

**THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GERING CITY COUNCIL,  
SEPTEMBER 5, 2018**

A special meeting of the City Council of Gering, Nebraska was held in open session on September 5, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at Gering City Hall, 1025 P Street, Gering, NE. Present were Mayor Kaufman and Councilmembers Smith, Gillen, Backus, Holliday, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison and Cowan. Also present were City Administrator Lane Danielzuk, City Clerk Kathy Welfl and Acting City Attorney Matt Turman. Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication in the Star-Herald, 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**

Mayor Kaufman 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
2. Roll Call

**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 HEARINGS:**

**1. Public hearing for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to the 2018/2019 proposed budget and tax levy**

Mayor Kaufman opened the public hearing for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to the 2018/2019 proposed budget and tax levy at 6:02 p.m.

John Mejia, Finance Director, gave an overview of the information provided to Council in their packets regarding the budget and tax levy. He highlighted the "Total Expenditures" and noted that on page 3 the total proposed budget is \$41,866,466. That's an increase of \$4,443,167 from the previous year. He then noted that the increase was due to some one-time capital projects that created \$4.7 million in expenditures. That includes Phase II of the baseball field project for \$2,249,000 as well as the Civic Center expansion of \$1,124,000, the Downtown Plaza for \$1,000,000 and a new fire truck for \$422,000 - he stated that total is \$4,700,095. These are the projects that make up the difference from one year to the next. He then noted a couple highlights on page 1 of the General Fund, from last year to this year. He said there's a \$3,568,000 increase; this is due to the ball park for \$2.2 million, a fire truck for \$422,000, a lease payment of \$266,000 for the bond payment, and \$347,000 that was part of the Engineering budget that is now incorporated into the general budget. That makes up the \$3+ million dollars from one year to the next.

Mayor Kaufman then asked if anyone in the Council Chambers wished to speak in favor of the 2018/2019 proposed budget and tax levy. Seeing none he asked if anyone wished to speak in opposition of the 2018/2019 proposed budget and tax levy.

With no comments the Mayor closed the Administrative Record and the Public Hearing closed at 6:04 p.m.

**Motion by Councilmember Smith to enter the Administrative Record into the public record. Second by Councilmember O'Neal. There was no discussion. The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Holliday, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.**

**1a. Approval to increase 2017-2018 Restricted Funds Authority by an Additional 1%**

**Motion by Councilmember Smith to increase 2017-2018 Restricted Funds Authority by an Additional 1%. Second by Councilmember Morrison. There was no discussion. The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Holliday, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.**

**1b. Approve Ordinance 2066 – An Ordinance to Adopt the Budget Statement to be termed the Annual Appropriation Bill; Appropriate Sums for necessary expenses and liabilities; to provide an effective date**

**Councilmember Morrison made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2066 - An Ordinance to Adopt the Budget Statement to be termed the Annual Appropriation Bill; Appropriate Sums for necessary expenses and liabilities; to provide an effective date. Seconded by Councilmember Cowan. There was no discussion. The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Holliday, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.**

**Councilmember Smith moved that the Ordinance be designated as Ordinance No. 2066 and the title thereof approved, and that the Statutory Rule requiring Ordinances to be fully and distinctly read on three different days be dispensed with, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Gillen. There was no discussion. The Clerk called the role. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Holliday, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.**

**The motion to suspend the statutory rule having been concurred in by three-fourths of all members elected to the Council, was, by the Mayor declared to have carried. Whereupon Ordinance No. 2066 was read by title only, Councilmember Backus moved that the Ordinance be passed as read, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Holliday. "The question is shall Ordinance No. 2066 be passed?" There was no discussion. The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Holliday, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.**

The passage and adoption of the Ordinance having been concurred in by a majority of all members elected to the Council was by the Mayor declared passed.

**1c. Adopt Resolution 9-18-1 regarding property tax request and final levy**

**RESOLUTION 9-18-1**

WHEREAS, Nebraska Revised Statute 77-1601.02 provides that the property tax request for the prior year shall be the property tax request for the current year for purposes of the levy set by the County Board of Equalization unless the Governing Body of the City passes by a majority vote a resolution or ordinance setting the tax request at a different amount; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held as required by law to hear and consider comments concerning the property tax request; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the City of Gering that the property tax request for the current year be a different amount than the property tax request for the prior year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GERING, NEBRASKA, THAT:

1. The property tax request for the fiscal year 2018-2019 be set at \$1,412,837.49 for the General Fund.
2. That the final levy of the municipality for the fiscal year 2018-2019 is set at .292764 for the General Fund per one hundred dollars of actual valuation.
3. The City Clerk is to certify and forward a copy of this resolution to the County Clerk prior to October 20, 2018.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 5<sup>th</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2018.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark A. Kaufman, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen J. Welfl, City Clerk

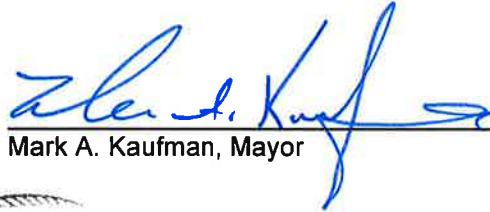
Motion by Councilmember Smith to adopt Resolution 9-18-1 regarding property tax request and final levy. Second by Councilmember Gillen. There was no discussion. The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Holliday, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.

CLOSED SESSION: (Council reserves the right to enter into closed session if deemed necessary.) None


**ADJOURN:**

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

  
Mark A. Kaufman, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Kathleen J. Welfl, City Clerk

