

THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GERING CITY COUNCIL, SEPTEMBER 16, 2026

A special meeting of the City Council of Gering, Nebraska was held on September 16, 2026 at 5:15 p.m. at Gering City Hall Council Chambers, 1025 P Street, Gering, NE. Present were Mayor Ewing and Councilmembers Shields, Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. Absent was Councilmember Gillen. Also present were City Administrator Pat Heath, Finance Director Lyndsey Mathews, City Clerk Kathy Welfl. Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication in the Star-Herald on September 10, 2026, 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 Ewing called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. A quorum of the Council was present and City business could be conducted.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call

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

Mayor Ewing stated: As required by State Law, public bodies shall make available current copies of the Open Meetings Act in the meeting room; located on the counter by the press corps. 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 the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers and citizens relating to the City of Gering Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Proposed Budget

Mayor Ewing opened a public hearing for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers and citizens regarding the City of Gering Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Proposed Budget at 5:16 p.m.

Administrator Heath updated the Mayor and Council on changes that were made since the FY27 Budget Workshop in August:

- Added \$40,000 to the legal line item in the Police Budget for a union arbitration case.
- Removed \$60,000 from the "Other Professional Services" line item in the Tourism Budget.
- Added \$15,000 to Tourism CIPs for the purchase of a UTV, (as discussed in the budget workshop).
- Added \$15,000 to the Water Department "Water Line Repair" line item to repair cul-de-sac road damage from a recent water leak.
- Added \$75,000 to the Electric CIPs to replace the automated train horn system on Country Club Road, (as discussed in the budget workshop).
- Added \$30,000 to Electric CIPs to replace the tornado siren by the landfill, (as discussed in the budget workshop).
- Moved the Ballpark Bond Payment from the General Fund to the Tourism Budget (\$100,000), and the Community Improvement and Development Fund (\$154,880). This was discussed in the budget workshop.

He added that the tax levy will decrease from \$.31 to \$.30. The City's levy is close to where it was in 2019. In 2019, the City was at \$.29 on the levy. In 2020, Council voted to increase the levy by \$.05 for the Public Safety Fund Tax for Fire and Police – capital programs and equipment. With the new levy, the City will be \$.01 above where it was in 2019. He added that this is beginning to put a strain on the City's General Fund. He thanked Lyndsey Mathews, Shannon Goss, and all Department Heads and City staff for all their work on the budget this year. His final comment, regarding the levy, is that Gering remains one of the lowest of first class cities with its levy.

Mayor Ewing then stated the following:

FY27 Budgeted Government-Wide Total Revenues net of transfers \$33,517,241

FY26 Budgeted Government-Wide Total Revenues net of transfers \$33,136,495

FY27 Budgeted Revenues - General Fund only \$6,291,073 (includes enterprise transfer in of \$2,200,000, and \$867,825 sales tax revenue, no transfers in from sinking fund for capital purchases)

FY26 Budgeted Revenues - General Fund only \$6,174,944 (includes enterprise transfer in of \$2,200,000, and \$712,500 sales tax revenue, no transfers in from sinking fund for capital purchases)

FY27 Budgeted Property Tax Revenues \$2,356,748

FY26 Budgeted Property Tax Revenues \$2,246,875

FY27 Municipality Levy 0.300264

FY26 Municipality Levy 0.310520

FY27 Budgeted Sales Tax Revenues \$2,652,375 (includes estimated LB357 sales tax of \$500,000)

FY26 Budgeted Sales Tax Revenues \$2,625,000 (includes estimated LB357 sales tax of \$500,000)

FY27 Budgeted Enterprise Transfers \$2,260,000

FY26 Budgeted Enterprise Transfers \$2,260,000

FY27 Budgeted Gov't Wide Total Expenditures \$55,080,143 (includes capital expenditures of \$11,048,319, debt service \$614,580, contingencies \$1,000,000)

FY26 Budgeted Gov't Wide Total Expenditures \$48,035,018 (includes capital expenditures of \$9,591,010, debt service \$722,665, contingencies \$1,000,000)

FY27 Budgeted Total Operating Expenses (excludes debt and capital expense) is \$43,417,244. There is an increase of 2% increase in property insurance, 6.0% increase in liability insurance and a 29% increase in workers comp insurance.

FY26 Budgeted Total Operating Expenses (excludes debt and capital expense) is \$37,721,343.

FY27 Budgeted Expenses - General Fund \$6,378,700 (includes \$20,000 in capital expenditures and \$206.05 in transfers out)

FY26 Budgeted Expenses - General Fund \$6,810,964 (includes \$56,550 in capital expenditures and \$69,127 in transfers out)

FY27 Budgeted operating expense General Fund without capital improvements or contingency \$6,358,700

FY26 Budgeted operating expense General Fund without capital improvements or contingency \$6,754,414

Fiscal Year 27 Budgeted Full-time employees authorized is 88

Fiscal Year 26 Budgeted Full-time employees authorized was 87

Mayor Ewing asked if there was anyone in the Council Chambers wishing to speak regarding the proposed FY27 Budget. Hearing none and with no further comments, the administrative record was closed and the public hearing closed at 5:27 p.m.

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

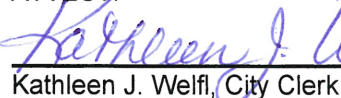
OPEN COMMENT: Discussion or action by Council regarding unscheduled business will not take place. This section is for citizen comment only. None.

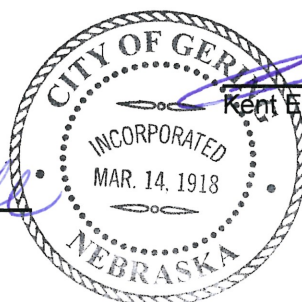
ADJOURN:

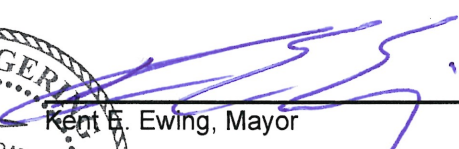
Motion to adjourn by Councilmember O'Neal. Second by Councilmember Morrison. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Gillen. Motion Carried.

The Meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

ATTEST:


Kathleen J. Welfl, City Clerk




Kent E. Ewing, Mayor