

## **THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GERING CITY COUNCIL, SEPTEMBER 2, 2026**

A special meeting of the City Council of Gering, Nebraska was held on September 2, 2026 at 5:15 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, City Clerk Kathy Welfl, and City Attorney Jim Ellison. Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication in the Star-Herald, the designated method of giving notice, on August 29, 2026. 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 5:16 p.m. and stated a quorum of the Council was present and City business could be conducted.

1. Recital of the Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call

### **OPEN MEETINGS ACT - NEB.REV.STAT. CHAPTER 84, ARTICLE 14**

Mayor Ewing stated: As required by State Law, public bodies shall make available copies of the Open Meetings Act in the meeting room, located on the counter by the press corps. 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 Council determines that the matter requires emergency action.

### **CURRENT BUSINESS:**

#### **1. Remove from table: Consider candidates and recommendation for Summer Baseball Team Lease, and direct staff to enter into contract negotiations with potential candidate**

**Motion by Councilmember Wiedeman to remove from table the 'Consideration of candidates and recommendation for Summer Baseball Team Lease, and direct staff to enter into contract negotiations with a potential candidate' agenda item that was tabled at the August 24, 2026 regular City Council meeting. Second by Councilmember Kinsey. There was no discussion. The Clerk called the roll. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Absent: None. Abstaining: None. Motion carried.**

#### **2. Consider candidates and recommendation for Summer Baseball Team Lease, and direct staff to enter into contract negotiations with potential candidate**

Mayor Ewing turned Current Business Agenda item number 2 over to Councilmember Wiedeman, who is also the Chairperson of the Recreation Committee.

Councilmember Wiedeman commended staff for doing a lot of due diligence and making a lot of phone calls and talking to numerous people about the candidates. She stated that the Recreation Sub-Committee (interview committee) was prepared to make a motion. She then made a motion to enter into negotiations with Jeff Dobish who is the owner and managing member of Sugar Beets Baseball, LLC. She added that he will own the team and it will be part of the Independence League. The Independence League was the league that the former team in Gering was part of for a while. She noted that a lot of communities were contacted prior to coming to this recommendation.

**Motion by Councilmember Wiedeman to direct staff to enter into contract negotiations with Jeff Dobish of Sugar Beets Baseball, LLC for a summer baseball team at Oregon Trail Park Stadium. Second by Councilmember Shields.**

**Discussion:** Councilmember Gillen clarified that once they finish negotiations, it will come back to Council for approval; this is just to enter into negotiations with this team. Councilmember Wiedeman replied right, and the contract will need to be approved by Council. Administrator Heath also replied, correct.

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

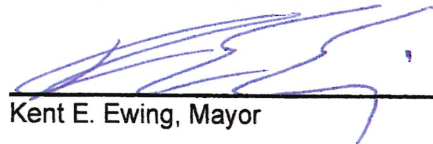
**CLOSED SESSION:** (Council reserves the right to enter into closed session if deemed necessary.) None.

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

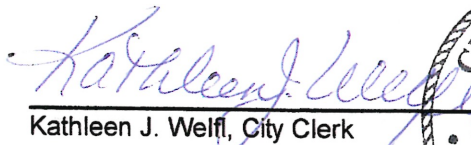
**ADJOURN:**

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

**The meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.**

  
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Kent E. Ewing, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
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Kathleen J. Welfl, City Clerk

