

THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GERING CITY COUNCIL, JUNE 22, 2026

A regular meeting of the City Council of Gering, Nebraska was held in open session on June 22, 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, and City Clerk Kathy Welfl. 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 6:35 p.m. (due to weather delay) 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 Morrison to approve the absence of Councilmember O'Neal from the June 8, 2026 regular City Council meeting. Second by Councilmember Wiedeman. 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.

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 8, 2026 regular City Council Meeting
2. Approve Claims
3. File for Record Addendum to Agreement for Electrical Infrastructure and Maintenance between the City of Gering and CS Precision Manufacturing, Inc.
4. Approve SDL (Special Designated License) application submitted by the Oregon Trail Association for the 'OTA Mud Volleyball Tournament and Beer Garden' at/near Five Rocks Amphitheater on D Street in Gering on July 11, 2026
5. Approve SDL (Special Designated License) application submitted by the Oregon Trail Association for the 'OTA Chili Cook-off and Beer Garden' at/near Five Rocks Amphitheater on D Street in Gering on July 11, 2026
6. Approve SDL (Special Designated License) application submitted by the Oregon Trail Association for the 'OTA Music Concert and Beer Garden' at Five Rocks Amphitheater on D Street in Gering on July 11, 2026

CLAIMS:

A & A PORTA POTTIES \$950.00, ACE HARDWARE \$2,434.20, ACE IRRIGATION AND MANUFACTUR \$13,319.64, ADVANCED SERVICES, INC. \$711.56, ALARM SECURITY TECHNICIANS \$77.90, ALLO COMMUNICATIONS \$3,759.98, ALTEC INDUSTRIES, INC. \$391.01, AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES \$626.11, AMERITAS LIFE INSURANCE CORP. \$618.12, ANDERSON & SHAW CONSTRUCTION \$1,913.71, AT&T MOBILITY \$1,543.76, B & C STEEL \$297.42, BENCHMARK GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS, LLC \$59.75, BENEFIT PLANS, INC \$401.50, BENZEL PEST CONTROL \$76.71, BLUFFS FACILITY SOLUTIONS \$1,034.83, BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES, INC \$2,229.67, CALVARY MEMORIAL CHURCH \$300.00, CITY OF GERING \$19,337.80, COLUMN SOFTWARE, PBC \$274.57, CONTRACTORS MATERIALS, INC. \$594.00, CORE & MAIN LP \$6,528.51, CROELL, INC \$13,520.75, DESERT FOX GOLF \$465.00, DOOLEY OIL \$197.93, DUTTON-LAINSON COMPANY \$2,501.13, EAKES INC \$42.38, EAST PENN MANUFACTURING CO. \$100.51, ECOLAB \$497.06, EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT 13 \$802.00, ELLISON, KOVARIK & TURMAN LAW \$20,500.00, ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS SOUTH, INC. \$1,133.60, FAIRFIELD INN-KEARNEY \$289.90, FASTENAL COMPANY \$444.00, FAT BOYS TIRE & AUTO \$727.74, FEDEX \$268.87, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OMAHA \$10,627.00, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA - POLICE \$584.00, FLOYD'S TRUCK CENTER, INC. \$1,381.45, FRANK PARTS COMPANY \$849.58, FYR-TEK, INC. \$81.07, GALLS, AN ARAMARK COMPANY \$208.56, GORSUCH & SONS \$3,116.50, GRAINGER \$1,294.34, HAWKINS & COMPANY \$39.79, HDR ENGINEERING, INC. \$7,108.61, HOMETOWN LEASING \$164.55, IDEAL LAUNDRY AND CLEANERS, INC. \$746.26, INFINITY CONSTRUCTION INC. \$17,600.00, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE \$65,288.93, INTERSTATE BATTERY \$321.90, IRBY TOOL & SAFETY \$11,446.60, J RODZ \$75.00, JC GOLF ACCESSORIES \$925.00, JEO CONSULTING GROUP \$497.50, JIRDON AGRI CHEMICALS, INC \$1,872.13, JOHN HANCOCK USA \$21,373.26, JOHN HANCOCK USA FIRE \$1,075.74, JOHN HANCOCK USA POLICE \$12,265.72, JOHNSON CASHWAY CO. \$572.03, JORDAN MCBRIDE \$56.00, JUSTIN BERNHARDT \$275.00, KRAUPIE'S REAL ESTATE & AUCTIONEERS \$3,400.00, LAWSON PRODUCTS \$632.35, LEAGUE ASSOC./RISK MANAGEMENT \$153.69, LEE ENTERPRISES \$554.00, LEGACY COOPERATIVE \$12,949.00, LONG DRAW PRODUCTIONS \$1,300.00, MARK CHRISMAN TRUCKING \$28,063.87, MASEK DISTRIBUTING INC \$44.57, MB KEM OVERHEAD DOORS \$251.25, MENARDS \$323.75, MIDWEST CONNECT \$395.89, MOBIUS COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY \$30.00, MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGENCY OF NE \$750.00, MUTUAL OF OMAHA \$5,798.26, NC CHILD SUPPORT CENTRALIZED COLLECTIONS \$337.84, NEBRASKA CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT CENTE

\$714.93, NEBRASKA GENERATOR SERVICE LLC \$357.50, NEBRASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION \$1,000.00, NEBRASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRO LAB \$210.00, NIPPON SANSO MATHESON TRI-GAS INC \$164.29, NMC INCORPORATED \$83.76, NORTHWEST PIPE FITTINGS, INC \$2,022.23, NPZA \$235.00, OPEN A NINE, LLC \$719.39, O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE STORE \$90.09, PANHANDLE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE, INC. \$1,535.00, PEACEFUL PRAIRIE NURSERY, INC. \$716.69, PETE'S QUICK LUBE \$83.84, PIPE WORKS PLUMBING LLC \$9,200.00, PLANT NEBRASKA \$1,102.00, PONY EXPRESS STATION \$300.00, POWERPLAN OIB \$2,190.63, PREFERRED PUMP & EQUIPMENT \$14,007.75, PT HOSE AND BEARING \$160.12, PVB VISA \$16,492.27, R & R PRODUCTS, INC. \$43.91, RAPID FIRE PROTECTION \$54.95, REGION 22 EMERGENCY MANAG \$6,300.83, REGIONAL WEST MEDICAL CENTER \$60.00, RIVERSTONE BANK \$655.92, RVW INC \$12,175.00, SANDBERG IMPLEMENT, INC. \$1,526.45, SCB COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS \$10.00, SCB. COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE \$29.92, SCB/GERING UNITED CHAMBER OF \$4,879.00, SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY COURT \$331.06, SCOTTSBLUFF-GERING UNITED WAY \$216.34, SE MUNICIPAL SOLAR (NE), LLC \$2,871.76, SIMMONS OLSEN LAW FIRM, P.C. \$5,850.00, SIMON CONTRACTORS \$368.94, SUNSET LAW ENFORCEMENT \$4,863.50, SUPERIOR SWIM SYSTEMS INC \$12,774.00, SYSCO DENVER, INC. \$1,095.50, TERESA TOSH \$13,775.80, TICO CUSTOMS, LLC \$150.00, TITAN MACHINERY INC. \$318.05, TONYA ELSEN \$300.00, TORRINGTON SOD \$(75.00), TRAFFIC AND PARKING CONTROL CO LLC \$22,585.50, UNANIMOUS, INC. \$260.00, UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER \$1,275.00, WESCO RECEIVABLES CORP. \$198.88, WESTERN COOPERATIVE COMPANY \$9,917.21, WHITING SIGNS, LLC \$285.00, WINSUPPLY SCOTTSBLUFF NE CO. \$874.10 TOTAL \$469,159.72

Motion by Councilmember Morrison to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Councilmember Wiedeman. 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 approving Road Maintenance Agreement by and between the City of Gering and the City of Terrytown

Motion by Councilmember Gillen to approve a Road Maintenance Agreement by and between the City of Gering and the City of Terrytown. 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.

2. Consider approving the appointment of Tom Swan to the Economic Development Application Review Committee

Motion by Councilmember Gillen to approve the appointment of Tom Swan to the Economic Development Application Review Committee. Second by Councilmember Wiedeman. 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.

3. Consider amending the May 26, 2026 motion to approve a Special Event Permit Application with a request to discharge fireworks at Five Rocks Amphitheater for the Allred Brothers Fireworks Show on July 3, 2026
 Administrator Heath explained that due to the drought, the grass (in the parking areas at the amphitheater) have not recovered from last year's event traffic. Staff has made some improvements and put some gravel down, but is still concerned about the condition of the grass. Staff would like Council to consider amending the special event permit (for a fireworks show at the amphitheater) to select an alternate location if necessary. A location on City property that staff have in mind is the grass area northeast of Oregon Trail Park Stadium. Weather permitting, there will be a fireworks show for the Pioneers this Saturday, June 27; they usually set them off behind right center field at the ball park. That's an option, to move the July 3rd show there. Another option is the large grass area between the pool and the pickleball courts. If it's moved to the ball field area, people could sit in the stadiums at Oregon Trail Park Stadium and at the Diamond 1 Stadium. There are also grass areas where people could sit, and on the field(s). The discharge area would have to be roped off with cones and tape. This is an option that staff need to have because he has to look at all the upcoming events this summer at the amphitheater, especially Oregon Trail Days, which will be the heaviest traffic. The Horizon Music Fest will also fill up all the parking lots. It would cost \$100,000 to gravel Lot A; Lot C would be even more. Staff think the grasslands will be okay, but unless there is additional moisture, it will be a difficult time if the grass is lost - there will be dirt blowing all over the neighborhoods.

Councilmember Wiedeman clarified that the truck show is scheduled to be held at Kahuna Park. Administrator Heath replied, yes, but they still use the parking lots. He added details about reseeding the area and the fact that there isn't adequate water supply to irrigate in that location. Staff may need to add a couple hydrants and take extra precautions to protect the water system. Staff is requesting Council to allow an alternate location(s). Mr. Allred has other options, but he already has insurance adding the City as additional insured; staff and Mr. Allred are leaning towards a location on City property. The very recent rain storm will help, but the grass won't recover enough.

Councilmember Morrison asked Mr. Allred why the show was moved from the football field. Mr. Allred replied City of Gering Police and Fire personnel encouraged the move due to parking, safety, and logistical reasons. They have leaned on the advice of the City. Since the move, attendance has grown. Having the truck show in tandem gives people another reason to come. They have, however, often thought about Oregon Trail Park as an option for the fireworks show.

Councilmember O'Neal asked if it was possible to water the area with trucks. Administrator Heath replied yes, staff will be watering that area. The trees at Oregon Trail Park will probably also be sprayed down. Mr. Allred noted that the nice thing about Oregon Trail Park is that it spreads out the traffic. It also creates more of a neighborhood get-together atmosphere. They prefer an irrigated location; it's much safer. Councilmember O'Neal asked him if he was in favor of Oregon Trail Park. Mr. Allred replied that it will create some logistical issues and advertising concerns and some confusion, but "Right now I'm in favor of doing the show. There's a lot of time and money invested at this point and I don't want to see our local partners and Keno funds be for not this year." He added that he wants to create an opportunity to celebrate the 4th of July. If people don't want to buy fireworks but are able to see fireworks and attend a fireworks show, that's what they (the Allred Brothers) have always done. If they still want to do their own fireworks thing, they can, and that's encouraged. That's why they've always done the show on the 3rd; they want to provide something fun and celebratory for the city.

Administrator Heath stated again, staff just want to have the ability to make that decision if they have to. Councilmember O'Neal asked how long is staff going to wait? He replied they will make a decision this week. The City will also work with the Allreds to advertise since it's such a change. This was the only meeting that this could be decided as this event takes place on the 3rd of July. This just came up late last week. Staff will meet with Mr. Allred and the truck show organizers to make sure they're comfortable because "We don't want to leave them hanging up there at the amphitheater without a fireworks show and without people showing up there." He said if it doesn't work to move it, they'll leave it at the amphitheater and "do the best we can do." Administrator Heath added that staff will see what needs to be budgeted to get something done on the parking lots.

Councilmember Shields expressed concern about moving the truck show near the baseball fields because there won't be enough room; it's a big show and attracts a lot of people. Administrator Heath replied that staff believe it could be held on Overland Trail Road, the one-way street going north. Logistics would have to be worked out as the organizers have a band this year and there will be food vendors. There are logistics issues in both places. Staff's concern is what's going to happen at the amphitheater during Oregon Trail Days and subsequent events. He's hoping to meet with Mr. Anderson and Mr. Allred at the same time (for both events).

Mr. Allred noted that the phone call he received last Friday from City staff left him with the feeling that there are folks within our city who are making efforts to try to make the best for everything and help things out. He understands there are not second options for Oregon Trail Days and the Horizon Music Fest, so if he needs to move their fireworks show and work together to figure out how to get people there... luckily Oregon Trail Park is a left turn on D Street instead of a right turn. He thinks 90% of the traffic comes in that way. They're willing to work with the City and figure this out so that everybody wins. Administrator Heath added that the City has message boards that can be used to direct traffic as well. A map could also be put out to the public to show good viewing areas and areas where people could park along the street. He reiterated that this is only a consideration. Staff have to see what can be done to make it better "up there", so not all the grass will be lost.

Councilmember Gillen stated that ultimately "We need to be thinking about the fact that we're trying to find ways to have these events in our community and sometimes you have to pivot in order to make that happen. And it's better that we're thinking about this now than to get down to the end and we can't hold the music fest because the grounds are not accommodating, or other events. If we have the ability to move and we have partnerships we can rely on... albeit, change is always hard, but it's not like this is an area of town that we've never held an event at and people don't know where this part of town is." He added that he thinks Council should strongly consider giving the flexibility to staff to partner with the fireworks and truck show people and allow them to make the best decision possible. He stated he would much rather give the flexibility of having an alternative to where the City can still host it because it's greener in town than outside of town.

Councilmember O'Neal stated she agrees with Councilmember Gillen, her issue is staff had to have known how it looked when Council first decided to do this. She asked why this discussion wasn't held when it was approved the first time so Mr. Allred would have had more time to make plans and move. Now, it's a week away. Administrator Heath replied that there was some concern, but it wasn't a huge concern until staff physically walked the area and saw how much grass was gone and how bad it was where it didn't recover. He noted that staff doesn't spend every

day at the amphitheater in the off-season. Once high school and college kids are hired, that's when they start prepping for events. Mayor Ewing added that the car show this past weekend had to have some impact on that, too. He personally thinks Oregon Trail Park is the best option; it's an excellent area of town.

Councilmember Kinsey asked if a motion was needed. Administrator Heath replied that staff are requesting that Council amend the special event permit to include an alternate location as chosen by staff.

Motion by Councilmember Kinsey to approve amending the May 26, 2026 motion to approve a Special Event Permit Application with a request to discharge fireworks at Five Rocks Amphitheater for the Allred Brothers Fireworks Show on July 3, 2026 to: Allow staff to work with the applicant on an alternate location, most likely on City property, if it becomes necessary to do so. The motion shall remain contingent upon the applicant and Chief Flowers communicating leading up to the event and on the day of the event to determine if conditions are favorable for a fireworks show on City property. Chief Flowers will make a recommendation to the City Administrator who will make the final decision. Additionally, the applicant will take all necessary precautions to ensure a safe event; Fire Department personnel must be on scene if the show is held. Second by Councilmember Jackson. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Gillen, Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": Shields. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

BIDS/PROPOSALS:

1. Consider awarding the Pacific Boulevard Sidewalk and Pavement Improvement Project Bid

Adam Vath, Engineer with MC Schaff and Associates, stated they assisted Street Superintendent Dahlgrin, to bid a Sidewalk and Pavement Improvement Project on Pacific Boulevard where the culvert crosses from Northfield Park to the railroad tracks. The sidewalk there now is not really a sidewalk; it's a metal plate that acts as a drainage way for the street to drain through and into the culvert. They're going to raise that, replace the sidewalk, and make changes to the approaches – basically concrete pavement. Two bids were received, one from Infinity Construction and one from Grace Industries. Grace Industries was the low bid; a bid tab was provided to the Council. Their recommendation is to award the project to Grace Industries in the amount of \$95,500.

Councilmember Morrison stated that she's not familiar with Grace Industries. Councilmember Kinsey asked what Mr. Dahlgrin thinks; he usually favors Infinity Construction. Councilmember Morrison went on to ask who Grace Industries is and if the City has done business with them before. Administrator Heath replied that Grace Industries has been a contractor for quite a while and has had different names; they are bonded. As far as the City of Gering, there has not been issues with their work. They paved U Street from 10th Street to roughly 17th Street several years ago; there is some break up but some of that is due to the design where the expansion joints are. Mr. Vath stated that it's Justin Heggem and added that they did the Amazon warehouse. They just recently did work at Schwab Tire in Scottsbluff. He added that MC Schaff would be on site with inspectors while the work is being done on Pacific. Administrator Heath noted that staff have no reason not to recommend them based on work they've performed in Gering (under their old name).

Motion by Councilmember Morrison to award the Pacific Boulevard Sidewalk and Pavement Improvement Project Bid to Grace Industries, LLC in the amount of \$95,500. Second by Councilmember Cecil. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Cecil, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": Kinsey. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

2. Reject all bids for Three Phase Electrical Transformer

Administrator Heath explained that the City accepted bids for a three-phase substation style electrical transformer for CS Precision. It's a little different transformer than most of what the City has because this is a 34,500-volt transformer; it drops the voltage down to 480 volts. Two were ordered a while back but one of them could not be provided because of testing issues – they were rebuilt transformers. Only one bid was received when this went out for bid and that bid was high. Staff believe a lower bid can be received if there is more than one bidder. One of the bidders was busy and couldn't get a bid in on time. Staff would like to reject the bid and rebid it. This is only a backup transformer; the other one is there and scheduled to be installed either this week or next week at CS Precision. This will just be a spare transformer. "We have to have a spare in stock in case that transformer ever goes bad, we can drop one in and they're not out of power for two or three days, or in this case probably six weeks

to a year that it takes to get some of these transformers." Staff is recommending that the City reject the bid so more bidders can bid on this.

It is staff's plan to readvertise for bids on this transformer and staff recommend that Council reject the one bid that was received. He stated that this does not affect the MOU with CS Precision that was approved on the consent agenda. It was an addendum to the agreement Council passed in January that requires them to pay for this transformer when it comes in. If they don't, the City would disconnect the transformer that will be installed in the next week or two. The agreement guarantees that they will pay the City because the City charges for transformers now when people/developers expand or add equipment to their facility. Staff recommends that Council reject the bid and staff will rebid this project.

Councilmember Morrison clarified that the City is keeping the one; Administrator Heath replied yes, and staff will get a new bid on the other one. The other transformer, from the earlier bid, didn't meet the testing requirements. Councilmember Shields stated that she's all for getting stuff at a lesser price, but asked if it was fair to do – she felt like "we're picking and choosing" because the other company was too busy (to bid). Administrator Heath explained that this bid was considerably more - \$40,000 to \$50,000 more than the City purchased the other transformer for. Staff believe a better price can be received if they rebid for a rebuilt transformer.

Councilmember Gillen asked if it was above what was budgeted. Administrator Heath replied "We didn't budget for this because they (CS Precision) are purchasing this transformer; they can't order the transformer, the City has to." Councilmember Gillen asked about the sealed bid process. Administrator Heath replied that yes, the bids were sealed and there was only one bid; that bid is now public record. Any new bids that come in are sealed. It's always a possibility that bidders will know the price and bid the price of the one that did come in.

Motion by Councilmember Kinsey to reject all bids for the Three Phase Electrical Transformer. Second by Councilmember Morrison. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": Gillen, Shields. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

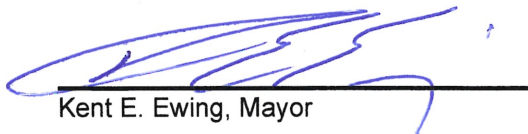
CLOSED SESSION: (Council reserves the right to enter into closed session if deemed necessary.) None.

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

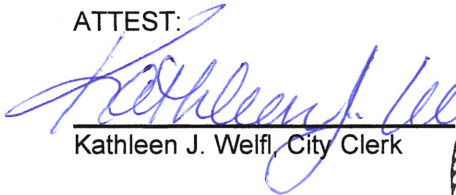
ADJOURN:

Motion by Councilmember Gillen to adjourn. Second by Councilmember O'Neal. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.


Kent E. Ewing, Mayor

ATTEST:


Kathleen J. Welfl, City Clerk

