

THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GERING CITY COUNCIL, AUGUST 24, 2026

A regular meeting of the City Council of Gering, Nebraska was held in open session on August 24, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at Gering City Hall, 1025 P Street, Gering, NE. Present were Mayor Ewing and Councilmembers Shields, Gillen, Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. Also present were City Administrator Pat Heath, City Clerk Kathy Welfl, and City Attorney Jim Ellison. All proceedings hereafter were taken while the meeting was open to the attendance of the public except as otherwise indicated. Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication in the Star-Herald, the designated method of giving notice, on July 28, 2026. 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 6:00 p.m. and stated that a quorum of the Council was present and City business could be conducted.

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

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

Mayor Ewing stated: As required by State Law, public bodies shall make available copies of the current Open Meetings Act in the meeting room. Printed versions of the Open Meetings Act are available 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 the Council determines that the matter requires emergency action.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(Items under the Consent Agenda are proposed for adoption by one action for all items unless any member of Council requests that an item be considered separately.)

1. Approve minutes of the August 10, 2026 regular City Council Meeting
2. Approve Claims

Claims 8-12-26 to 8-25-26

24/7 FITNESS \$250.00, A & A PORTA POTTIES \$1,000.00, ACCENT WIRE-TIE \$780.19, ACCUSTAR SURVEYING \$2,500.00, ACE HARDWARE \$775.13, ACE IRRIGATION AND MANUFACTUR \$272.85, ALARM SECURITY TECHNICIANS \$77.90, AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES \$793.86, AMERITAS LIFE INSURANCE CORP. \$607.66, ANITA'S GREENSCAPING INC \$8,194.14, AQUA-TRONICS INC \$4,242.37, AT&T MOBILITY \$3,088.85, B & C STEEL \$136.75, BACKFLOW APPARATUS & VALVLE CO \$883.22, BENZEL PEST CONTROL \$181.50, BLICK ART MATERIALS \$127.41, BLUFFS FACILITY SOLUTIONS \$256.80, BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES, INC \$73,025.25, BRIAN PICHMAN \$250.00, CHRISTIE CLARKE \$121.00, COLUMN SOFTWARE, PBC \$337.35, CONTRACTORS MATERIALS, INC. \$204.75, CROELL, INC \$1,734.01, DETROIT INDUSTRIAL TOOL \$2,683.00, DUTTON-LAINSON COMPANY \$2,373.48, EAKES INC \$47.25, ECOLAB \$616.74, ELITE TOTAL FITNESS \$166.00, ELLISON, KOVARIK & TURMAN LAW \$20,500.00, FASTENAL COMPANY \$122.39, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OMAHA \$9,823.50, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA - POLICE \$550.00, FLOYD'S TRUCK CENTER, INC.\$2,741.56, FRANK PARTS COMPANY 2,053.17, FYRTEK,INC. \$67.00,GALLS, ANARAMARK COMPANY \$90.44, GENE PETERSON \$31.00, GEORGE HOLTHUS \$19.18, GRACE INDUSTRIES, LLC \$103,846.62, GRAINGER \$193.35, HAWKINS, INC. \$39.79, HAYLEY GRAMS \$67.00, EALTHBREAK, INC. \$642.00, HOMETOWN LEASING \$164.55, IDEAL LAUNDRY AND CLEANERS, INC. \$783.14, INDOFF INCORPORATED \$294.43, INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES \$906.47, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE \$57,997.68, INTERSTATE BATTERY \$706.75, IRBY TOOL & SAFETY \$109.65, JADON CALVIN COBB \$5,000.00, JIRDON AGRI CHEMICALS, INC \$943.31, JOHN HANCOCK USA \$20,702.90, JOHN HANCOCK USA FIRE \$1,075.74, JOHN HANCOCK USA POLICE \$11,098.88, JOHNSON CASHWAY CO. \$37.29, JOHNSON FEED INC \$7,307.30, L.L. JOHNSON DISTRIBUTING \$963.75, LEAGUE ASSOC./RISK MANAGEMENT \$94.59, LEAGUE OF NE.MUNICIPALITIES \$32,561.00, LEE ENTERPRISES \$119.000, LEGACY COOPERATIVE \$5,828.22, MANUEL BARRAZA \$6,000.00, MB KEM OVERHEAD DOORS \$114.00, MENARDS \$436.40, MIDTOWN ANIMAL HOSPITAL, P.C. \$510.00, MIDWEST CONNECT \$485.26, NC CHILD SUPPORT CENTRALIZED COLLECTIONS \$208.75, NEBRASKA CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT CENTE \$714.93, NEBRASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRO LAB \$141.00, NKC TIRE \$1,215.93, NMC INCORPORATED \$1,123.66, NOREGON SYSTEMS, LLC \$2,199.00, NORTHWEST PIPE FITTINGS, INC \$961.23, O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE STORE \$362.51,PANHANDLE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE, INC. \$1,453.00, PANHANDLE HUMANE SOCIETY \$6,337.00, PETE'S QUICK LUBE \$300.87, PHILIP SCHMITT \$269.04, PIPE WORKS PLUMBING LLC \$41,250.00, PLATTE VALLEY BANK \$1,013.00, POMP'S TIRE SERVICE INC \$79.00, POWERPLAN OIB \$955.59, PRAISE WINDOWS \$600.00, PT HOSE AND BEARING \$16.75, PVB VISA \$8,558.55, RAPID FIRE PROTECTION \$530.40, REGION 22 EMERGENCY MANAG \$7,525.18, RIVERSTONE BANK \$646.48, RPM FITNESS \$70.00, RVW INC \$9,310.00, SANDBERG IMPLEMENT, INC. \$239.97, SCB COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS \$30.00, SCB. COUNTY AMBULANCE SERVICE \$632.46, SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY COURT \$68.00, SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY TREASURER \$7,104.23, SCOTTSBLUFF-GERING UNITED WAY \$216.34, SCS ENGINEERS \$641.00, SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER \$3,000.00, SIMMONS OLSEN LAW FIRM, P.C. \$2,000.00, SIMON CONTRACTORS \$2,096.50, SOUTHWESTERN EQUIPMENT COMPANY \$7,025.63, TERESA TOSH \$14,017.88, TERRY CARPENTER, INC. \$1,300.00, WESTERN COOPERATIVE COMPANY \$10,199.77, WESTERN PATHOLOGY CONSULTANTS \$162.00, YMCA OF SCOTTSBLUFF \$966.00, TOTALS \$536,296.42

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

CURRENT BUSINESS:

1. Consider candidates and recommendation for Summer Baseball Team Lease, and direct staff to enter into contract negotiations with potential candidate

Recreation Committee Chair/Councilmember Wiedeman stated that the Recreation Committee met last week. The sub-committee (interview committee) interviewed three candidates, which were all very good. She stated that a little more research into the leagues and owners needed to be done prior to a recommendation being made. She made a motion to table this item, but was hopeful that a special Council meeting would be scheduled for the following week to make this decision.

Motion by Councilmember Wiedeman to table discussion to consider candidates and a recommendation for a Summer Baseball Team Lease, and direct staff to enter into contract negotiations with potential candidate. Second by Councilmember Kinsey.

Discussion: Councilmember Gillen asked if this would still afford the City enough time to have a team identified to fill the vacancy. He wasn't sure if there was a timeline that these organizations must have a decision in order to get a team in place. He asked if this would delay that process. Councilmember Wiedeman replied that they're hoping to have a special meeting next week; hopefully one week won't make a big difference.

Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Consider approving Resolution 8-26-3 regarding the Third Amendment to the City of Gering Police Officers' Pension Plan

Administrator Heath explained that this amendment updates the City of Gering Police Officers' Pension Plan to incorporate changes required by Nebraska's 2026 Legislative Bill 743. The amendment provides additional options for how a retiring police officer may receive their pension benefit, including survivor benefit options, guaranteed payment periods, a lump-sum payment, or partial payments. All other provisions of the pension plan remain unchanged.

RESOLUTION NO. 8-26-3

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

1. Adoption of Third Amendment to the City of Gering, Nebraska Police Officers' Pension Plan: NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City shall amend and it hereby does adopt a Third Amendment to the City of Gering, Nebraska Police Officers' Pension Plan (the "Plan") in the form of the Third Amendment document attached hereto and by this reference fully incorporated herein. The purpose of said Amendment is to adopt certain changes enacted under the Cities of the First Class Police Officers Retirement Act pursuant to 2026 Nebraska Legislative Bill 743.
2. Authorizations: NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and other appropriate elected officials and officers of the City of Gering shall be, and they hereby are, authorized to do all things necessary to carry out and accomplish the foregoing Resolution, including the execution of any document or amendment which may be necessary or appropriate to amend and administer the Plan, including such actions as may be necessary or appropriate to achieve and maintain qualification of the Plan under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, as said sections apply to government plans.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2026.

CITY OF GERING, NEBRASKA

By: _____

Its: Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Motion by Councilmember O’Neal to approve Resolution 8-26-3 regarding the Third Amendment to the City of Gering Police Officers’ Pension Plan. Second by Councilmember Morrison. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. “AYES”: Shields, Gillen, Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O’Neal, Morrison, Jackson. “NAYS”: None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

BIDS/PROPOSALS: None.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Kent E. Ewing, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathleen J. Welfl, City Clerk