTRIDGES/LABELS, MONUMENT GRILL \$1,018.00 REIMBURSE MEALS, MOORE
 MEDICAL \$64.29 (2) BOXES LANCETS, MULTI CULTURAL YOUTH LEAD \$2,000.00 KEY NOTE SPEAKER KENO FUNDS,
 MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGENCY \$367,035.25 POWER, MUNICIPAL SUPPLY INC OF \$176.56 SERVICELINE RPR, MWC
 ENTERPRISES INC \$5,400.00 (3) YD SID LOADS, NATIONAL INS SRV \$1,052.04 VISION INS, NDEQ - FISCAL SRV \$450.00
 RENEW CLOSSON'S WW OPERATOR LIC, NDOR - LODGING \$1,369.05 CNTY LODGING TAX, NE CHILD SUPPORT PYMT
 \$627.56 CHILD SUPPORT 1, NE DEPT OF REV (PR) \$18,552.38 STATE TAXES, NE PUBLIC POWER DIST \$4,568.21
 UTILITIES PHEASANT DR, NEBRASKA ARBORISTS ASSOC \$450.00 REG FOR WESTERN FIELD DAY, NEBRASKA
 MACHINERY CO \$983.51 FILTERS, NEBRASKA.GOV \$103.00 DANIELZUK TOURISM CONF, NEBRASKALAND TIRE \$734.08
 TIRES FOR PICKUP, NEOFUNDS BY NEOPOST \$800.00 POSTAGE, NI NDA DEVICE \$161.36 FOUR S CABLES, NORTHWEST
 PIPE FITTINGS \$644.37 SERVICELINE PIPE, OCLC INC \$144.21 SEPT ILL/CATALOG SUBS, OFFICER SURVIVAL SOLUTION
 \$8,525.00 (18) BALLISTIC VESTS, OREGON TRAIL PLBG/HEAT \$205.00 FILTER CHANGE, PANHANDLE CONCRETE PROD
 \$1,175.00 TRANSFORMER PADS, PANHANDLE COOP ASSOCIATION \$1,066.17 TIRES, PANHANDLE GEOTECHNICAL
 \$800.25 REPLACEMENT 2016 WATER MAIN, PAYPAL \$91.33 RECTIFIER, PAYROLL CHECKS \$112,360.21 PAYROLL
 CHECKS ON 9-30-16, PEGLER SYSCO FOOD SRV \$39.24 SKIRT CLIPS, PENTON JOHN \$29.00 LEFT RV PARK EARLY,
 PERSON MAKAYLA \$75.00 RV ROOM DEPOSIT REFUND, PETTY CASH \$21.56 POLICE PETTY CASH REIMBURSEMENT,
 PILOT #416 \$7.00 FUEL JACKSON ALER TRNG, PING \$207.14 GOLF CLUB DRIVER, POSTMASTER \$64.70 POSTAGE ESC
 SUBSTN UPGRADE, POWER SCREENING LLC \$709,875.00 KOMPTECH KPT GRINDER, POWERPLAN OIB \$165,762.66
 EXCAVATOR 180G, PT HOSE & BEARING \$252.93 HYD HOSE FOR TRAILER, RAY ALLEN MANUFACTURING \$115.59 K9
 EQUIPMENT, RECORDED BOOKS \$279.85 (4) AUDIOBOOKS, RECREATION SUPPLY CO \$4,388.15 CHAIR LIFT, REGIONAL
 WEST MEDICAL CENTER \$232.00 MASSIE PHYSICAL PREVENTION CHK, REITZ VIVIAN \$45.00 OVERPAID FINAL 3104002,
 RESPOND FIRST AID SYSTEMS \$67.79 FIRST AID SUPPLIES, ROBINSON ELECTRIC \$452.35 WWTP PUMP RPR, ROCKY
 MOUNTAIN SECTION IM \$1,060.00 REG IMSA CONF STERKELWILSON, RUSSEL TONY \$350.00 LEFT RV PARK EARLY,
 RUSSELL'S EXCAVATION & CO \$8,120.00 ROCK FOR CENTRAL STORE YARD, RYAN'S WELDING LLC \$2,450.00 TANDEM
 ACLE UTILITY TRAILER, SAFELITE AUTOGLASS \$260.93 LR WINDOW, SANDBERG IMPLEMENT INC \$1,673.06 POLE
 PRUNER/TRIMMER, SAPP BROTHERS \$28.57 FUEL FOR TJADEN FT DODGE TRNG, SARCHET ENTERPRISES \$325.00
 CONSULTING, SCB COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS \$36.00 FINAL PLAT, SCB CO DISTRICT COURT \$34.00 COUNTY COURT
 FEES, SCB COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE \$116.92 SHERIFF'S FEES FOR AUGUST 2016, SCB COUNTY WEED CONTROL
 \$3,772.50 WWTP WEED CONTROL, SCHNEIDER WILD FURS \$235.00 CAT TRAPS, SCHOLASTIC LIBRARY PUBLIS \$152.10
 (6) CHILDREN BOOKS, SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY TREAS \$200.39 TRAILER REG ELECTRIC, SCOTTSBLUFF TOWING SRV
 \$545.00 TOW FEE 02 KAWASAKI 16-3845, SCOTTSBLUFF WINNELSON CO \$78.20 TOOLS, SCOTTSBLUFF - GERING
 UNITED \$71.54 UNITED WAY CTRB, SCS ENGINEERS \$361.84 GAS MONITORING, SHELL \$23.00 HOLTHUS FUEL TO

INTRVW TRNG, SHERWIN WILLIAMS \$14.26 (1) UTILITY KNIFE, SIMMONS OLSEN LAW FIRM \$1,500.00 CITY PROSECUTOR BILL, SIMON CONTRACTORS \$515,633.71 KIMBALL AVE/PACIFIC/19TH OVRLY, SMITH CRYSTAL \$823.10 OVERPAID FINAL ONLINE PYMT, SOLOMON CORP \$5,221.50 TRANSFORMER, SOLUTIONS EAP \$244.55 COUNSELING, SOURCE GAS \$154.45 UTILITIES 225 E D ST, SPRINGHILL SUITES \$575.46 BRUNTZ IWORQ TRAINING, SRIXON \$106.40 GOLF BALLS, STAPLES CREDIT PLAN \$127.02 PRINTER INK, STAR HERALD \$165.97 BUDGET SUMMARY NOTICE, STATE OF NE/DAS COMM \$253.71 LONG DISTANCE PHONE CHGS, STAUFFER MARJORIE \$150.00 RV ROOM DEPOSIT REFUND, STOTZ EQUIPMENT \$115.17 AXLE JD, SUGAR VALLEY FEDERAL CR \$1,078.37 CREDIT UNION, SUNSET \$24.00 (1) MAG SUBS, SUN STAR ELECTRIC L P \$12,159.72 MOTOR FOR MIDTOWN WELLS, SUREFIRE LLC \$138.03 MISC CHG/(123) A BATTERIES, TAYLOR MADE GOLF CO \$4,200.05 NE LOGO'D SHIRTS/JACKETS, TEAM CHEVROLET \$100.02 VEHICLE RPR, THE COTTAGE JOURNAL \$19.98 MAG SUB 1 YR, THE OLD HARDWARE STORE \$55.00 (1) BOOK, THE ROCK PILE \$7,421.45 BALL FIELD GRADING, THOMPSON GLASS INC \$551.65 (1) SCREEN REPLACED/(2) WINDOWS, TNEMEC CO INC \$2,585.78 (40) GAL PAINT, TUNIN KIRA \$75.00 RV ROOM DEPOSIT REFUND, U SAVE MART \$51.93 FUEL MEAN MTG N PLATTE COOLEY, UNANIMOUS \$250.00 AUG WEB SUPPORT, UNITED INDUSTRIES \$1,016.91 FOUNTAIN RPR'S, US AUTO FORCE \$319.47 TURF TIRES, VAN DIEST SUPPLY CO \$3,357.50 (50) GAL MOSQUITO SPRAY, VAN PELT FENCING \$990.00 GATE FOR PUBLIC EASEMENT ACCESS, VANBOSKIRK THOM \$459.73 REFUND GOLF MEMBERSHIP, VERIZON WIRELESS \$84.83 CELL/LAPTOP FEES, WALMART \$87.38 OFFICE & STORY TIME SUPPLIES, WCA LEADERSHIP SUMMIT \$34.00 LEADERSHIP SUMMIT BOOKS, WEBSTAUANTSTORE \$512.16 SHELVES FOR FREEZER @ CLBHSE, WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL LEA \$100.90 COPIER LEASE PYMT, WESTCO \$17,318.83 DIESEL, WESTERN LIBRARY SYSTEMS \$10.75 (43) DISCS CLEANED, WESTERN PATHOLOGY CONSULTANTS \$59.60 DRUG TESTING, WESTERN PLAINS BUSINESS \$125.92 COPIER MAINTENANCE, WESTERN STATES BANK \$175,308.32 CLSURE/P ST CLSURE SET A SIDE, WESTERN STATES BANK - POL \$320.00 PO UNION DUES, WESTERN TRAVEL TERMINAL \$44.68 FUEL SHRM CONF COOLEY, WESTERN UNITED ELECTRIC \$18,752.62 WIRE, WILLOW CREEK ASSOC \$1,045.00 WELFL/MEJIA/DNLJK LEADERSHIP CONF, WINCHELL CLEANING SRV \$1,300.00 CLEANING HALLS/BATHROOMS/OFFICE, WM RECYCLE AMERICA \$2,475.56 RECYCLING, YMCA \$599.60 WELLNESS YMCA, YOUNG MENS CHRISTIAN \$10.00 YOUNG MENS CHR

Motion by Councilmember Christensen to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Councilmember Cowan. There was no discussion. The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Christensen, Gibbs, Holliday, Allred, O'Neal, Morrison and Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Smith. Motion Carried.

BIDS: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

CURRENT BUSINESS:

1. Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a Water Supply Agreement between the City of Gering and Terrytown

Motion by Councilmember Christensen to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a Water Supply Agreement between the City of Gering and Terrytown. Second by Councilmember Morrison.

Discussion: Councilmember Gibbs said at the end of page 4 under Terrytown's demand where it discusses emergency flow in the event of a major fire, the last sentence says that "*Terrytown shall immediately notify Gering of such flows; such permission shall be valid only if authorized by the Gering City Council.*" Councilmember Gibbs stated that that seems like a cumbersome problem if there's an emergency situation - trying to get the Council together to vote on that. He then deferred to Pat Heath, Public Works Director, with amended language. Mr. Heath stated on Councilmember Gibb's recommendation we're going to change that to "*Authorized by the City Administrator, Public Works Director or the Fire Chief.*" Mr. Heath said this would protect them; it could be done with a phone call. That would give them a quicker response. Councilmember Christensen and Morrison agreed to amend their motion and second respectively to include the amended language.

The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Christensen, Gibbs, Holliday, Allred, O'Neal, Morrison and Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Smith. Motion Carried.

2. Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign Letter of Agreement with Joseph R. Hewgley Associates for Professional Services for the Gering Public Library

Motion by Councilmember Gibbs to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign Letter of Agreement with Joseph R. Hewgley Associates for Professional Services for the Gering Public Library. Second by Councilmember O'Neal.

Discussion: Councilmember Holliday stated that he has been approached by a couple members in the community that definitely have concerns with this project and Mrs. Kinney spoke at the last meeting about her concerns and the impact we were having by a growing budget and continuing to take increases on utilities. There is a wage structure in this community and some of it is fixed. We continue to take these increases and we continue to impact our citizens in maybe not such a positive way. He said when he looks at these projects and what we have budgeted for this coming year he tends to classify them into two different categories, one is a "must have" and one is a "would be nice to have". What he sees in the "must have" is the infrastructure and our 17 water mains and crumbling roads that need to be replaced. Projects like a library study to see if we need a renovation or a new facility he thinks is a "nice to have". Is it good for the community? Sure it is. Is it a nice resource? Absolutely it is. But when you look at the community as a whole we have a very nice resource that is very similar in a neighboring community that a lot of people in Gering already use. He said he thinks as being good stewards of the community's money maybe early in the budget cycle this needs to be tabled until later on to see what we truly have spent. Because at one point or another we truly have to start looking at our budget and saying where can we cut, where can we save, how can we not take increases on our citizens next year because they feel it. He said we see a lot of people moving to the north of the river or leaving our community altogether; quite frankly a lot of it has to do with our utilities and the cost that it really takes to live in this city. He added that he thinks we really need to think about how we're spending our money.

Councilmember O'Neal asked if someone could outline what would happen if this were delayed. Would that cause an entire delay to the whole process since it's already budgeted and go forward or what would happen if the study went forward with no other decision...then a study would be completed and recommendations made and then a decision pending that? Mayor Kaufman replied as Council knows there's a process to city and government projects. The first step is you have to conduct studies and get your information together. On a project of that magnitude and that size we have to do our due diligence as a community and make sure we have the necessary data to make a recommendation to our community if a facility like that is needed; either to be retooled at the existing facility or if a new one is proposed. Again, as we go through the budget processes he absolutely hears what Councilmember Holliday's concerns are but we do have an open and public budget process and the budget we're executing we approved last year, it isn't the one that we just passed. These monies have been appropriated for this project. A project like this takes quite a few years and has been in the process and in the pipeline for far longer than his tenure here as well. There's just a process and progression; to get Councilmember O'Neal's question, "what would happen", yes it would delay staff's efforts and the library committee's efforts on finding answers to make a recommendation to the community. Does this study mean we're going to spend x-number of dollars in the future on a new library, no that's not what it does but it does give us the next step to make an educated decision instead of just grasping at straws and everybody having a formulated opinion of their own. He added that he's in favor of moving forward with the information piece. He absolutely hears what the voices of the community are but again we have to be competitive on a lot of different fronts and our budgets are robust but we have to think about economic development, infrastructure, tourism and a lot of different silos in our community that move us forward and keep us competitive with other communities across the state. He views this as one more way that we're continuing to be proactive and trying to be competitive on a lot of different fronts so that we can continue to be progressive and continue to move our community forward. Again, does that mean we're going to spend money on this project? No, not necessarily. Mayor Kaufman stated that he feels we do have to be diligent in our quest for knowledge so that we have the right information to make good, educated decisions for our community going forward. This would be his perspective but he understands where Councilmember Holliday is coming from and many other members of the community.

Councilmember Morrison asked if there is any grant funding that's available for this kind of study. Administrator Danielzuk replied he thinks there is a possibility that there would be.

Councilmember Allred stated that he didn't see where there was any competing bids in this feasibility study, we have one price from one company. Is that something that went out that we weren't aware of or did he overlook it? Administrator Danielzuk replied that he thinks it was overlooked. Councilmember Allred stated that he would tend to agree with Councilmember Holliday in what he said in that \$55,000 was budgeted and this is a \$50,000 expenditure with \$2500 for expenses. He understands there are processes that have to be gone through before a project can be decided upon but he thinks that most of us in this room would agree that we have an older and outdated library and there are some needs there. But whether \$55,000 at the beginning of the budget year is an appropriate way to let us know we do need that... he thinks that most of us know there are some needs for some updated amenities at the library and maybe more room. Administrator Danielzuk replied to Councilmember Allred's question and stated that there were six respondents to the RFQ. The library board and the interview panel chose to negotiate with Hewgley and Associates after the process of interviews took place. They looked at the qualifications of all six and actually interviewed four proposers. Through that process they decided on negotiations with Hewgley & Associates. He thinks it was either at the last Council meeting or the meeting before that Diane Downer gave up update to the Council on that. Administrator Danielzuk added that from a budgeting standpoint in 15/16, which is the fiscal year that we just completed, \$30,000 was set aside for the proposal with an additional \$30,000 set aside this year. The library, library board and staff have been in the process of looking at this for six years. He added that most of you have been on the Council for that length of time, some of you haven't but it has been an ongoing process that has covered six fiscal years.

Councilmember Cowan stated that he knows this company and it's a pretty good company and he has worked with them, so it's not the company. He said he does agree with Mr. Holliday and Mr. Allred.

Mayor Kaufman said he appreciates everyone's point of view. Anytime we have tough decisions to make... the interesting one on this is when staff goes through a lot of time and preparation of the budgets, of which we have the oversight to look at at that time, and \$30,000 is appropriated in a two-year period from the library's allocation of the budget it's not much different than studies getting done in other departments before recommendations would be made. Mayor Kaufman added that he wouldn't say we're pulling money from other things that need to get done, this was a choice staff made in their budget preparation and as Lane said it has been a project that has been in the works for over six years; that's where we're at today. This was an appropriated expenditure that was approved in the budget by most everybody here.

Councilmember Christensen said he is also concerned about our financials but we've had this library thing on the books for quite some time. How is this Council going to know whether to say yes we're going to build it or no unless we have some kind of guidelines to tell us what it's all about. He stated that he thinks the study is probably important. Councilmember Gibbs noted that conducting the study does not commit the Council to any further action in the future as far as construction. The study will just give the Council what they need to make an informed decision. That's why he thinks it's important we finish the study and the Council can go on from there.

Mayor Kaufman thanked Council for their discussions.

The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Christensen, Gibbs, Allred, O'Neal, Morrison. "NAYS": Holliday, Cowan. Abstaining: None. Absent: Smith. Motion Carried.

3. Transmission Line Project Update by NPPD – Jedd Fischer, Project Manager

Ron Starzec, with NPPD, addressed Council as Mr. Fisher was not able to attend. He proceeded to update Council on the Transmission Line Project. The Council received a handout to follow along with Mr. Starzec's report.

Paul Snarr, City Engineer, added that NPPD has also awarded the bid for the Lockwood Road Project, overhead to underground, that will run about a mile and quarter on the north side of the expressway along Lockwood up to the north side of U Street. The contracting bid was about a half a million plus material.

The material has been ordered and we're slowly getting it in. The contractor, with provided materials, will start about the 17th and should finish by the end of the year.

CLOSED SESSION:

(Council reserves the right to enter into closed session if deemed necessary.)

REPORTS: (Information only)

1. League of Municipalities Fall Conference Update – Councilmember Christensen

Councilmember Christensen reported that he thought the conference was very beneficial. Policing is one of the most important issues that came up at this year's conference due to all the rioting in other communities. Speakers noted that Nebraska is not immune to violence. In addition we need to understand the emotional realities of being a police officer and offer resources to help them survive these challenges.

At one session the Highway Engineer explained how Governor Ricketts is trying to foster a better relationship with the people of Nebraska so the Highway Department can understand what's needed for road improvements. Money is, and always will be, the main issue.

The State Economic Director reported that we need to know where we want to go and define what kind of businesses we want in our town and explore the available utilities, transportation, roads and appropriate zoning to help determine town strengths.

Councilmember Christensen wrapped up his report by saying that a lack of housing was one of the most dominant concerns of many communities. Councilmember Christensen reported to them about the McKinley housing project and received positive comments.

OPEN COMMENT SECTION: Discussion or action by Council regarding unscheduled business will not take place. This section is for citizen comment only.

Mayor Kaufman stated he received a letter from the United States Department of the Interior regarding a subscribed burn at the Scotts Bluff National Monument for which the Gering Fire Department participated. The letter thanked and commended Chief Templar and Fire Department personnel for their assistance.

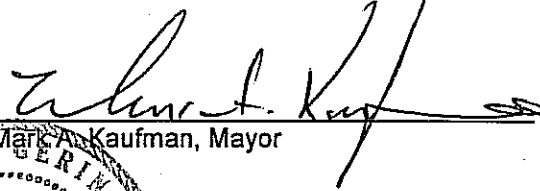
ADJOURN

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

ATTEST:

Kathleen J. Welfl, City Clerk


Mark A. Kaufman, Mayor

