

THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GERING CITY COUNCIL, MARCH 24, 2025

A regular meeting of the City Council of Gering, Nebraska was held in open session on March 24, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at Gering City Hall, 1025 P Street, Gering, NE. Present were Mayor Ewing and Councilmembers, Gillen, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. Also present were City Administrator Pat Heath, City Clerk Kathy Welfl, and City Attorney Matt Turman. Absent were Councilmembers Shields and Seay. 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.

2. Oath of Office for newly appointed Ward IV Council Member, B.J. Kinsey

Mayor Ewing moved up agenda item #2 under 'Call To Order' after which the City Clerk administered the Oath of Office for newly appointed Council Member, B.J. Kinsey.

1. Recital of the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer

3. Roll Call

Mayor Ewing stated that a quorum of the Council was present and business could be conducted.

4. Accept letter of resignation from Ward IV Council Member, Troy Cowan

Motion by Councilmember Gillen to accept a letter of resignation from Ward IV Council Member, Troy Cowan. Second by Councilmember Kinsey.

Discussion: Mayor Ewing noted that City legal counsel has advised that by state statute, letters of resignation from Council Members must be accepted by the Council in order for the City to begin the process of filling the vacancy.

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

5. Excuse Councilmember 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 March 10, 2025 regular City Council meeting
2. Approve Claims
3. Approve February, 2025 Financial Report

Claims 3/11/25 – 3/24/25

24/7 FITNESS \$316.00, ACE HARDWARE \$616.00, ACUSHNET COMPANY \$2,079.28, AFLAC \$1,685.44, AL'S TOWING, INC \$135.00, AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES \$794.48, AMERITAS LIFE INSURANCE CORP. \$585.26, ANISIA TORRES \$75.00, ASCAP \$449.50, AT&T MOBILITY \$1,767.29, B & C STEEL \$67.50, BACKFLOW APPARATUS & VALVE CO \$61.60, BENZEL PEST CONTROL \$165.00, BLUFFS FACILITY SOLUTIONS \$442.65, BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES, INC \$964.09, BROWN'S SHOE FIT COMPANY \$474.00, C & C MANUFACTURING LLC \$212.78, CALLAWAY GOLF COMPANY \$5,739.21, CATTLE BANK & TRUST \$42,043.76, CERTIFIED LABORATORIES \$2,217.65, CITY OF GERING \$725.58, COLUMN SOFTWARE, PBC \$50.73, CONTRACTORS MATERIALS, INC. \$168.62, COZAD SIGNS, LLC \$290.00, DANKO EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT CO \$521.36, DOOLEY OIL \$96.41, DUTTON-LAINSON COMPANY \$504.56, EAKES INC \$722.82, ECOLAB \$403.68, EJS SUPPLY, LLC \$25,834.00, ELITE TOTAL FITNESS \$165.00, FASTENAL COMPANY \$471.70, FAT BOYS TIRE & AUTO \$644.96, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OMAHA \$14,650.23, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA - POLICE \$584.00, FLOYD'S TRUCK CENTER, INC.

\$2,984.19, FRANK PARTS COMPANY \$1,650.81, FRASER STRYKER PC LLO \$376.00, GERING MERCHANTS \$14,950.00, GERING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT. \$1,932.00, GORSUCH & SONS \$105.57, GREATAMERICA FINANCIAL SERVICE \$100.00, HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS \$949.99, HOMETOWN LEASING \$157.23, HYDRO OPTIMIZATION & AUTOMATION \$94.06, IDEAL LAUNDRY AND CLEANERS, INC. \$288.27, INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES \$870.64, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE \$60,313.04, INTRALINKS, INC. \$2,408.50, IRBY TOOL & SAFETY \$37.98, J RODZ \$225.00, JACO COMMODITIES, LLC \$9,083.49, JEO CONSULTING GROUP \$2,700.00, JOHN HANCOCK USA \$20,427.99, JOHN HANCOCK USA FIRE \$873.56, JOHN HANCOCK USA POLICE \$9,334.61, JOHNSON HARDWARE CO. \$1,196.00, JUSTIN BERNHARDT \$125.00, KALEB SHAW \$54.00, LEAGUE ASSOC./RISK MANAGEMENT \$3,098.44, LEGACY COOPERATIVE \$88.81, LOGOZ LLC \$350.00, MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT, LLC \$204.68, MENARDS \$2,018.80, MIDWEST CONNECT \$2,841.85, MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGENCY OF NE \$363,597.20, MUNICIPAL SUPPLY, INC. OF NE. \$7,293.60, NEBRASKA CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT CENTE \$784.16, NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF REV (PR) \$17,204.32, NEBRASKA DEPT OF ENVIRONMENT AND EN \$40.00, NEBRASKA DEPT OF REVENUE \$914.95, NEBRASKA DEPT. OF REVENUE \$68,007.63, NEBRASKA LAW ENFORCEMENT \$250.00, NEBRASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRO LAB \$315.00, NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT \$1,531.51, NEBRASKA STATE PATROL \$270.67, NKC TIRE \$119.54, NMC INCORPORATED \$576.94, NORTHWEST PIPE FITTINGS, INC \$1,044.14, ONE CALL CONCEPTS, INC \$68.60, O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE STORE \$160.03, PANHANDLE DIESEL SERVICE/TWIN CITY AUTO \$193.02, PANHANDLE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE, INC. \$57.00, PANHANDLE GOLF ASSOCIATION \$100.00, PANHANDLE HUMANE SOCIETY \$3,168.50, PAUL REED \$76,182.08, PING INC \$1,602.30, POMP'S TIRE SERVICE INC \$807.83, POWERPLAN OIB \$1,467.97, PT HOSE AND BEARING \$372.22, PVB VISA \$9,157.41, RAPID FIRE PROTECTION \$4,409.75, REGANIS AUTO CENTER \$865.20, REGIONAL CARE INC. \$100,958.26, RIVERSTONE BANK \$594.42, ROCKMOUNT RESEARCH & ALLOYS IN \$417.64, RPM FITNESS \$70.00, RVW INC \$1,523.57, SANDBERG IMPLEMENT, INC. \$98.78, SB/GERING LIONS CLUB \$9,900.00, SCB COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS \$10.00, SCB. COUNTY AMBULANCE SERVICE \$316.23, SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY COURT \$51.00, SCOTTSBLUFF-GERING UNITED WAY \$273.02, SCS ENGINEERS \$3,307.26, SE MUNICIPAL SOLAR (NE), LLC \$9,089.92, SELECT TRAVELER \$395.00, SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER \$1,000.00, SIARRA ZITTERKOPF \$75.00, SIMMONS OLSEN LAW FIRM, P.C. \$1,980.00, SIMON CONTRACTORS \$2,290.66, STEVE MOUNT \$121.00, TERESA TOSH \$19,071.83, TERRY CARPENTER, INC. \$650.00, THE CIT GROUP \$835.44, THE YOGA COLLECTIVE \$65.00, TICO CUSTOMS, LLC \$4,841.54, TIM BEAMON \$320.00, TRANSWEST \$302.96, TYNDALE \$2,894.77, UNANIMOUS, INC. \$920.00, UTILITY BILL REFUNDS \$1,762.73, VALLEY AUTO LOCATORS LLC \$781.13, VERIZON CONNECT \$25.90, VERIZON WIRELESS SERVICES, LLC \$666.36, W J R INC. \$145.00, WESTERN COOPERATIVE COMPANY \$6,131.58, WINSUPPLY SCOTTSBLUFF NE CO. \$1,126.15, YMCA OF SCOTTSBLUFF \$896.00, TOTAL \$981,035.37

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, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Shields, Seay. Motion carried.

BIDS/PROPOSALS:

1. Award bid for Current Production Model truck, cab, chassis and roll-off hoist – Sanitation Department

Environmental Services Director, Steve Mount, stated that the City advertised for bids for a new production model truck, cab and chassis and a hooklift hoist (also known as a roll-off truck). One bid was received for the chassis and two bids for the hoist. One of the hoist bids did not meet specifications. The combined bid for the chassis and hoist came in at \$257,705.00. There is a possibility of a tariff (on the chassis), but the dealer doesn't know exactly how much it might be. The truck is scheduled to be delivered by September 15. The tariff could be anywhere from \$1500 to \$4000. The total (if the tariff is \$4000) would be \$261,705.00. The Sanitation Department will sell a 2008 hooklift truck with a minimum bid of \$10,000. \$250,000 was budgeted for this purchase; there is adequate reserve in the Capital Outlay Equipment Fund for the difference for the new truck and hoist. The bids for the hoists and the bid for the chassis were all submitted by Floyd's Truck Center in Scottsbluff.

Motion by Councilmember Wiedeman to award the bid for a current production model truck chassis and roll-off hoist to Floyd's Truck Center for the purchase of a Western Star 47X Chassis and a Kois Brothers Stellar NTX52 Hooklift for the Sanitation Department for a combined amount of \$257,705 with an additional amount of up to \$4000 for a tariff surcharge that may be assessed to the chassis for a total of \$261,705. Second by Councilmember O'Neal. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Gillen, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Shields, Seay. Motion carried.

2. Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign Professional Services Agreement with JEO for the Safe Streets for All Action Plan project

Administrator Heath explained that the City of Gering applied for and was selected to receive \$200,000 of funding as part of the Safe Streets for All Grant Program. The City has budgeted an additional \$50,000 as matching funds. The purpose of this grant is to develop a Safe Streets for All plan which will identify street

improvements that will also improve safety for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists. The plan will also identify possible funding for the suggested improvements.

Additionally, the grant was intended to fund a demonstration project to allow the City to try new technologies to improve safety at key pedestrian crossings. However, due to some uncertainties about federal funding, it is now in question whether the City will receive the funds to complete the demonstration project. The \$150,000 of federal funds that was obligated to the project to go towards the Action Plan is still available to the City. However, the additional \$50,000 of federal funds may or may not be released. The City must provide a 20% match for the federal funds, which for the \$150,000 already appropriated will total \$30,000.

A Selection Committee made up of City staff, Councilmember Wiedeman, and a representative from the Tri-Cities Active Living Advisory Committee reviewed the proposals and interviewed two firms and ultimately selected JEO to complete this work on behalf of the City.

Councilmember Wiedeman added that JEO interviewed in person and FHU, out of Denver, interviewed by Zoom. They were both pretty equal in their presentation. The main reason for looking at this is for an action plan for the Scottsbluff/Gering Highway (north of the railroad tracks to the river bridge). There is no direct route from Scottsbluff to Gering. The plan it so come up with an idea of how to make that area safer for everyone – pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. Because the Committee felt the presentations were equal in nature, the Committee left it up to staff to select a finalist; they have chosen JEO.

Motion by Councilmember Morrison to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a Professional Services Agreement with JEO for the Safe Streets for All Action Plan Project with a professional services fee of \$180,000. Second by Councilmember Wiedeman. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Gillen, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Shields, Seay. Motion carried.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

1. Gering Library Board and Library Foundation Annual Report – Suzanne Myers, Secretary to the Library Board and Foundation Board President

Suzanne Myers presented the 2024 Annual Library Board Report as well as the Library Foundation Report. Among other things, she noted:

2023-2024 Library Statistics

Revenue

City of Gering - \$576,921

Federal - \$0

State - \$1,322-Library State Aid

Other

\$632 - Lender's Compensation

\$100 - Regional Library System Grant

\$6,938 - Other Grants/Donations

Total Operating Revenue - \$585,913

Capital Revenue - \$100,000

Capital Expenditures - \$15,578

Collection Statistics

2023-2024, Total Collection - 30,271

Print Materials - \$24,928

Electronic Materials - \$4,982

Other Materials - \$2,163

Total - \$32,073

Expenditures

Staff

Salaries & Wages - \$312,823

Employee Benefits - \$145,145

Total-\$457,968

Operating Expenses

Computer hardware, software, & acc. - \$2,721

Electronic Access - \$3,320

Continuing Education - \$1,357

Facility/Utilities - \$45,874

Total - \$53,272

Total Expenditures - \$543,313

Video- DVD

Previous year - 1422

Added - 28

Withdrawn - 285

Total - 1,165

Books:

Previous year - 28,803
Added - 1650
Withdrawn - 2606
Total - 27, 847

Newspapers/Periodicals

Previous year - 40
Added - 0
Withdrawn - 0
Total - 40

Audio- (CD)

Previous year - 1239
Added- 22
Withdrawn - 247
Total - 1014

Circulation of Materials

Adult collection -14,349
Children's Collection - 13, 656
Digital Materials - 11,234
Other physical items - 1,058
Total circulation - 40, 297

Motion by Councilmember Gillen to enter the Gering Library Board and Gering Library Foundation 2024 Annual Report into the public record. Second by Councilmember Wiedeman. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Gillen, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Shields, Seay. Motion carried.

2. Office of the City Clerk Annual Report – Kathy Welfl, City Clerk

Clerk Welfl provided an overview of the City Clerk's 2024 Annual Report noting specific duties that she and Administrative Secretary, Carol Martin, perform on a daily, monthly and annual basis and noted that they sincerely enjoy and value their roles as public servants. The report is on file at the City Clerk's Office.

Motion by Councilmember Gillen to enter the 2024 Annual City Clerk's Report into the public record. Second by Councilmember O'Neal. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Gillen, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Shields, Seay. Motion carried.

3. Approve Mayoral Appointment of Special Council Committee to conduct interviews for the Ward IV City Council vacancy

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

4. Approve the appointment of Councilmember Kinsey to the Public Safety, Recreation and Public Works Standing Committees, as well as an alternate to the Administrative Committee

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

5. Approve the appointment of Councilmember Kinsey as the liaison to the Central Irrigation District

Motion by Councilmember Wiedeman to approve the appointment of Councilmember Kinsey as the liaison to the Central Irrigation District. Second by Councilmember O'Neal. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Gillen, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Shields, Seay. Motion carried.

6. Approve the appointment of Councilmember O'Neal as the Vice-Chairperson of the Recreation Committee

Motion by Councilmember Wiedeman to approve the appointment of Councilmember O'Neal as the Vice-Chairperson of the Recreation Committee. Second by Councilmember Gillen. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Gillen, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Shields, Seay. Motion carried.

7. Approve the appointment of Councilmember Gillen as the Vice-Chairperson for the Public Safety Committee

Motion by Councilmember O'Neal to approve the appointment of Councilmember Gillen as the Vice-Chairperson for the Public Safety Committee. Second by Councilmember Wiedeman. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Gillen, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Shields, Seay. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

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

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

Mike Bruner, 1785 21st Street, Gering, addressed Council and stated that last summer he came before Council in a huff because he was charged to dump his camper at the RV Park. He suggested giving Gering residents a pass, similar to the landfill monthly usage and Council listened. He wanted to publicly express his gratitude to the members of the Council for letting him feel he's had a chance to help shape a piece of government regulation. He thanked the Council.

ADJOURN:

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

ATTEST:


Kathleen J. Welfl, City Clerk




Kent E. Ewing, Mayor