

THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GERING CITY COUNCIL, FEBRUARY 23, 2026

A regular meeting of the City Council of Gering, Nebraska was held in open session on February 23, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at Gering City Hall, 1025 P Street, Gering, NE. Present were Mayor Ewing and Councilmembers Gillen, Kinsey, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. Also present were City Clerk Kathy Welfi, and City Attorney Mark Kovarik. Absent were Councilmembers Shields and Wiedeman, as well as Administrator Heath. 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 6:03 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. Accept letter of resignation from Councilmember Tamera Frye and declare a vacancy in Ward III

Letter of resignation:

Mayor & Council Members:

It has been brought to my attention that I do not live in the correct ward for the seat I am serving. Please accept my resignation from the Gering City Council effective immediately. I have enjoyed working with the Mayor, Council and for the citizens of Gering.

Sincerely, Tamera K. Frye

Motion by Councilmember Gillen to accept a letter of resignation from Councilmember Tamera Frye and declare a vacancy in Ward III. Second by Councilmember Morrison. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Gillen, Kinsey, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Shields, Wiedeman. Motion carried.

4. 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 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 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 February 9, 2026 regular City Council Meeting
2. Approve Claims
3. Approve the December, 2025 Financial Report

Claims 2/10/26 – 2/23/26

24/7 FITNESS \$295.00, 308 PLUMBING SOLUTIONS \$150.00, A & A PORTA POTTIES \$150.00, ACE HARDWARE \$1,321.71, ADVANCED SERVICES, INC. \$969.38, AFLAC \$957.18, ALARM SECURITY TECHNICIANS \$194.75, AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES \$747.43, AMERITAS LIFE INSURANCE CORP. \$622.84, AT&T MOBILITY \$1,683.48, ATLAS CONSULTING GROUP, LLC \$1,590.00, B & C STEEL \$140.90, BENZEL PEST CONTROL \$56.71, BIG MACK HEATING & COOLING \$1,730.00, BLACK HILLS ENERGY \$6,235.10, BLUFFS FACILITY SOLUTIONS \$698.99, BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES, INC \$892.22, CAMSPOT \$831.67, CITY OF GERING \$570.90, COLUMN SOFTWARE, PBC \$502.43, DERKSEN PORTABLE BUILDINGS \$9,027.00, DOOLEY OIL \$220.00, DUTTON-LAINSON COMPANY \$2,331.57, EAKES INC \$264.66, ECOLAB \$143.05, ELITE TOTAL FITNESS \$131.00, ELLICOTT DREDGE TECHNOLOGIES \$92,228.00, ELLISON, KOVARIK & TURMAN LAW \$10,250.00, FASTENAL COMPANY \$94.88, FAT BOYS TIRE & AUTO \$1,009.80, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OMAHA \$20,158.62, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA - POLICE \$584.00, FLOYD'S TRUCK CENTER, INC. \$212.53, FRANK PARTS COMPANY \$1,798.17, FYR-TEK, INC. \$283.00, GALLS, AN ARAMARK COMPANY \$126.09, GRAINGER \$135.39, GREEN HEART WINDOW CLEANING \$78.00, HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS \$109.30, HAWKINS & COMPANY \$8,351.50, HDR ENGINEERING, INC. \$4,078.36, HEALTHBREAK, INC. \$6,182.00, HENNING BROTHERS \$83.00, HOME DEPOT CREDIT SERVICES \$452.61, HOMETOWN LEASING \$157.23, HYDROVAC SUPPLY \$1,161.88, IDEAL LAUNDRY AND CLEANERS, INC. \$1,095.39, INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES \$670.21, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE \$53,673.10, IRBY TOOL & SAFETY \$4,291.50, J RODZ \$95.00, JEO CONSULTING GROUP

\$17,300.00, JOHN HANCOCK USA \$18,648.86, JOHN HANCOCK USA FIRE \$1,075.74, JOHN HANCOCK USA POLICE \$11,426.81, JOHNSON CASHWAY CO. \$81.56, JUNIOR LIBRARY GUILD \$620.40, JUSTIN BERNHARDT \$200.00, KRISTEN MASSIE \$236.00, L.L. JOHNSON DISTRIBUTING \$95.10, L.N. CURTIS & SONS \$2,623.68, LAWSON PRODUCTS \$465.63, LEAGUE ASSOC./RISK MANAGEMENT \$16,523.95, LEGACY COOPERATIVE \$2,589.73, LIMMER EDUCATION \$581.01, LOGOZ LLC \$1,419.00, LOST RIVER SAND & GRAVEL, INC \$832.04, MASEK DISTRIBUTING INC \$186.52, MATHESON TRI-GAS INC \$14.15, MENARDS \$831.47, MIDWEST CONNECT \$3,464.60, MIRACLE PLAYSYSTEMS III, LLC \$517.00, MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGENCY OF NE \$378,379.80, MUNICIPAL SUPPLY, INC. OF NE. \$7,912.96, NC CHILD SUPPORT CENTRALIZED COLLECTIONS \$105.82, NEBRASKA CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT CENTE \$714.93, NEBRASKA DEPT OF REVENUE \$1,614.56, NEBRASKA DEPT OF REVENUE \$14,942.30, NEBRASKA DEPT. OF REVENUE \$64,754.26, NEBRASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRO LAB \$105.00, NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT \$1,480.91, NKC TIRE \$185.60, NMC INCORPORATED \$168.16, NORTHWEST PIPE FITTINGS, INC \$72.65, ONE CALL CONCEPTS, INC \$54.70, O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE STORE \$146.95, PANHANDLE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE, INC. \$896.00, PANHANDLE HUMANE SOCIETY \$3,168.50, PANHANDLE POWER SYSTEMS LLC \$8,040.00, PETE'S QUICK LUBE \$138.27, PIPE WORKS PLUMBING LLC \$11,700.64, POWERPLAN OIB \$3,116.24, PT HOSE AND BEARING \$207.72, PVB VISA \$24,991.97, RAINBOW PRINTING \$576.00, RAKA \$2,136.58, RAPID FIRE PROTECTION \$95.00, REGIONAL CARE INC. \$1,774.06, REGIONAL WEST MEDICAL CENTER \$45.00, RIVERSTONE BANK \$641.57, RPM FITNESS \$110.00, SANDBERG IMPLEMENT, INC. \$163.37, SAPP BROS \$3,306.95, SCB. COUNTY AMBULANCE SERVICE \$316.23, SCB. COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE \$85.06, SCB/GERING UNITED CHAMBER OF \$25.00, SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY ATTORNEY \$600.00, SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY COURT \$371.06, SCOTTSBLUFF-GERING UNITED WAY \$226.34, SEILER INSTRUMENT & MFG \$28,083.20, SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER \$1,500.00, SIMMONS OLSEN LAW FIRM, P.C. \$1,500.00, SIMON CONTRACTORS \$1,433.83, SUNBELT SOLOMON \$5,584.63, TERESA TOSH \$32,637.85, TERRY CARPENTER, INC. \$650.00, TINA WORTHMAN \$551.60, TITAN MACHINERY INC. \$395.20, UNANIMOUS, INC. \$60.00, UNITED HEALTH CARE \$136,405.53, UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE \$478.00, VALLEY AUTO LOCATORS LLC \$686.65, VERIZON CONNECT \$25.90, VETS & MILITARY FAMILIES \$733.02, WESCO RECEIVABLES CORP. \$2,108.67, WESTERN COOPERATIVE COMPANY \$4,058.56, WESTERN PATHOLOGY CONSULTANTS \$213.00, YMCA OF SCOTTSBLUFF \$1,017.00, TOTAL \$1,071,043.58

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

CURRENT BUSINESS:

1. Approve Mayoral Appointment of a Special Council Committee to conduct interviews for the Ward III City Council vacancy

Motion by Councilmember Gillen to approve the Mayoral Appointment of a Special Council Committee to conduct interviews for the Ward III City Council vacancy, the special committee shall be comprised of all seated Council Members. Second by Councilmember O'Neal. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Gillen, Kinsey, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Shields, Wiedeman. Motion carried.

2. Consider approval of Occupation Tax Grant Fund Request for Old West Balloon Fest

Tina Worthman, Director of Tourism, stated that she is excited that the hot air balloon championships are coming back to Gering. At the Occ Tax Grant Fund Advisory Committee meeting, Colleen Johnson presented a grant request for \$20,000 for the first year of championships. Gering will serve as the headquarters this year and for the next three years. Competitors are staying at hotels in Gering as well; those are good reasons to approve this grant request. This event will increase lodging tax revenues as well. There will also be two balloon launches in Gering during the week of the event. She further elaborated on the activities. Councilmember Jackson asked if the balloon glow would be in Gering. Ms. Worthman replied that there will be balloon glows in Scottsbluff and Mitchell.

Motion by Councilmember O'Neal to approve the Occupation Tax Grant Fund Request for the Old West Balloon Fest in the amount of \$20,000. Second by Councilmember Gillen. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Gillen, Kinsey, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Shields, Wiedeman. Motion carried.

3. Consider approval of Occupation Tax Grant Fund Request for Friends of the Robidoux Rendezvous

Ms. Worthman explained that Aaron Raines is the organizer of this event and presented the request for \$14,000. They did not have the race last year but are bringing it back this year. She added that it's exciting to have that race back in Gering. Aaron has some things planned and it will be a big tourism event again this year. Mayor Ewing asked how many participants they expect. Ms. Worthman replied that they had over 600 participants in the last event; they are hoping to have that many again and to grow from there.

Motion by Councilmember Morrison to approve the Occupation Tax Grant Fund Request for Friends of the Robidoux Rendezvous in the amount of \$14,000. Second by Councilmember O'Neal. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Gillen, Kinsey, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Shields, Wiedeman. Motion carried.

4. Consider approving the appointment of Theresa Ewing to the Gering Library Board

Motion by Councilmember Gillen to approve the appointment of Theresa Ewing to the Gering Library Board. Second by Councilmember Morrison. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Gillen, Kinsey, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Shields, Wiedeman. Motion carried.

5. Receive the 2025 Annual Fire Department Report

Chief Flowers thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to present the Gering Volunteer Fire Department's 2025 Annual Report. He represents 35 dedicated volunteers who serve this community with professionalism, commitment, and pride; he added that it was an honor to speak on their behalf.

Response Activity

- In 2025, they responded to 863 calls for service, a decrease from 995 calls in 2024. While EMS calls declined, they experienced an increase in fires and motor vehicle accidents.
- Over the past several years, call volume has steadily risen. In 2020, they responded to 794 calls. By the end of 2024, that number had increased to 995.
- This past year, City leadership and Fire Department leadership collaborated to refine how call types are defined and categorized, transitioning certain incidents from a tiered response to a single-response model. Under this approach, specific calls are handled solely by ambulance services when appropriate. They believe this change contributed to the reduction in total calls. They continue to evaluate data to ensure the effectiveness of this model.
- Although calls decreased last year, they still anticipate an annual increase of approximately 3-5% moving forward.
- During evening hours, the department operates under a three-shift model, with each shift responsible for medical responses overnight. This structure has proven successful and aligns community needs with volunteer availability. They continue to evaluate additional strategies to ensure a sustainable and reliable staffing model.

Staffing and Operational Support

- In response to increasing operational demands, they added a part-time position this year. This role assists with report management, certification tracking, equipment and fleet maintenance, and daytime response coverage.
- The US Fire Administration discontinued their reporting programs, which caused them to move to a new record management program. This heavy lift was not possible without the assistance of this position. It took over eight months to transfer data from the old system. They appreciate the Council's support of this important position and look forward to continued discussions about aligning their staffing model with the community's evolving needs.
- They remain in compliance with NFPA standards for emergency response times.
- Their busiest month in 2025 was May, with 92 calls for service. Wednesdays were their busiest day of the week. Call volume trends upward during daytime hours, peaking between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., with 57 calls occurring during each of those hours over the course of the year.

Fire Loss and Property Conservation

- In 2025, approximately \$753,900 in property valuation was affected by fire. Estimated losses totaled just over \$336,400, meaning the department preserved approximately 56% of the property value involved in fire incidents. Unfortunately, one property sustained significant damage despite a rapid and coordinated response.

Training and Professional Development

- Members logged 5,313 hours of training last year. He cannot speak highly enough of their dedication. The Department's firefighters are committed to continual growth and professional development.
- In addition to hosting training every Tuesday evening, they organize larger training conferences throughout the year. Many members sacrifice weekends or personal vacation time to attend specialized training and obtain certifications.
- This year, firefighters attended advanced training programs in Grand Island, Indianapolis, and Rapid City. They currently have 10 firefighters enrolled in a six-month EMT course, further strengthening emergency medical capabilities.

Fire Prevention and Community Engagement

- Fire prevention and community risk reduction remain foundational to their mission. In 2025, they dedicated 1,651 hours to prevention efforts and community engagement.
- The annual Junior Fire Patrol program continues to be a tremendous success. Twenty fifth-grade students participated in a five-week program at the fire station, learning essential fire safety skills. They are grateful for their partnership with Gering Public Schools and their fifth-grade educators.
- They also conducted inspections and participated in community events including Oregon Trail Days, Summer Bash, the Monument Marathon, and various fireworks standby assignments.

Financial Stewardship and Equipment Improvements

- They deeply value the strong partnership shared with the Mayor, City Council, City Administration, and the Rural Board. Investment in their skills, equipment, and operations ensures they can serve effectively.
- This year, 28 firefighters qualified for the Length of Service Award Program. Since the Council established and funded the incentive program in 1999, it has remained a vital retention tool for 26 years.
- In 2025, they completed several essential upgrades, including:
 - Replacement of extrication airbags
 - Concrete improvements around the fire station
 - Replacement of 60-year-old garage door openers
- They budgeted for a station generator; however, due to production delays, that project has been carried forward into the current budget year and has been now completed. They also continue to update fire hose and personal protective equipment as needed.
- Through grant efforts and community support, they secured over \$5,000 for training initiatives and an additional \$5,000 for fire prevention materials, helping reduce overall operational costs.

Recognition

Each year, they recognize members for their service and dedication.

- Jeff Vance was recognized for his longevity and continued commitment to the department.
- Ken Hauck and Chief Flowers were recognized for 25 years of service.
- Adam Sauer and Miranda Wiebers were recognized for five years of service.
- Their 2025 Firefighter of the Year, Jennifer Severson, documented over 600 hours in training, response, and community engagement.
- These recognitions reflect the caliber of individuals serving this community.

Chief Flowers thanked the Mayor and Council for their continued trust and support on behalf of the men and women of the Gering Volunteer Fire Department. They recognize that their department is well-supported and appropriately funded, and do not take that investment for granted. "Your partnership, combined with the dedication of our firefighters, continues to be a significant asset to the City of Gering" he added.

On behalf of the Council and the community, Mayor Ewing thanked Chief Flowers and his personnel for their efforts and dedication.

Motion by Councilmember Gillen to enter the 2025 Annual Fire Department Report into the public record. Second by Councilmember O'Neal. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Gillen, Kinsey, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Shields, Wiedeman. Motion carried.

BIDS/PROPOSALS:

1. Consider approval of Golf Course Maintenance Equipment Lease Bid – Parks and Recreation Department

Director of Parks and Recreation, Amy Seiler, explained per her agenda summary, that in the past, the City has always purchased equipment outright. Due to many years of deferred equipment replacement, the golf course is in need of several pieces of equipment at the same time. Staff is presenting the option of leasing this equipment as a way to ensure that staff can continue to maintain the golf course at the high standards to which residents are accustomed, while working within the limitations of the budget. The equipment being replaced are:

- (1) 2015 4500 Toro surrounds mower
- (2) 2004 Howard Price and 2009 John Deere Wide-Area Rough mowers
- (1) 2011 Jacobsen Eclipse greens mower
- (1) 1993 Toro 5100 D fairway mower

By replacing this equipment, it will greatly reduce the amount of time and money spent on equipment repairs. This request for bid was publicly advertised and sent to dealers that specialize in golf course turf management equipment. There are no such dealers located within our community, so all of the bids received are from out of town. There were two options that each dealer could bid. The first option is a Fair Market Value Lease, which requires a monthly payment for a period of five years. At the end of the five years, the City would have the option to either purchase the equipment from the dealer or to return it to the dealer. The second option is a Capital Lease, which basically finances the equipment for five years and at the end of that five-year term, the equipment is considered paid for and is owned by the City.

The monthly payment under Fair Market Value Lease is lower than that of a Capital Lease because, at the end of the five-year term, if the City wishes to take ownership of the equipment it must be purchased from the dealer.

After careful consideration of both options, staff is recommending going with the Fair Market Value Lease option, as it provides the lowest annual payment and allows City staff to determine at the end of five years whether or not it is worthwhile to purchase the equipment.

Three bids were received, with the lowest bid submitted by Davis Equipment DBA Turfwerks. The total cost for the five-year lease term is \$387,541.20. At the conclusion of the five-year term, the City will have the option to purchase any or all of the leased equipment. If the City elects to purchase all of the equipment, the total purchase price will be \$70,000. Alternatively, the City may choose an "à la carte" option, allowing it to purchase selected pieces of equipment while returning the remaining items to the dealer. Each individual piece of equipment has a guaranteed purchase price established at the end of the five-year term.

Staff recommends awarding the bid to Davis Equipment d/b/a Turfwerks for a total cost over sixty months of \$387,541.20, which is an annual payment of \$77,504.24. She added that the new Golf Course Superintendent determined they would be okay for a while with the greens mower they had, but they were really in need of a driving range mower so she made a little change to the CIP budget they submitted last August.

Councilmember Morrison asked, regarding the four pieces of equipment, if the City opts to take two, maybe three, can they turn the other one in for any kind of trade in value? Ms. Seiler replied no, not with fair market value because the City doesn't outright own them. She further explained. She also clarified how the interest rates affect the monthly payment and why equipment has to be turned back in at the end of the lease if a particular vendor didn't offer a final purchase price at the end of the lease.

Motion by Councilmember Kinsey to award the Golf Course Maintenance Equipment Lease Bid to Davis Equipment d/b/a Turfwerks for a total cost of \$387,541.20 over sixty months with an annual payment of \$77,508.24. Second by Councilmember Morrison. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Gillen, Kinsey, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Shields, Wiedeman. Motion carried.

2. Consider approval of Ventrac Tractor purchase – Parks and Recreation Department

Ms. Seiler explained that in 2022, the Parks Department purchased a Ventrac Tractor with multiple attachments. The Ventrac is a compact, all-wheel drive tractor for professional-grade grounds maintenance. This piece of equipment has over 30 attachments that can be used to benefit landscape and ballfield maintenance. The Ventrac is extremely versatile for the parks system as it is used year-round to perform the majority of ballfield maintenance, snow removal with a v-blade or with snow blower attachment, has a stump grinder attachment they use regularly, a mower attachment and broom for sweeping sidewalks and improve ballfield lips. It is their intention to purchase additional attachments for the units in the future to assist with other landscape maintenance needs.

Because of considerable usage on ballfields in the summer, the unit is not available for other parks maintenance needs which could improve efficiencies. Additionally, since it is used year-round it has acquired more hours than originally anticipated. Staff determined it would be beneficial to acquire an additional unit which would assist with parks and city maintenance needs. Staff made the recommendation at budget time for the purchase of a Ventrac tractor and Council approved that CIP request at budget time.

Staff reached out to two regional vendors, MAC Equipment and LL Johnson Distributing both out of Colorado. Both provided a SourceWell quote of \$31,138.80. Both SourceWell quotes were the same because of manufacturer requirements of no additional discounts. Staff recommendation is to go with LL Johnson Distributing because service is exceptional. They are quick to respond to service inquiries and parts shipment. They also have service technicians that will travel to Gering to work on equipment if needed. Staff recommendation is to purchase a Ventrac tractor through LL Johnson Distributing.

Motion by Councilmember Jackson to approve the state bid purchase of a Ventrac Tractor for the Parks Department from LL Johnson in the amount of \$31,138.80. Second by Councilmember Kinsey. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Gillen, Kinsey, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Shields, Wiedeman. Motion carried.

ORDINANCES:

1. Consider moving the third reading and passage of Ordinance No. 2175 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GERING, NEBRASKA, TO AMEND CHAPTER 72, SECTION 72.09 OF THE CITY OF GERING CODE OF ORDINANCES; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN PAMPHLET FORM; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF

Mayor Ewing stated, regarding ordinance agenda items 1 and 2, due to the fact that there was a limited presence of Council Members at the meeting, he would entertain a motion to postpone the ordinance readings until the next meeting when hopefully there will be as close to a full Council as possible to consider the readings and/or passage of these two particular ordinances. He then entertained a motion to postpone moving the third reading and passage of Ordinance No. 2175 pertaining to RV use.

Motion by Councilmember Morrison to postpone moving the third reading and passage of Ordinance No. 2175 pertaining to RV use. Second by Councilmember Jackson. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Gillen, Kinsey, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Shields, Wiedeman. Motion carried.

2. Consider moving the second reading of ordinance 2180 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GERING, NEBRASKA; AMENDING THE ZONING DISTRICT OF CERTAIN LAND WITHIN THE CITY OF GERING, NEBRASKA; AND AMENDING THE ZONING DISTRICT MAP OF THE CITY OF GERING, NEBRASKA; PROVIDING WHEN THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT; AND PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THIS ORDINANCE IN PAMPHLET FORM

Mayor Ewing reiterated that due to the fact that there is a limited presence of Council Members at this meeting, he would entertain a motion to postpone the ordinance reading until the next meeting

Motion by Councilmember Morrison to postpone moving the second reading of Ordinance No. 2180 regarding a zone change at the corner of Five Rocks Road and Country Club Road until the next

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

REPORTS:

1. Liaison Report – Oregon Trail Days, Councilmember Shields

Mayor Ewing stated that due to the absence of Councilmember Shields, this report would be postponed until the next meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: (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.

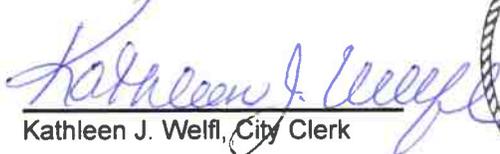
Bridger Davis, #7 Ashwood Grove, Gering, addressed Council and stated he recently moved to Gering just last month and owns a tiny home within Evergreen Estates. He recently purchased three ducklings and built them an outdoor enclosure. On February 12, Officer Shepherd came to his home following up on a tip from someone who saw that he had built a pen for the ducks. Officer Shepherd informed him that according to City Ordinance 96.05 B owning fowl is not allowed in the zone that he is in since his residence is within a planned development zone. He does, however, have permission to have pets from the property manager who owns the park. He got the smallest domestic breed of ducks; they are very friendly and generally pretty quiet. They have an enclosure that will keep them contained and not running at large. His pets are really important to him; he is curious as to what his options are because he doesn't want to move or find somewhere else for them. He is requesting of the Council that his case might be considered and asked if an individual concession could be made on his behalf or if the ordinance might be amended. He stated that would be willing to start a petition and find others in the community that would support ownership rights for those wanting poultry or fowl. Mayor Ewing replied that Council cannot comment at this point, but if he would contact the City office, staff can get him further information.

ADJOURN:

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

ATTEST:


Kathleen J. Welfl, City Clerk





Kent E. Ewing, Mayor