

THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GERING CITY COUNCIL, JANUARY 26, 2026

A regular meeting of the City Council of Gering, Nebraska was held in open session on January 26, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at Gering City Hall, 1025 P Street, Gering, NE. Present were Mayor Ewing and Councilmembers Shields, Gillen, Frye, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. Also present were City Administrator Pat Heath, City Clerk Kathy Welfl, and City Attorney Matt Turman. 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

Motion by Councilmember Wiedeman to approve the absence of Councilmembers Shields, Gillen and Frye from the January 12, 2026 regular City Council meeting. Second by Councilmember O'Neal. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Frye, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

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 January 12, 2026 regular City Council Meeting
2. Approve Claims
3. File for record Amendment to Task Order 02, pertaining to an Agreement by and between the City of Gering and City of Scottsbluff and HDR Engineering, Inc. regarding siting of a new landfill

Claims 1/13/26 – 1/26/26

21ST CENTURY EQUIPMENT \$23.33, 24/7 FITNESS \$295.00, ACCELERATED RECEIVABLES SOLUTI \$331.06, ACE HARDWARE \$2,245.33, AFLAC \$957.18, AL'S TOWING, INC \$250.00, ALTEC INDUSTRIES, INC. \$8,310.70, AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES \$619.22, AMERITAS LIFE INSURANCE CORP. \$622.84, ASCAP \$459.17, B & C STEEL \$638.51, BEELINE SERVICE NC \$290.00, BENZEL PEST CONTROL \$238.21, BLACKSTONE AUDIO, INC \$164.54, BLUFFS FACILITY SOLUTIONS \$705.47, BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES, INC \$3,116.60, CENGAGE LEARNING/GAGE \$24.80, CITY OF GERING \$570.90, CLARK PRINTING LLC \$202.00, COLUMN SOFTWARE, PBC \$61.09, CONTRACTORS MATERIALS, INC. \$485.00, CORE & MAIN LP \$1,017.19, DANKO EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT CO \$126.70, DEMCO, INC \$169.80, DISCOUNT WASTE \$110.30, DOOLEY OIL \$164.02, DUTTON-LAINSON COMPANY \$1,124.33, EAKES INC \$745.76, ELITE TOTAL FITNESS \$131.00, ELLISON, KOVARIK & TURMAN LAW \$10,250.00, FASTENAL COMPANY \$314.21, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OMAHA \$31,534.12, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA - POLICE \$584.00, FRANK PARTS COMPANY \$789.59, FRONTIER OVERHEAD DOOR \$595.00, FYR-TEK, INC. \$547.57, GENERAL TRAFFIC CONTROLS, INC. \$275.00, GERING HOSPITALITY GROUP, LLC \$43,163.77, GRAND ISLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY \$30.00, GREY GROUP, LLC \$795.00, HALEIGH WHITE \$803.81, HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS \$71.67, HDR ENGINEERING, INC. \$2,748.37, HOMETOWN LEASING \$157.23, IAFC MEMBERSHIP \$245.00, IDEAL LAUNDRY AND CLEANERS, INC. \$742.34, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE \$58,996.07, INTERSTATE BATTERY \$159.95, J RODZ \$285.00, JC GOLF ACCESSORIES \$273.45, JEO CONSULTING GROUP \$12,772.50, JOHN HANCOCK USA \$18,480.44, JOHN HANCOCK USA FIRE \$1,075.74, JOHN HANCOCK USA POLICE \$12,386.43, JOHNSON CASHWAY CO. \$13.69, KNOWBUDDY RESOURCES \$326.16, LEGACY COOPERATIVE \$6,315.52, LOGOZ LLC \$236.00, MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT, LLC \$610.79, MASEK DISTRIBUTING INC \$400.00, MATHESON TRIGAS INC \$51.71, MATTY B'S HVAC \$200.00, MB KEM OVERHEAD DOORS \$5,810.00, MENARDS \$115.83, MID-STATES ORGANIZED CRIME \$150.00, MOTOR FUELS DIVISION \$1,944.00, MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGENCY OF NE \$361,290.18, MUNICIPAL SUPPLY, INC. OF NE. \$194.12, NC CHILD SUPPORT CENTRALIZED COLLECTIONS \$254.63, NEBRASKA CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT CENTE \$714.93, NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF REV (PR) \$17,880.10, NEBRASKA DEPT OF ENVIRONMENT AND EN \$17,191.88, NEBRASKA DEPT OF REVENUE \$719.91, NEBRASKA DEPT. OF REVENUE \$57,110.85, NEBRASKA LIFE MAGAZINE \$30.00, NEBRASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRO LAB \$420.00, NKC TIRE \$208.65, NMC

INCORPORATED \$352.42, NORTHWEST PIPE FITTINGS, INC \$405.25, O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE STORE \$171.03, PANHANDLE HUMANE SOCIETY \$3,168.50, PAPA MOON \$274.34, PAUL REED \$15,090.30, PEOPLE \$86.00, PETE'S QUICK LUBE \$385.19, PIPE WORKS PLUMBING LLC \$2,583.06, PLATTE VALLEY BANK \$27,613.44, PRAISE WINDOWS \$800.00, PT HOSE AND BEARING \$192.31, PVB VISA \$10,523.18, R & R PRODUCTS, INC. \$469.70, RAKA \$1,249.25, RANDY DEEDS \$33.00, REGIONAL CARE INC. \$2,425.87, RIVERSTONE BANK \$639.99, RPM FITNESS \$110.00, SAMMY VALDEZ \$500.00, SANDBERG IMPLEMENT, INC. \$109.90, SAPP BROS \$3,012.72, SCB. COUNTY AMBULANCE SERVICE \$316.23, SCI SALES, LLC \$2,893.00, SCOTTSBLUFF-GERING UNITED WAY \$226.34, SCS ENGINEERS \$2,505.00, SE MUNICIPAL SOLAR (NE), LLC \$4,565.68, SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER \$1,500.00, SHERI NAU \$8,575.10, SIMMONS OLSEN LAW FIRM, P.C. \$2,932.50, SIMON CONTRACTORS \$3,058.33, SMART APPLE MEDIA \$318.43, SOUTHWESTERN EQUIPMENT COMPANY \$5,575.81, SUN MOUNTAIN SPORTS \$1,292.85, TERESA TOSH 19,192.06, TERRY CARPENTER, INC. \$650.00, TINA WORTHMAN \$284.80, TWIN CITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOC \$12,500.00, UNANIMOUS, INC. \$60.00, UTILITY BILL REFUNDS \$448.84, VALLEY AUTO LOCATORS LLC \$2,082.24, VETS & MILITARY FAMILIES \$404.80, W J R INC. \$65,115.00, WEAR PARTS & EQUIPMENT \$5,757.00, WESTERN COOPERATIVE COMPANY \$2,947.52, YMCA OF SCOTTSBLUFF \$1,005.00, TOTAL \$908,867.24

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

Prior to bids and proposals, Mayor Ewing recognized Boy Scout Troop 9 seated in the audience who were present at the meeting to earn a merit badge.

BIDS/PROPOSALS:

1. Consider approving the purchase of two Marked Pursuit Vehicles – Police Department

Chief Holthus stated that during the last budget cycle, they budgeted to purchase two marked patrol units, which is typically what they do each year. He is requesting authorization to purchase two Dodge Durango Pursuit Vehicles through the state bid. Each vehicle is \$44,075 plus \$550 delivery (for each). Delivery is expected in 90 to 120 days. They will be replacing a 2017 Ford Explorer with 87,473 miles and a 2017 Ford Taurus with 70,177 miles. Both of those units will be sold at auction. The other option considered was the Ford Explorer model which was a little more expensive. Staff recommends the Dodge Pursuit Vehicles.

Councilmember Frye inquired which model the officers prefer. Chief Holthus replied there isn't a preference that has been voiced; there was a mechanical issue with the first Durango the department purchased, but he believes that has been resolved with more recent models. He noted that the two options are comparable. Mayor Ewing asked if the equipment will be all new. Chief Holthus replied, yes, other than the camera and things that are movable. The partition or cage, console, and rear plastic seat are specific to the vehicles. Whatever can be moved, will be moved. The lights will be new.

Motion by Councilmember Gillen to approve the state bid purchase of two 2026 Dodge Durango marked pursuit vehicles for the Police Department at \$44,075 each plus \$30,000 for equipment, \$11,000 for upfitting and \$1,100 in delivery charges for a total amount of \$130,250. Second by Councilmember O'Neal. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Frye, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

1. Consider a request for a joint meeting of the Public Safety and Public Works Committees – Agenda item: 1.) Review draft of the Safe Streets for All Plan

Motion by Councilmember Morrison to approve a request for a joint meeting of the Public Safety and Public Works Committees with agenda item: 1.) Review draft of the Safe Streets for All Plan. Second by Councilmember Wiedeman. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Frye, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

2. Consider a request for an Administrative Committee meeting – Agenda items: 1.) Discuss recommending a 1% Sales Tax Proposition to the City Council to place on the 2026 Primary Election ballot, 2.) Follow up discussion regarding amended Peddler/Solicitor ordinance

Motion by Councilmember Morrison to approve a request for an Administrative Committee meeting with agenda items: 1.) Discuss recommending *continuing* a 1% Sales Tax Proposition to the City Council to place on the 2026 Primary Election ballot, 2.) Follow up discussion regarding amended Peddler and Solicitor ordinance. Second by Councilmember Frye. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. “AYES”: Shields, Gillen, Frye, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O’Neal Morrison, Jackson. “NAYS”: None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

3. Consider approving the appointment of Amy Doll to the Occupation Tax Advisory Committee

Motion by Councilmember Shields to approve the appointment of Amy Doll to the Occupation Tax Advisory Committee. Second by Councilmember Gillen. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. “AYES”: Shields, Gillen, Frye, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O’Neal Morrison, Jackson. “NAYS”: None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

4. Consider approving and authorizing the Mayor to sign a Grant Agreement with the FHWA (Federal Highway Administration) regarding the Safe Streets for All Grant

Motion by Councilmember Frye to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a Grant Agreement with the FHWA (Federal Highway Administration) regarding the Safe Streets for All Grant. Second by Councilmember Wiedeman. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. “AYES”: Shields, Gillen, Frye, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O’Neal Morrison, Jackson. “NAYS”: None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

ORDINANCES:

1. Consider first reading 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 PAMPLHET FORM; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF

Mayor Ewing entertained a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2175 as the first reading. He clarified that this is the ordinance Council voted to have staff and legal prepare that makes occupying, frequenting, living, sleeping and habitation in a recreational vehicle a violation of City Code except as permitted within an authorized recreational vehicle park or mobile home park.

Councilmember Morrison made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2175 as the first reading – 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 PAMPLHET FORM; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF. Seconded by Councilmember Jackson.

Discussion: Councilmember Shields asked for clarification. Councilmember Gillen explained that it's introducing the ordinance that would remove the ability if a person wanted to stay in an RV on their property that was discussed at the December meeting. Councilmember Shields asked if the wording just got changed. Councilmember Gillen replied that it changed based upon the last Council meeting to remove the ability for people to stay in their RV on their property.

Mayor Ewing called for the vote. “AYES”: Frye, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O’Neal Morrison, Jackson. “NAYS”: Shields, Gillen. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

2. Consider approval of Ordinance No. 2176 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE XI, CHAPTER 111, OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GERING, NEBRASKA TO AMEND THE MUNICIPAL CODE AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF

Mayor Ewing entertained a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2176. He clarified that this is an amended alcohol occupation tax ordinance that updates the existing ordinance to mirror state statute, remove sections that are not relevant and remove the fee for special designated licenses. This ordinance was considered by the Administrative Committee and they recommend approval of the ordinance.

Councilmember Kinsey made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2176 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE XI, CHAPTER 111, OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GERING, NEBRASKA TO AMEND THE MUNICIPAL CODE AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF. Seconded by Councilmember Wiedeman.

Discussion: Councilmember Wiedeman added that the Administrative Committee met; these were already in place, they were just updated. These are occupational taxes that were already in place. When someone applies for a liquor license, this is what they pay. Councilmember Morrison noted that this is just to match what the State is doing.

Mayor Ewing called for the vote. “AYES”: Shields, Gillen, Frye, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O’Neal Morrison, Jackson. “NAYS”: None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Councilmember O’Neal moved that the Ordinance be designated as Ordinance No. 2176 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, and that the ordinance be passed as read, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Morrison. There was no discussion. The Clerk called the roll. “AYES”: Shields, Gillen, Frye, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O’Neal Morrison, Jackson. “NAYS”: None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Public Hearing to consider amending the City Zoning Ordinance and modify the Land Use Table to provide for appropriate zones for recreational vehicle habitation and add definitions

Mayor Ewing opened a public hearing to consider amending the City Zoning Ordinance and modify the Land Use Table to provide for appropriate zones for recreational vehicle habitation and add definitions at 6:17 p.m.

City Engineer, Annie Folck, stated that as was previously discussed, Council directed staff to put together an ordinance saying that people are not allowed to live in RVs except for inside a designated RV Park. In order to be consistent, staff started looking through the City’s code to see what that looked like in the City’s Zoning Code; there is not currently a definition of an RV Park in the zoning code. In the Land Use Table, there is something called a Recreational Vehicle Parking Area. She doesn’t read that as an RV Park, but without having stated definitions, it’s really hard to argue that point. Staff wanted to define a Recreational Vehicle Parking Area and also define an RV Park. The difference is, an RV Park is going to be basically a campground, something where it would be expected for people to be staying overnight. There are certain considerations as far as having electric, water hookups and sewer because people are living there; human health and safety have to be taken into consideration. An RV Parking Area is a place where people can park their RVs, but they can’t stay in the RV. They’re parked close together and there’s no concern for water, sewer, and electrical because people aren’t actually staying in them. There is a significant difference in those two uses and where they should and shouldn’t be allowed.

Councilmember Wiedeman clarified that it would be more like a storage location. Engineer Folck replied, yes. Staff also wanted to clarify that that area could also be used for boats and trailers and other things that people might like to store. Staff prepared a definition for that and also clarified that a Recreational Vehicle Park is the same as the current definition for a campground. It also includes bathrooms and hookups and anything else that is necessary. Staff did not change anything in the Land Use table for an RV Parking Area because it was already a permitted use in the C3, ML and MH Zones which is where it’s appropriate. Staff did add Recreational Vehicle Park and Campground to the Land Use Table because previously, it didn’t specify where a campground could be either. Staff

added that as a conditional use in the AG, C2, C3 and ML Zones. The reason they made it as a conditional use is because there are a lot of concerns about the layout, proper separations between the units, making sure there are sewer hookups or some plan for dumping. Even for tent camping, there needs to be designated restrooms or something like that. The City needs to have some oversight on the overall layout and how those would function.

Engineer Folck added that by clarifying the difference between these two uses and having a plan for where they're allowed throughout the community, that will prevent any confusion with the enforcement of the aforementioned ordinance prohibiting people living in RVs outside RV Park Areas. She clarified that part of the definition for the RV Parking Area is that people cannot occupy, frequent, inhabit, or stay in an RV at those locations.

Mayor Ewing asked if there is anyone in the Council Chambers wishing to speak regarding the public hearing. With no comments from the public, Mayor Ewing entertained comments from Council Members. With no further comments, the administrative record was closed and the public hearing closed at 6:23 p.m.

1a. Consider approval of Ordinance 2177 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GERING, NEBRASKA TO AMEND ARTICLE 1 "GENERAL APPLICATION" SECTION 1.6 OF THE CITY OF GERING ZONING ORDINANCE; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF

Councilmember Morrison made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2177 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GERING, NEBRASKA TO AMEND ARTICLE 1 "GENERAL APPLICATION" SECTION 1.6 OF THE CITY OF GERING ZONING ORDINANCE; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF. Seconded by Councilmember Jackson. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Frye, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": Shields, Gillen. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Councilmember Frye moved that the Ordinance be designated as Ordinance No. 2177 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, and that the ordinance be passed as read, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Kinsey. There was no discussion. The Clerk called the roll. "AYES": Frye, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": Shields, Gillen. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

1b. Consider approval of Ordinance 2178 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GERING, NEBRASKA, TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE, ARTICLE 3, SECTION 3.11 TO ADD RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PARK/CAMPGROUND TO THE LAND USE TABLE AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF

Councilmember Wiedeman made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2178 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GERING, NEBRASKA, TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE, ARTICLE 3, SECTION 3.11 TO ADD RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PARK/CAMPGROUND TO THE LAND USE TABLE AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF. Seconded by Councilmember O'Neal. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Frye, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": Shields, Gillen. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Councilmember Morrison moved that the Ordinance be designated as Ordinance No. 2178 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, and that the ordinance be passed as read, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Jackson. There was no discussion. The Clerk called the roll. "AYES": Frye, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": Shields, Gillen. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

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.

Steve Eich, 1315 P Street, Gering, stated that regarding Ordinance 2175, the RV ordinance, there was a Public Safety Committee meeting that lasted nearly two and a half hours of comment about this – Council has access to the notes from that meeting. He stated “You’re going 100% against everybody that spoke at that meeting. Everybody that lives in this town that came to that meeting spoke against everything you’re voting for just because BJ wanted to shorten it.” He added that there were a lot of things recommended at that meeting, none of that was even brought forth. There’s none of it in what Council is bringing forth now. There are a lot of other ways this could have been accomplished, but “you’re just flat going to say no because you have one problem you’re trying to solve, and that’s garbage.” He stated that everybody’s going to see through it. He offered one suggestion, not that Council is going to do anything with it “because you don’t listen.” He went on to say that if a person owns a camper, and it’s licensed and insured by them, and they have it on their own property, kids can sleep in it a day or two a year or a week if they’re in town visiting. Don’t let anybody put a camper on their property that isn’t owned by them; at least that might work. He’s concluded by saying he’s pretty sickened by this whole thing.

ADJOURN:

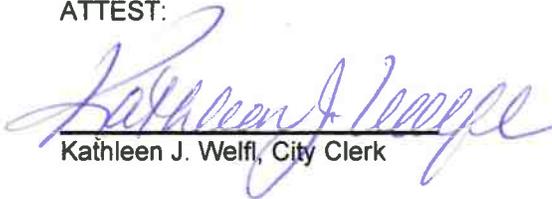
Motion by Councilmember Gillen to adjourn. Second by Councilmember O’Neal. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. “AYES”: Shields, Gillen, Frye, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O’Neal Morrison, Jackson. “NAYS”: None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.



Kent E. Ewing, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kathleen J. Welfl, City Clerk

