

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

A regular meeting of the City Council of Gering, Nebraska was held in open session on March 23, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at Gering City Hall, 1025 P Street, Gering, NE. Present were Mayor Ewing and Councilmembers Shields, Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. Also present were City Administrator Pat Heath, City Clerk Kathy Welfl, and City Attorney Jim Ellison. Absent was Councilmember Gillen. 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. Administer Oath of Office for newly appointed Ward III Council Member, Dylan Cecil

City Clerk, Kathy Welfl, administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Council Member, Dylan Cecil, after which Councilmember Cecil took his seat with the Council.

3. Roll Call
4. Excuse Council Member absence

Motion by Councilmember O'Neal to approve the absence of Councilmember Gillen from the March 16, 2026 special City Council meeting and Councilmember Shields from the March 18 special City Council meeting. Second by Councilmember Wiedeman. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Gillen. 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 March 9, 2026 regular City Council Meeting
2. Approve minutes of the March 16 and 18, 2026 special City Council Meetings
3. Approve February, 2026 Financial Report
4. Approve Claims

Claims 3/10/26 – 3/23/26

24/7 FITNESS \$295.00, A & A PORTA POTTIES \$150.00, AC ELECTRIC MOTOR SERVICE \$2,586.10, ACE HARDWARE \$1,117.72, ACOUSTIC AIRWALL SPECIALTIES LLC \$1,372.00, ACUSHNET COMPANY \$8,709.68, ADVANCED SERVICES, INC. \$721.89, AFLAC \$957.18, ALARM SECURITY TECHNICIANS \$38.95, AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES \$1,495.03, AMERITAS LIFE INSURANCE CORP. \$622.84, ANNIE FOLCK \$123.00, AT&T MOBILITY \$1,635.28, B & C STEEL \$273.06, BLUFFS FACILITY SOLUTIONS \$665.89, BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES, INC \$3,286.64, CALLAWAY GOLF COMPANY \$8,215.97, CAMPSHOT \$588.46, CITY OF GERING \$22,257.56, COLUMN SOFTWARE, PBC \$402.60, CONNECTING POINT \$240.00, CONTRACTORS MATERIALS, INC. \$53.00, CROELL, INC \$3,967.50, CROWNE PLAZA-KEARNEY \$959.70, DANKO EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT CO \$51.43, DOOLEY OIL \$250.98, DUTTON-LAINSON COMPANY \$323.63, EAKES INC \$421.77, EJS SUPPLY, LLC \$314,928.00, ELITE TOTAL FITNESS \$165.00, ELLISON, KOVARIK & TURMAN LAW \$10,250.00, ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS SOUTH, INC. \$208.78, FASTENAL COMPANY \$200.79, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OMAHA \$13,898.58, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA - POLICE \$584.00, FLOYD'S TRUCK CENTER, INC. \$865.76, FRANCISCOS BUMPER TO BUMPER IN \$130.00, FRANK PARTS COMPANY \$1,534.97, FRONTIER OVERHEAD DOOR \$1,306.36, GALLS, AN ARAMARK COMPANY \$73.16, GARRETT TIRES & TREADS \$1,299.22, GERING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT. \$189.00, GOLDSTAR PRODUCTS INC \$1,120.90, GRAINGER \$272.94, GREATAMERICA FINANCIAL SERVICE \$100.00, GROUND UP CONSTRUCTION & CLEAN \$3,722.00, HAWKINS, INC. \$8,351.50, HDR ENGINEERING, INC. \$1,967.71, HOMETOWN LEASING \$164.55, IDEAL LAUNDRY AND CLEANERS, INC. \$680.08, INFINITY CONSTRUCTION INC. \$2,503.00, INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES \$288.77, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE \$57,068.10, J RODZ \$95.00, JOHN HANCOCK USA \$19,484.78, JOHN HANCOCK USA FIRE \$1,075.74, JOHN HANCOCK USA POLICE \$10,897.04, JOHNSON CASHWAY CO. \$493.83, KAREN HEINS \$123.00, KOIS BROTHERS EQUIPMENT CO. \$542.02, L.L. JOHNSON

DISTRIBUTING \$31,497.77, LAWSON PRODUCTS \$412.10, LEE ENTERPRISES \$442.00, LEGACY COOPERATIVE \$4,189.85, LIBRARY PASS INC \$1,351.35, LOGOZ LLC \$33.00, LOIS CECAVA \$270.86, MARK CHRISMAN TRUCKING \$36,058.40, MENARDS \$6,874.38, MIDTOWN ANIMAL HOSPITAL, P.C. \$76.50, MIDWEST CONNECT \$3,056.92, MOBIUS COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY \$30.00, MOTOR CONTROLS INC \$926.51, MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGENCY OF NE \$343,982.27, NC CHILD SUPPORT CENTRALIZED COLLECTIONS \$337.84, NEBRASKA CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT CENTE \$714.93, NEBRASKA DEPT OF REVENUE \$880.49, NEBRASKA DEPT OF WATER, ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT \$40.00, NEBRASKA DEPT. OF REVENUE \$66,118.12, NEBRASKA MUNICIPAL FIRE CHIEFS \$173.00, NEBRASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRO LAB \$105.00, NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT \$1,521.19, NEBRASKA STATE PATROL \$1,813.13, NKC TIRE \$203.30, NORTHWEST PIPE FITTINGS, INC \$826.88, O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE STORE \$357.99, PANHANDLE AUTO GROUP \$5,682.60, PANHANDLE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE, INC. \$736.00, PANHANDLE HUMANE SOCIETY \$3,168.50, PETE'S QUICK LUBE \$285.55, PING INC \$905.44, PIPE WORKS PLUMBING LLC \$2,350.00, PT HOSE AND BEARING \$242.03, PVB VISA \$10,289.95, R & C WELDING & FABRICATION \$110.00, R & R PRODUCTS, INC. \$1,192.40, RAPID FIRE PROTECTION \$380.00, REGIONAL CARE INC. \$1,831.84, REGIONAL WEST MEDICAL CENTER \$15.00, RIVERSIDE DISCOVERY CENTER \$5,000.00, RIVERSTONE BANK \$644.08, RON'S TOWING & RECOVERY, LLC \$450.00, RPM FITNESS \$110.00, RVW INC \$800.00, SANDBERG IMPLEMENT, INC. \$56.40, SCB. COUNTY AMBULANCE SERVICE \$316.23, SCB. COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE \$29.92, SCB/GERING UNITED CHAMBER OF \$215.00, SCOTTS BLUFF CO. CONSOLIDATED \$180.00, SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY COURT \$667.28, SCOTTSBLUFF PUBLIC SCHOOL \$237.76, SCOTTSBLUFF-GERING UNITED WAY \$226.34, SCS ENGINEERS \$1,708.00, SE MUNICIPAL SOLAR (NE), LLC \$5,372.98, SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER \$1,500.00, SHERWIN WILLIAMS \$594.29, SIMMONS OLSEN LAW FIRM, P.C. \$1,500.00, SNELL SERVICES, INC \$6,334.00, SOUTHWESTERN EQUIPMENT COMPANY \$302.94, TERESA TOSH \$9,957.47, TERRY CARPENTER, INC. \$650.00, TRANSWEST \$286.12, TYNDALE \$3,965.38, UNANIMOUS, INC. \$60.00, VALLEY AUTO LOCATORS LLC \$20.00, VERIZON CONNECT \$25.90, VERIZON WIRELESS SERVICES, LLC \$233.14, W J R INC. \$361.19, WESCO RECEIVABLES CORP. \$43,400.98, WESTERN COOPERATIVE COMPANY \$1,977.97, WESTERN PATHOLOGY CONSULTANTS \$71.00, YMCA OF SCOTTSBLUFF \$1,017.00, TOTAL \$1,134,121.90

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, Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Gillen. Motion carried.

BIDS/PROPOSALS:

1. Consider approving the purchase of two walking floor trailers – Environmental Services Department

Steve Mount, Environmental Services Director, explained that the City advertised for bids for two walking floor trailers. The purpose for these trailers is for transferring solid waste to a different landfill once the City's existing landfill reaches capacity which is expected to be November of 2026. Two bids were received – one from Wilkens Industries and one from Northern Truck Equipment. These trailers are new equipment to the operations of the Sanitation Department; they are not replacing existing equipment. They are needed by the fall of 2026. The Steco trailers are lower in cost, but cannot be delivered until March of 2027 which is far beyond the timeframe they will be needed.

Motion by Councilmember Kinsey to award the bid for two walking floor trailers for the Environmental Services Department to Wilkens Industries in the amount of \$241,528 which includes freight, noting that the delivery date for the trailers is set for September of 2026. Second by Councilmember Wiedeman. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Gillen. Motion carried.

2. Consider approving the purchase of a Current Production Model Day Cab Semi Tractor – Environmental Services Department

Mr. Mount explained that the City advertised for bids for a current production model day cab semi tractor. The purpose for this tractor is to pull the walking floor trailers when transferring solid waste to a different landfill once the City's existing landfill reaches capacity. One bid was received from Floyd's Truck Center in Scottsbluff. This semi tractor is new equipment to the operations of the Sanitation Department; it is not replacing existing equipment. This semi tractor is needed by the fall of 2026; delivery is planned for August 15, 2026. Staff recommend that Council approve the bid of \$197,987 from Floyd's Truck Center, which includes a wet kit and delivery. \$185,000 was budgeted leaving a difference of \$12,987. However, the walking floor trailers came in \$18,472 under budget. Staff will use the excess from the trailers to cover the deficit for the semi tractor.

Motion by Councilmember Wiedeman to award the bid for a 2027 Western Star 49X Day Cab Semi Tractor for the Environmental Services Department to Floyd's Truck Center in the amount of \$197,987, noting that the delivery date is set for August of 2026. Second by Councilmember

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

CURRENT BUSINESS:

1. Consider approving and authorizing the Mayor to sign an Agreement for Purchase of As-Available Energy by and between CS Precision Manufacturing, Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN), and the City of Gering

Motion by Councilmember Morrison to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an Agreement for Purchase of As-Available Energy by and between CS Precision Manufacturing, Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN), and the City of Gering. Second by Councilmember Wiedeman. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Gillen. Motion carried.

2. Consider approving and authorizing the Mayor to sign an Addendum to the City Administrator Employment Agreement

Motion by Councilmember Kinsey to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an Addendum to the City Administrator Employment Agreement. Second by Councilmember Morrison. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Gillen. Motion carried.

3. Consider approving the appointment of Councilmember Cecil to the Personnel and Public Safety Committees, as well as an alternate to the Recreation and Administrative Committees

Motion by Councilmember Morrison to approve the appointment of Councilmember Cecil to the Personnel and Public Safety Committees, as well as an alternate to the Recreation and Administrative Committees. Second by Councilmember Kinsey. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Gillen. Motion carried.

4. Consider approving the appointment of Councilmember Cecil as a Liaison to the Gering Library Board

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

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Consider approving Resolution 3-23 26-2 regarding Avoided Costs Rate related to the Inter-connection Policy with the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN)

RESOLUTION 3-26-2

Avoided Costs related to Interconnection Policy with the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN)

WHEREAS, the Gering City Council approved a Policy and Guidelines for Interconnection for Parallel Installation and Operation of small (25 kW or less) and large (greater than 25 kW to 100 kW) Customer-owned Renewable Electric Generating Facilities on November 9, 2020, and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the policy and guidelines was to establish standards for the Utility to interconnect and operate in parallel with customer-owned renewable electric generators, and

WHEREAS, Avoided Costs are the increment costs of the Utility's Electric Wholesale Supplier (EWS) energy or capacity or both which, but for the purchase from the Customer's Generating Facility, the Utility would generate itself or purchase from another source, and

WHEREAS, the Avoided Cost Rate (Less than or equal to 100 kW) Generator nameplate rating of 25 kW or less effective April 1, 2025 was \$0.04660 per kWh and the Generator nameplate rating greater than 25 kW effective April 1, 2025 was \$0.05554 per kWh, and

WHEREAS, the Avoided Cost Rates have changed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GERING CITY COUNCIL THAT:

The City of Gering adopts a new Appendix to the Interconnection Policy as outlined below.

**Appendix
Avoided Cost Rate
(Less than or equal to 100 kW)**

Avoided Cost Rate:

Generator nameplate rating of 25 kW or less: \$0.05100 per kWh

Effective date: April 1, 2026

Generator nameplate rating greater than 25 kW to 100 kW: \$0.05506 per kWh

Effective date: April 1, 2026

(Rate is subject to change)

The Municipal Agency of Nebraska will establish an agreement and rate for solar customers above 100 kWh.

Passed and approved this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Kent Ewing, Mayor

Attest:

Kathleen J. Welfl, City Clerk

Mayor Ewing noted a Scrivenor’s error on the agenda; this will be Resolution 3-26-2 instead of 3-23-2. Administrator Heath added that this resolution sets what’s known as the avoided cost rate. There are 13 customers in Gering that have small solar generation facilities on their homes or in their yards. They generate electricity for themselves, but the City is required to purchase the power they do not use. The avoided cost is the City’s payment to the customer for the excess power they don’t use. The avoided cost is set annually by MEAN, Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska. The City purchases that power and then resells it to customers because it goes to the City’s system. There are two different rates, one for 25 kW hours and less, and one for greater than 25 kW hours up to 100 kW. Anything beyond 100, MEAN deals directly with the customer, which is the agreement previously approved for CS Precision. That agreement set the avoided cost rate for CS Precision’s solar. Mean purchases that power and then sells it to other customers, such as Gering or another customer on the grid somewhere else. Pertaining to the resolution, this year the avoided cost for less than 25 kW hours increased, and the avoided cost for over 25 kW decreased slightly.

Motion by Councilmember O’Neal to approve Resolution 3-26-2 regarding Avoided Costs Rate related to the Interconnection Policy with the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN). Second by Councilmember Jackson. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. “AYES”: Shields, Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O’Neal, Morrison, Jackson. “NAYS”: None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Gillen. Motion carried.

2. Consider approving Resolution 3-23 26-3 regarding the Safe Streets for All Safety Action Plan

**RESOLUTION 3-26-3
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF GERING, NEBRASKA,
ADOPTING THE SAFE STREETS FOR ALL (SS4A) SAFETY ACTION PLAN**

WHEREAS, the City of Gering is committed to creating a safe and equitable transportation network for all residents, workers and visitors; and
WHEREAS, the City recognizes that even a single serious injury or fatality is unacceptable and that proactive planning is essential to prevent such events from occurring; and
WHEREAS, the City applied for and was awarded a SS4A Planning Grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation to develop a comprehensive Safety Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Safety Action Plan was developed in accordance with SS4A requirements and the Safe System Approach incorporating community engagement, equity considerations, and systemic safety strategies; and
WHEREAS, adoption of this Safety Action Plan will enable the City to apply for future SS4A Implementation Grants and other funding opportunities to support proactive safety improvements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF GERING, NEBRASKA:

SECTION 1. Adoption of Plan. The City Council hereby attaches the City of Gering Safe Passage Initiative Safe Streets and Roads for All Safety Action Plan, attached hereto as "Exhibit A".

SECTION 2. Commitment to Vision Zero. The City commits to a perpetual goal of zero roadway fatalities and serious injuries, and to maintain interim performance measures as outlined in the Plan.

SECTION 3. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 23 DAY OF MARCH, 2026

CITY OF GERING

Kent E. Ewing, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathleen J. Welfl, City Clerk

Mayor Ewing stated that regarding this resolution, it should read Resolution 3-26-3 instead of 3-23-3. City Engineer, Annie Folck, then explained that the City has been working on the Safe Streets for All project for about a year as part of a planning grant that was received. After a lot of public input and a lot of work with the consultants, the plan is now finalized. There was a joint Public Works/Public Safety Committee meeting a few weeks ago where the plan was reviewed in great detail. She added that JEO Consultants would provide an abbreviated description of the plan for the Council after which Council would consider a final adoption of the plan; that will make the City eligible to apply for implementation funds as well.

Jack Baker with JEO Consultants was present in person, and Project Lead, Zac Abrams, was present by Zoom to provide the presentation. The primary topics covered in the presentation included: Transportation Safety Matters (What is SS4A?), Safety Analysis, Community Safety Priorities, Proven Safety Countermeasures, Project Scoring Overview, and Safety Action Plan Priorities. The entire presentation and a copy of the full plan are available at the office of the City Clerk.

Following the presentation, Councilmember Shields stated that on the lower priorities scoring, regarding the pathway from The Preserve going north on Hwy. 71, there's no pathway south of The Preserve to Prairie Street and the Meadows. A lot of kids in The Preserve or Meadows area want to ride their bikes, and people want to go out and walk, but they can't do that because there's no pathway there. She was approached by several constituents about this matter. She asked if it was possible to bump that up to a higher priority level for the safety of the kids going to school. Mr. Abrams replied the priorities are based on the scoring. It doesn't mean lower priorities can't be a priority; it's intended to be a menu of choices. Priorities are intended to give guidance.

Motion by Councilmember Wiedeman to approve Resolution 3-26-3 regarding the Safe Streets for All Safety Action Plan. Second by Councilmember Morrison. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Gillen. Motion carried.

ORDINANCES:

1. Consider approving Ordinance No. 2181 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE XI: BUSINESS REGULATIONS, CHAPTER 114: ITINERANT MERCHANTS, PEDDLERS, AND SOLICITORS, OF THE GERING MUNICIPAL CODE, GERING NEBRASKA: REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF

Mayor Ewing clarified that this is an amended Peddler/Solicitor ordinance. This ordinance was considered by the Administrative Committee and they recommended approval. Councilmember Shields asked if this is the ordinance regarding the parks. Clerk Welfl replied, that's part of it, not all of it. Councilmember Shields asked if the City wanted to charge a per vendor fee as opposed to a flat fee. Clerk Welfl replied, that's what's being looked at right

now. She indicated that Administrator Heath is looking at imposing the fees after September, 2026. In the meantime, the event organizers will still fill out the form, and provide a list, but the per vendor fee won't begin until after the season. Everybody on the list that does activities at parks or on streets or anywhere else on City property will be notified so they'll be prepared for the next time they apply.

Councilmember Morrison made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2181 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE XI: BUSINESS REGULATIONS, CHAPTER 114: ITINERANT MERCHANTS, PEDDLERS, AND SOLICITORS, OF THE GERING MUNICIPAL CODE, GERING NEBRASKA: REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF. Seconded by Councilmember Jackson. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. “AYES”: Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O’Neal, Morrison, Jackson. “NAYS”: Shields. Abstaining: None. Absent: Gillen. Motion carried.

Councilmember Cecil moved that the ordinance be designated as Ordinance No. 2181 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”: Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O’Neal, Morrison, Jackson. “NAYS”: Shields. Abstaining: None. Absent: Gillen. Motion carried.

2. Consider approving Ordinance No. 2182 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GERING, NEBRASKA TO AMEND TITLE XI “BUSINESS REGULATIONS”, CHAPTER 116 “PLUMBERS” OF THE CITY OF GERING CODE OF ORDINANCES; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF

Engineer Folck stated that the City made amendments to the Plumbing and Mechanical Ordinances last year but as it was being implemented, staff noticed a couple things that required clarification. First, regarding the Plumbing Board, it stated that four members are required to make a quorum. There are only five members on the board; staff recommend changing that to three to make it easier to get a quorum. Regarding reciprocity, the ordinance states that the City can recognize licenses from other communities, but it wasn't specified what that would look like. The amended ordinance clarifies that to state that the Plumbing Board is the authority to accept those licenses through reciprocity. Quite often contractors come to town and have a time-sensitive situation and staff don't want to make them wait for a Plumbing Board meeting. Staff believe a good middle ground would be to allow a 30-day provisional license once they provide evidence that they are licensed in another community which gives City staff time to schedule a Plumbing Board meeting to issue a license through that process. That change was made in both the plumbing and mechanical codes.

Regarding Ordinance No. 2184, language was clarified from “General Contractor” to “General Building Contractor”. Additionally, that original ordinance stated that \$1,000,000 of liability insurance is required but the other two contractor ordinances state \$2,000,000. Staff want to update that to make it consistent with the other contractor ordinances; additionally, \$2,000,000 is more reasonable and more current with what they should be carrying.

Councilmember O’Neal asked for clarification regarding reciprocity. She asked, if someone is licensed in another state, why wouldn't that just make it equal to what Gering is? She asked if there's a difference in different states. Administrator Heath replied yes, there is. There are different codes; the City of Gering follows the Uniform Plumbing and Uniform Mechanical Code. There is also the International Code which is very similar, but some states have their own codes. There is quite a difference in reciprocities. It's easier to grant reciprocity if someone has been licensed through the Uniform or International Code, but if they come from a state that has its own code, it may not meet the definitions and requirements of what Nebraska requires for its codes. He believes Nebraska utilizes the International Code if a City doesn't have a code adopted, but there is a difference in them and that's why it's important to have the reciprocity process in place.

Councilmember Shields made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2182 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GERING, NEBRASKA TO AMEND TITLE XI “BUSINESS REGULATIONS”, CHAPTER 116 “PLUMBERS” OF THE CITY OF GERING CODE OF ORDINANCES; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE

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

Councilmember Kinsey moved that the ordinance be designated as Ordinance No. 2182 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 Wiedeman. There was no discussion. The Clerk called the roll. "AYES": Shields, Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Gillen. Motion carried.

3. Consider approving Ordinance No. 2183 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GERING, NEBRASKA TO AMEND TITLE XI "BUSINESS REGULATIONS" OF THE CITY OF GERING CODE OF ORDINANCES BY ADDING CHAPTER 119 "MECHANICAL CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE"; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF

Councilmember O'Neal made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2183 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GERING, NEBRASKA TO AMEND TITLE XI "BUSINESS REGULATIONS" OF THE CITY OF GERING CODE OF ORDINANCES BY ADDING CHAPTER 119 "MECHANICAL CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE"; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF. Seconded by Councilmember Morrison. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Gillen. Motion carried.

Councilmember Jackson moved that the ordinance be designated as Ordinance No. 2183 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 Shields. There was no discussion. The Clerk called the roll. "AYES": Shields, Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Gillen. Motion carried.

4. Consider approving Ordinance No. 2184 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GERING, NEBRASKA, TO AMEND TITLE XI "BUSINESS REGULATIONS" OF THE CITY OF GERING CODE OF ORDINANCES BY AMENDING CHAPTER 118 "CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE"; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN PAMPHLET FORM; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF

Councilmember Cecil made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2184 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GERING, NEBRASKA, TO AMEND TITLE XI "BUSINESS REGULATIONS" OF THE CITY OF GERING CODE OF ORDINANCES BY AMENDING CHAPTER 118 "CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE"; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN PAMPHLET FORM; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF. Seconded by Councilmember Kinsey. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Gillen. Motion carried.

Councilmember Wiedeman moved that the ordinance be designated as Ordinance No. 2184 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 O'Neal.

Discussion: Councilmember O'Neal asked if staff thought there was any kind of issue with dispensing of the three readings on these ordinances. Clerk Welfl replied that since they've all been approved before, she didn't see an

issue with it. Administrator Heath added that he didn't think there was an issue; this doesn't seem to be a controversial one. The City is just changing the liability and other requirements.

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

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

REPORTS:

1. Liaison Report, Park, Cemetery and Tree Board – Councilmember Jackson

Councilmember Jackson shared the following information:

PARKS:

- **Dome Rock Diamonds**
 - **Gering Girls Softball Association (GGSA)**
 - Recreation league started practice in early May, 2025 and ended with a league tournament the week of Oregon Trail Days in July. Games ran Monday through Thursday.
 - 270 participants.
 - League teams were from Scottsbluff, Mitchell, Bayard, Sidney and Kimball.
 - GGSA also has a travel team that hosted two tournaments:
 - Oregon Trail Invite was held May 16th-18 - Invite brought in 26 teams from the Front Range of Colorado, Wyoming, and South Dakota and Hastings, NE.
 - Boo Bash was held the 25th and 26th of October - 13 teams participated from Denver, Sheridan & Casper, WY and Rapid City.
 - Softball is working on fundraising to install a new scoreboard for Field 5 and will be working with Anderson Shaw Construction and B&C Steel on a batting cage facility in between fields 1 and 4.
 - **GO Baseball**
 - 215 participants.
 - Teams from Mitchell and Kimball played in Gering.
 - Played travel team games at Dome Rock Diamonds.
 - Partnered with 23 Club to host the Sugar Valley Showdown.
 - 41 teams participated in the tournament with several teams from Denver/Front Range of Colorado, Wyoming and South Dakota.
 - Plan to Co-host two additional tournaments in 2026 and have several Triangulars and Round Robbins.
 - **Legion Baseball**
 - Consisted of three different age groups
 - Seniors, Juniors and new Prep team.
 - Hosted 5-Day Junior State Baseball tournament with teams from Blair, Elkhorn, Hickman, Waterloo-Valley, West Point, McCook & Alliance participating.
- **Northfield Waterfall Project**
 - Renovation of the Northfield waterfall started in July and 95% of the hardscape is complete. The falls are functioning; additional pools were added to increase water volume in order for the falls to function properly. The water feature was transformed from open pools three feet plus depth and now are considered nearly zero depth which improves safety of the feature. 40 tons of Boulders, Rock and Flagstone were added to the project. Seating areas, steps and a patio were added. Landscape plantings will be added this spring. The Northfield Waterfall will be part of the 2026 Theater West Garden Walk as a tour site.
- **Renovated Diamond 1 (Legion Field)**
 - G&S Solutions removed the lip, regraded infield, rebuilt pitching mound and repaired batter's box.
 - Legion Baseball purchased black chain-link fence to replace the outfield fence in December.

CEMETERY

- In 2025 the Cemetery had:
 - 24 Full Burials

- 43 Cremation burials
- Sold 40 spaces
- 9 Saturday services
- Interred 15 Veterans
- Cemetery implemented the Monument fee:
 - In fiscal year 2024-25 \$2,300 was collected.
- Cemetery Road improvements are in planning stages for the summer of 2026.

TREE CITY USA

- City of Gering was awarded the Tree City USA recognition for 2025. This is the 36th year of recognition for the City. Gering also received a Growth Award. A minimum of 10 activity points are required to become a Growth Award Community. Proudly, with all that was done within the City in 2025, Gering earned 29 points!
 - Stats related to tree care submitted to Tree City USA:
 - \$71,290.27 invested in tree maintenance, care and wood waste utilization
 - Per Capita the City spends \$8.50 per capita on trees; the TCUSA base expectation is \$2.
 - 48 trees planted
 - 227 trees pruned
 - 20 trees removed
 - 113 hours volunteer hours were provided to support tree care
 - 150 hours of time was spent watering trees
 - Tree maintenance numbers for TCUSA DOES NOT include any work that is done by the Electric department for utility line clearance
 - The City partners with Gering Public Schools to provide logs for their construction program. They have a saw mill and kiln and use the wood for shop projects and building projects.
 - The landfill was able to grind wood waste this year instead of burning or burying the wood. This provided hundreds of yards of wood mulch for utilization within the city.
- The Park, Cemetery and Tree Board is working on revising tree ordinances, reworking the tree memorial program and creating a memorial bench program as well.
- Dr Don Gentry is the Chairman of the Board with Mike Donovan as Assistant Chair, and Vickie Nemnich is the Recording Secretary. Councilmember Jackson noted that the members of this board are doing an amazing job.

OPEN COMMENT: Discussion or action by Council regarding unscheduled business will not take place. This section is for citizen comment only.

Sgt. Justin Brunz of the Gering Police Department addressed Council and stated he is the SWAT Team Leader for the combined Scotts Bluff County SWAT Team. They made an announcement that they will be doing some training tomorrow on the west side of Gering near a subdivision and wanted the neighborhood to be aware. Usually they don't announce their trainings, but this one will look a little different with several partners of the SWAT Team coming out to train with them including drone operators and negotiators in the Scottsbluff EOD. They will be doing some small concentrated explosive entries on doors and simulated gun fire to help train SWAT operators for more high risk calls such as hostage situations. There will be louder noises than usual. Usually no one knows they're training, but this one will be different.

ADJOURN:

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

ATTEST:

Kathleen J. Welf
Kathleen J. Welf, City Clerk



Kent E. Ewing
Kent E. Ewing, Mayor