THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GERING CITY COUNCIL, JULY 13, 2026

A regular meeting of the City Council of Gering, Nebraska was held in open session on July 13, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at Gering City Hall, 1025 P Street, Gering, NE. Present were Mayor Ewing and Councilmembers, Gillen, Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. Also present were City Administrator Pat Heath, City Clerk Kathy Welfl, and City Attorney Matt Turman. Absent was Councilmember Shields. 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 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 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 June 22, 2026 regular City Council Meeting
2. Approve Claims
3. Approve the April, 2026 Financial Report

CLAIMS – 6/24/26-7/14/26:

24/7 FITNESS $250.00, ACE HARDWARE $881.52, ACUSHNET COMPANY $4,125.65, ADIDAS AMERICA, INC $405.00, ADVANCED SERVICES, INC. $618.76, AFLAC $957.18, ALARM SECURITY TECHNICIANS $8,767.91, ALLRED BROTHERS FIREWORKS $8,500.00, AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES $2,816.79, AMERITAS LIFE INSURANCE CORP. $1,240.96, AT&T MOBILITY $384.21, BAR 4 BAR ENTERPRISES, LLC $12,625.00, BENZEL PEST CONTROL $258.21, BIG MACK HEATING & COOLING $150.00, BLACK HILLS ENERGY $1,298.59, BLUFFS FACILITY SOLUTIONS$853.13, BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES, INC $114,093.74, C & C MANUFACTURING LLC $702.49, CALLAWAY GOLF COMPANY $38.17, CAMPSPOT $865.44, CENGAGE LEARNING/GAGE $146.40, CENTURY BUSINESS PRODUCTS, INC $140.84, COLUMN SOFTWARE, PBC $288.46, CONNECTING POINT $48.99, CONTRACTORS MATERIALS, INC. $136.00, CRESCENT ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO. $27.78, DAVIS EQUIPMENT CORPORATION TURFWERKS $73.60, DEARBORN LIFE INSURANCE COMPAN $123.84, DOOLEY OIL $1,015.70, DUTTON-LAINSON COMPANY $5,385.66, EAKES INC $210.63, ELICIA ESPINOZA HERNANDEZ $175.00, ELITE TOTAL FITNESS $166.00, FASTENAL COMPANY $351.83, FAT BOYS TIRE & AUTO $827.86, FEDEX $37.81, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OMAHA $20,517.00, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA - POLICE $1,168.00, FLOCK GROUP INC $750.00, FLOYD'S TRUCK CENTER, INC. $279.28, FRANCISCOS BUMPER TO BUMPER IN $235.00, FRANK PARTS COMPANY $1,318.83, FRESH FOODS INC. $71.80, FYR-TEK, INC. $2,113.05, GALLS, AN ARAMARK COMPANY $120.51, GERING MERCHANTS $12,145.54, GERING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT. $323.00, GOLF & SPORT SOLUTIONS $9,459.50, GORSUCH & SONS $392.71, GRAINGER $66.90, GREATAMERICA FINANCIAL SERVICE $104.83, GROUND UP CONSTRUCTION & CLEAN $4,562.50, HAWKINS, INC. $7,728.93, HEALTHBREAK, INC.$625.00, HIGH PLAINS AUTO CLUB $500.00, IDEAL LAUNDRY AND CLEANERS, INC. $1,218.86, INDOFF INCORPORATED $163.64, INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES $862.19, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE $130,828.13, INTRALINKS, INC. $10,461.45, IRBY TOOL & SAFETY $8,317.81, JC GOLF ACCESSORIES $163.58, JEO CONSULTING GROUP $371.25, JIM KOZAL $568.00, JIRDON AGRI CHEMICALS, INC $6,478.20 ,JOHN HANCOCK USA $42,569.78, JOHN HANCOCK USA FIRE $2,151.48, JOHN HANCOCK USA POLICE $24,280.18,JOHN SORENSEN $500.00, JOHNSEN CORROSION ENGINEERING $1,040.00, L.L. JOHNSON DISTRIBUTING $758.91, LAWSON PRODUCTS $1,189.15, LEAGUE ASSOC./RISK MANAGEMENT $682.02, LEGACY COOPERATIVE $4,867.84, LIMMER EDUCATION $93.70 ,LONG DRAW PRODUCTIONS $1,300.00 , LOST RIVER SAND & GRAVEL, INC $287.54, M.C. SCHAFF & ASSOCIATES, INC. $15,440.25, MAIN STREET APPLIANCE $700.00, MARK CHRISMAN TRUCKING $11,400.00, MARK KOVARIK $100.00, MASEK DISTRIBUTING INC $5,496.00, MATTY B'S HVAC $100.00, MB KEM OVERHEAD DOORS $140.00, MENARDS $1,388.64, MIDWEST CONNECT $3,457.03, MIZUNO USA, INC. $449.28, MOBIUS COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY $30.00, MONUMENT SHADOWS MEMBER GUEST COMMITEE $1,768.00, MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGENCY OF NE $320,870.83, MUNICIPAL SUPPLY, INC. OF NE. $5,486.75, MUTUAL OF OMAHA $5,861.26, NAPE $25.00, NC CHILD SUPPORT CENTRALIZED COLLECTIONS $675.68, NEBRASKA CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT CENTE $1,429.86 ,NEBRASKA GOLF ASSOCIATION $6,997.80, NEBRASKA LAND $803.84, NEBRASKA POWER REVIEW BOARD $1,455.89, NEBRASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRO LAB $37.00 ,NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT $7,070.82, NIPPON SANSO MATHESON TRI-GAS INC $245.00, NKC TIRE $121.30, NMC INCORPORATED $738.00, NOREGON SYSTEMS, LLC $275.22, NORTHWEST PIPE FITTINGS, INC $1,575.18 ,NPW & PRINT EXPRESS $465.60 ,OCLC, INC. $2,357.71, ONE CALL CONCEPTS, INC $93.08, OPEN A NINE, LLC $1,336.70, O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE STORE $1,570.77, ORIGINAL WATERMEN INC $60.00, P&W GOLF SUPPLY LLC $581.35, PANHANDLE CONCRETE PROD. INC. $4,520.00, PANHANDLE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE, INC. $1,782.00, PANHANDLE HUMANE SOCIETY $6,337.00, PEACEFUL PRAIRIE NURSERY, INC. $724.18, PETE'S QUICK LUBE $69.19, PIPE WORKS PLUMBING LLC $7,580.00, POWERPLAN OIB $53.28, PT HOSE AND BEARING $702.94, QUADIENT LEASING USA $882.00, QUADIENT

POSTAGE FUNDING $800.00, R & C WELDING & FABRICATION $1,160.00, RAPID FIRE PROTECTION $1,142.35, RESCO $49,278.00, RIVERSTONE BANK $1,313.20, RPM FITNESS $110.00, SANDBERG IMPLEMENT, INC. $23,890.16, SCB COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS $28.00, SCB. COUNTY AMBULANCE SERVICE $632.46, SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY CERT $2,818.16, SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY CLERK $2,467.60, SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY COURT $331.06, SCOTTSBLUFF-GERING UNITED WAY $432.68, SE MUNICIPAL SOLAR (NE), LLC $8,369.98, SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER$3,000.00, SIMON CONTRACTORS $9,485.68, TEAM CHEVROLET $600.00, TERESA TOSH $23,564.30, TERRY CARPENTER, INC. $1,300.00, THE TORO COMPANY $315.00, TITAN MACHINERY INC. $1,643.25, TORRINGTON SOD FARMS $74.80, TRANSWEST $399.42, TWIN CITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOC $12,500.00, TYLER TECHNOLOGIES $1,000.00, TYNDALE $243.98, UNANIMOUS, INC. $450.00, UPSCRIPT $19.98, VALLEY AUTO LOCATORS LLC $1,824.99, VALLEY AUTO TRUCK SHOW $500.00, VERIZON CONNECT $51.80, VERIZON WIRELESS SERVICES, LLC $552.74, WESCO RECEIVABLES CORP. $13,848.52,WESTERN COOPERATIVE COMPANY $12,251.69, WESTERN UNITED ELECTRIC $14,394.25, YMCA OF SCOTTSBLUFF $1,017.00, YOLANDA GUERRERO $2,200.00
TOTALS: $1,087,890.72

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

BIDS/PROPOSALS:

1. Consider awarding 3-Phase Substation Style Transformer Bid

Administrator Heath explained that staff advertised for bids for a 3-Phase Substation Style Transformer for CS Precision. Two bids were received with the low bid in the amount of $94,500; that does not include sales tax. Pursuant to the City's agreement with CS Precision, they will reimburse the City for the cost of the transformer as well as the sales tax. Per City ordinance, for new developments, the customer purchases the transformer and the City supplies the rest of the electrical grid to them. Staff is recommending approval of the bid from Sunbelt Soloman for $94,500 for a total cost (with sales tax) of $101,587.50.

Councilmember Morrison asked if the City has done business with this company before. Administrator Heath replied yes, the City has purchased a considerable number of transformers from them; it will also arrive in a timely manner. This will be the backup transformer for CS Precision; the City installed the other transformer a few weeks ago. If the transformer CS Precision has now goes down, it can be sent back and rebuilt unless something major happens to it.

Motion by Councilmember Gillen to award the 3-Phase Substation Style Transformer Bid to Sunbelt Soloman in the amount of $101,587.50 which includes sales tax. This purchase is pursuant to an agreement with CS Precision. CS Precision will be responsible for reimbursing the City for the cost of the transformer. Second by Councilmember Cecil. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Gillen, Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Shields. Motion carried.

2. Consider awarding U Street Waterline Bid

Administrator Heath explained that the City is making modifications to the City's facilities on West U Street by the landfill; the baling facility will be converted to a transfer station. "We'll be able to haul to another facility or our own landfill in the future." He added that due to the additional square footage being added to the building "We meet the requirements of needing a fire suppression system in the building." U Street west of Five Rocks has never had a water main. There has been a two-inch water service that has supplied water to that building, but that is inadequate for a fire suppression system; for the amount of pressure and flow that's needed, an eight-inch water main must be installed.

Staff advertised for bids for an eight-inch water main from Five Rocks Road to just about the west end of the landfill property; this would also include a tie from Westwood Drive in Canyon Estates. Four bids were received; the low bid was from Grace Industries in the amount of $249,178.73. Staff are recommending approval of the bid from Grace Industries.

Councilmember Gillen asked if the City has used Grace Industries before. Administrator Heath replied that it has been a while since they've worked in Gering. However, they're starting today on the Pacific Boulevard project near the Northfield Park drain and they've done pipework for the City in the past; the City didn't have issues with them at that time. He noted that the cost of this project will come out of the cost that was budgeted for the modifications for the transfer station. "We'll still be under budget with this cost. It was anticipated that we may have to put in this sprinkler system." He added.

Motion by Councilmember Morrison to award the U Street Waterline Bid to Grace Industries in the amount of $249,178.73. Second by Councilmember Gillen. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing

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

CURRENT BUSINESS:

1. Consider approving the appointment of Jennifer Sibal to the Keno Committee

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

2. Library Board Annual Report

Library Board President, Jeff Kelley, presented the Library Board Annual Report.

Gering Public Library Statistics FY 10/1/2024 – 9/30/2025

Revenue

Category	Amount
Total Local Government Revenue	$652,111
Library State Aid	$1,351
NLC Continuing Education/Training Grant	$500
Total State Government Revenue	**$1,851**
Other Revenue Amount	$9,100
Total Other Revenue	**$9,939**
Total Operating Revenue	**$663,901**

Expenditures

Category	Amount
Salaries and Wages	$345,810
Employee Benefits	$143,828
Total Staff Expenditures	**$489,638**
Library Materials in Electronic Format	$3,134
Other Physical Materials	$1,273
Total Collection Expenditures	**$28,807**
Computer Hardware, Accessories, and Software	$5,153
Electronic Access — OPAC/ILS Fees	$2,480
Electronic Access — ISP Fees	$1,308
Continuing Education	$4,871
Other Expenditures	$42,137
Total Other Operating Expenditures	**$55,949**
Total Operating Expenditures	**$574,394**

Collections

Category	Amount
Books Added During the Year	1,677
Books Withdrawn During the Year	503
Books Held at End of Current Year	**29,866**
Audio Physical Units Held at End of Current Year	1,022

Category	Amount
Video Physical Units Held at End of Current Year	1,159

Other Non-Circulating Items

Year	Items
Current Year	Headphones, microfilm, laptop, OWL conferencing equipment, rotating educational toys, BEAM projection system, games
Previous Year	Headphones, microfilm reader, laptop, OWL conferencing equipment, large screen TV, rotating educational toys, BEAM game projection system, in-house games

Services

Category	Amount
Registered Borrowers	1,385
Annual Library Visits	29,358
Annual Uses of Public Internet Computers	3,036
Adult Physical Item Circulation	11,588
Children's Physical Item Circulation	16,244
Other Physical Item Circulation	769
Total Physical Item Circulation	**28,601**
Adult eBook Circulation	3,155
Children's eBook Circulation	380
Total eBook Circulation	**3,535**

Programs

Category	Amount
Programs Targeted to Ages 6–11	30
Total Children's Programs	**114**
Programs Targeted to Ages 12–18	23
Programs Targeted to Ages 19+	116

Program Attendance

Category	Amount
Attendance at Programs Targeted to Ages 0–5	2,683
Attendance at Programs Targeted to Ages 6–11	866
Total Program Attendance, Ages 0–11	**3,549**
Attendance at Programs Targeted to Ages 12–18	325

Staff

Category	Amount
Total Number of Paid Librarians	10
ALA-Accredited MLS Librarians	2
Total Paid Employees in Full-Time Equivalents	7.06
Total Number of Volunteers	76
Estimated Total Volunteer Hours per Week	2.3

Mayor Ewing thanked staff and volunteers for their commitment to the Gering Library.

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

Dale Hauck, 2355 Country Club Road, addressed Council and asked about the power outages in his area. He wondered if it was because of the City's system, or the weather and wind. He asked if it was something he should be concerned about.

Mayor Ewing stated that Oregon Trail Days is officially "in the books" again. He stated that staff did a really good job, again. He didn't receive a "bunch of phone calls" and enjoyed himself over the weekend. He saw some of the Council Members out taking part in the activities; there were a lot of people in town.

ADJOURN:

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Kent E. Ewing, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathleen J. Welfl, City Clerk

CITY OF GERING
INCORPORATED
MAR. 14, 1918
NEBRASKA