

THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GERING CITY COUNCIL, SEPTEMBER 8, 2025.

A regular meeting of the City Council of Gering, Nebraska was held in open session on September 8, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at Gering City Hall, 1025 P Street, Gering, NE. Present were Mayor Ewing and Councilmembers Shields, Frye, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. Also present were City Administrator Pat Heath, City Clerk Kathy Welfl, and City Attorney Jim Ellison. Absent were Councilmembers Gillen and Kinsey. 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

Motion by Councilmember Morrison to approve the absence of Councilmember Kinsey from the August 25, 2025 regular City Council meeting. Second by Councilmember Wiedeman. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Frye, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Gillen, Kinsey. 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 August 25, 2025 regular City Council Meeting
2. Approve Claims
3. Approve the July, 2025 Financial Report

Claims 8/26/25 – 9/8/25

308 PLUMBING SOLUTIONS \$225.00, A & A PORTA POTTIES \$585.00, ACE AMERICAN INSURANCE CO \$5.00, ACE HARDWARE \$5.99, ACTION COMMUNICATIONS, INC. \$155.00, ACUSHNET COMPANY \$255.56, ADIDAS AMERICA, INC \$562.50, ALARM SECURITY TECHNICIANS \$38.95, ALLO COMMUNICATIONS \$3,521.67, AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES \$502.65, AMERICAN BUS ASSOCIATION \$1,850.00, AMERITAS LIFE INSURANCE CORP. \$592.48, AT&T MOBILITY \$341.49, B & H INVESTMENTS, INC \$39.00, BIG MACK HEATING & COOLING \$475.98, BLUFFS FACILITY SOLUTIONS \$383.97, BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES, INC \$14,443.06, BRIAN PICHMAN \$250.00, BRIANA BLANCO \$75.00, CALLAWAY GOLF COMPANY \$1,640.98, CAMPSHOT \$886.66, CENGAGE LEARNING/GAGE \$111.75, CENTRAL PROGRAMS, INC \$152.10, CERTIFIED LABORATORIES \$2,217.65, CHIMNEY ROCK PPD \$1,384.50, CITY OF GERING \$60.00, CLARK PRINTING LLC \$438.25, CLIA LABORATORY PROGRAM \$248.00, COLUMN SOFTWARE, PBC \$291.86, CONSUMER REPORTS \$30.00, CORE & MAIN LP \$3,905.51, CROSSCOUNTRY COURIER INC \$318.85, DEARBORN LIFE INSURANCE COMPAN \$113.52, DITCH WITCH UNDERCON \$31.65, DOOLEY OIL \$220.00, DUTTON-LAINSON COMPANY \$4,730.89, EAKES INC \$274.16, ECOLAB \$100.00, ELLISON, KOVARIK & TURMAN LAW \$10,000.00, ERIC REICHERT CONSTRUCTION \$325,926.19, FASTENAL COMPANY \$326.93, FAT BOYS TIRE & AUTO \$66.44, FEDEX \$67.54, FELSBURG HOLT & ULLEVIG INC \$2,872.50, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OMAHA \$8,314.93, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA - POLICE \$584.00, FLOYD'S TRUCK CENTER, INC. \$258,820.38, FRANK PARTS COMPANY \$1,274.87, FYR-TEK, INC. \$82.82, GERING POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION, LODGE #40 \$200.00, GOLF & SPORT SOLUTIONS \$1,858.06, GREY HOUSE PUBLISHING \$216.00, HAWKINS, INC. \$360.00, HEALTHBREAK, INC. \$676.00, HEARTLAND EXPRESSWAY \$60.00, HENNING BROTHERS \$83.00, HOME DEPOT CREDIT SERVICES \$412.65, HORIZON TO HORIZON, INC \$75.00, IDEAL LAUNDRY AND CLEANERS, INC. \$1,016.60, INDOFF INCORPORATED \$312.11, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE \$58,295.15, INTRALINKS, INC. \$8,563.06, IRBY TOOL & SAFETY \$580.50, ITRON, INC. \$850.00, J RODZ \$85.00, J.J. KELLER & ASSOCIATES \$752.74, JACK'S REFRIGERATION \$424.00, JEO CONSULTING GROUP

\$56,076.20, JIRDON AGRI CHEMICALS, INC \$346.68, JOHN HANCOCK USA \$17,769.80, JOHN HANCOCK USA FIRE \$873.56, JOHN HANCOCK USA POLICE \$9,730.16, JOHNSON CASHWAY CO. \$300.00, JUSTIN BERNHARDT \$150.00, LAWSON PRODUCTS \$43.20, LEGACY COOPERATIVE \$10,282.36, LOGOZ LLC \$233.00, LONDON FLATS, LLC \$1,293.52, MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT, LLC \$867.10, MAIN STREET APPLIANCE \$3,988.13, MASEK DISTRIBUTING INC \$5,400.00, MATHESON TRI-GAS INC \$78.79, MATTY B'S HVAC \$2,899.60, MENARDS \$88.77, MERCHANT JT&S \$550.00, MIDWEST CONNECT \$4,612.73, MILLER & ASSOCIATES CONSULTING ENGINEERS, P.C. \$3,822.50, MOBIUS COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY \$30.00, MUNICIPAL SUPPLY, INC. OF NE. \$4,253.25, MUTUAL OF OMAHA \$5,105.03, NC CHILD SUPPORT CENTRALIZED COLLECTIONS \$50.24, NEBRASKA CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT CENTER \$714.93, NEBRASKA GOLF ASSOCIATION \$50.00, NKC TIRE \$322.60, NOREGON SYSTEMS, LLC \$2,199.00, NORTHWEST PIPE FITTINGS, INC \$1,045.49, ONE CALL CONCEPTS, INC \$111.94, O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE STORE \$23.40, OSWALDO BERAUN \$175.00, PANHANDLE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE, INC. \$181.00, PATTLEN ENTERPRISES, INC \$2,159.50, PETE'S QUICK LUBE \$249.21, PHILIP SCHMITT \$401.10, PONY EXPRESS STATION \$300.00, PRAISE WINDOWS \$350.00, PROTEX CENTRAL, INC. \$98.00, PT HOSE AND BEARING \$407.55, QUADIENT POSTAGE FUNDING \$1,600.00, REGION 22 EMERGENCY MANAG \$3,656.59, REGIONAL CARE INC. \$122,163.72, RIVERSIDE DISCOVERY CENTER \$4,166.67, RIVERSTONE BANK \$561.04, RON'S TOWING & RECOVERY, LLC \$225.00, SANDBERG IMPLEMENT, INC. \$914.25, SCOTTSBLUFF-GERING UNITED WAY \$273.02, SE MUNICIPAL SOLAR (NE), LLC \$20,459.12, SIMON CONTRACTORS \$5,502.44, STATE FIRE MARSHAL TRAINING DI \$100.00, STRYKER SALES \$1,082.14, TEAM CHEVROLET \$600.00, TERESA TOSH \$10,400.80, TNEMEC COMPANY, INC. \$1,463.00, TYLER TECHNOLOGIES \$4,640.00, ULINE, INC \$353.94, UNITED INDUSTRIES \$12,696.00, UTILITY BILL REFUNDS \$443.48, VERIZON WIRELESS SERVICES, LLC \$552.62, WESCO RECEIVABLES CORP. \$16,134.46, WESTERN COOPERATIVE COMPANY \$6,941.42, TOTAL \$1,077,184.15

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

CURRENT BUSINESS:

1. Presentation by David Schleve honoring James H. Ray, a Gering Law Enforcement Officer, who died in the line of duty on August 7, 1959

David Schleve presented a plaque to Mayor Ewing and Sargent Brunz of the Gering Police Department in honor of James H. Ray, a Gering Police Officer who died in the line of duty on August 7, 1959. Mr. Schleve wrote a book titled "Tour of Duty, End of Watch" to honor all the fallen Law Enforcement Officers in Nebraska. In his research, he found that while these fallen officers have been honored at the Nebraska Law Enforcement Memorial, not all of them have been honored in their respective departments.

2. Consider recommendation by the Recreation, Leisure Services and Cultural Committee regarding the Gering Library Foundation Capital Campaign

Councilmember Wiedeman, Chairperson of the Recreation, Leisure Services and Cultural Committee, stated that the Committee met on August 18 to discuss the future of the Gering Public Library and to review of a conceptual plan prepared by JEO. Over the years, The Library Foundation has looked at possible locations for a new library, but it became apparent that it would be too expensive to build a new library. The new Library Director, Christie Clarke, and staff have done some creative things to use the existing space really well. Councilmember Wiedeman briefly reviewed the three options that were provided by JEO in the conceptual plan. It is the intention to preserve the mosaic on the west side of the library. She explained the addition that would be added on the west side of the building as well as amenities such as a ramp, elevator and options for a future expansion including a community room. The library would also receive a much-needed electrical upgrade.

She read the Consensus/Recommendation of the Committee: *The Committee recommends to full Council that the Library Foundation move forward with Option 1 with the alternate (which is everything) as the preferred plan and if they can't do the elevator, at least the ramp, and possibly add the shaft so the elevator could be added later. Also, recommend to the Foundation to be mindful of letting donors know that even if they can't raise all the funds through donations and grants, a lesser version of the proposal could still be done.*

Councilmember Morrison inquired about the costs. Councilmember Wiedeman replied the costs are shown in the packet (roughly \$5,000,000 for "everything"). The Foundation is looking at roughly a five-year timeline.

Motion by Councilmember Wiedeman to approve the Recreation, Leisure Services and Cultural Committee's recommendation for the Gering Library Foundation to move forward with a capital campaign for Option 1 with the alternate of the conceptual plan prepared by JEO. If the full amount cannot be raised through donations and grants, it is recommended that at least the ramp be installed and possibly add the shaft so the elevator could be added later. Second by Councilmember Frye. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Frye, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Gillen, Kinsey. Motion carried.

3. Consider Approval of Occupation Tax Grant Fund Request for the Historic Midwest Theater for Voices of the High Plains: Cultural Celebrations at Five Rocks Amphitheater and the Gering Plaza

Director of Tourism, Tina Worthman, reported that the Occ Tax Grant Fund Advisory Committee met on August 19 to consider two applications. The first was for the Historic Midwest Theater for Voices of the High Plains Cultural Celebrations at Five Rocks Amphitheater and the Gering Civic Plaza to include Mariachi Divas on September 12, and Many Moccasins Dance Troupe on October 12 (and October 13 for student outreach). Funding will be used to cover essential program costs such as artist fees, regional outreach, youth engagement activities (roughly 1000 youth at the Amphitheater) and production assistance. The Committee voted to recommend \$12,000 of Occ Tax Funds for this request.

Motion by Councilmember Morrison to approve an Occupation Tax Grant Fund request for the Historic Midwest Theater Voices of the High Plains programs in the amount of \$12,000. Second by Councilmember Wiedeman. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Frye, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Gillen, Kinsey. Motion carried.

4. Consider Approval of Occupation Tax Grant Fund Request for the Lions Club Annual Basketball Tournament

Tourism Director Worthman explained that the Scottsbluff/Gering Lions Club requested funds to cover costs for their Annual Basketball Tournament including rentals of spaces and officials. The event is held annually during President's Day weekend and attracts over 80 teams to the area. Teams stay in local hotels, including Hotel 21, which hosted 12 rooms. Most participants stay Friday through Sunday. They received a \$9900 grant last year, and asked for \$15,000 this year. The Committee recommended \$10,000 to stay similar to what they received last year.

Councilmember Jackson noted that on the goals for the Occupation Tax Fund, it says "The goal of Occupation Tax Funds are for new business development; not designed to become subsidies for long-standing projects and/or events". Ms. Worthman replied that that was discussed with the applicant; the Committee found this to be a valuable request and recommended it again this year, but from now on they suggested other grants to subsidize this event. This fund is predominately for new events. Councilmember Wiedeman added that they have gotten Keno Funds in the past – it is a big weekend and there are a lot of people in town.

Motion by Councilmember Morrison to approve an Occupation Tax Grant Fund request for the Scottsbluff-Gering Lions Club for a basketball tournament in the amount of \$10,000. Second by Councilmember Wiedeman. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Frye, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Gillen, Kinsey. Motion carried.

ORDINANCES:

1. Approve Ordinance No. 2162 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FEES CHARGED FOR THE USE OF THE CITY LANDFILL; AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF

Councilmember Morrison made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2162 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FEES CHARGED FOR THE USE OF THE CITY LANDFILL; AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF. Seconded by Councilmember Jackson. There was no discussion.

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

Councilmember Shields moved that the Ordinance be designated as Ordinance No. 2162 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 Frye. There was no discussion. The Clerk called the roll. "AYES": Shields, Frye, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Gillen, Kinsey. Motion carried.

2. Approve Ordinance No. 2163 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE WATER RATES FOR CITY AND OUT OF CITY LIMITS RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL USERS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF

Councilmember Wiedeman made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2163 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE WATER RATES FOR CITY AND OUT OF CITY LIMITS RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL USERS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF. Seconded by Councilmember O'Neal. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Frye, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Gillen, Kinsey. Motion carried.

Councilmember Morrison moved that the Ordinance be designated as Ordinance No. 2163 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 Jackson. There was no discussion. The Clerk called the roll. "AYES": Shields, Frye, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Gillen, Kinsey. Motion carried.

3. Approve Ordinance No. 2164 - AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE AMENDING FEES FOR RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL SEWER SERVICE CHARGES, AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF

Councilmember O'Neal made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2164 – AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE AMENDING FEES FOR RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL SEWER SERVICE CHARGES, AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF. Seconded by Councilmember Morrison. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Frye, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Gillen, Kinsey. Motion carried.

Councilmember Jackson moved that the Ordinance be designated as Ordinance No. 2164 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, Frye, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Gillen, Kinsey. Motion carried.

4. Approve Ordinance No. 2165 - AN ORDINANCE TO ADJUST EXISTING ELECTRICAL RATES; REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 2138; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF

Councilmember Morrison made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2165 – AN ORDINANCE TO ADJUST EXISTING ELECTRICAL RATES; REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 2138; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF. Seconded by Councilmember Jackson. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Frye, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Gillen, Kinsey. Motion carried.

Councilmember Shields moved that the Ordinance be designated as Ordinance No. 2165 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 Frye. There was no discussion. The Clerk called the roll. "AYES": Shields, Frye, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Gillen, Kinsey. Motion carried.

5. Approve Ordinance No. 2166 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GERING, NEBRASKA TO ESTABLISH FEES FOR RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL STORMWATER SURCHARGE, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF

Councilmember O'Neal made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2166 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GERING, NEBRASKA TO ESTABLISH FEES FOR RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL STORMWATER SURCHARGE, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF. Seconded by Councilmember Morrison. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Frye, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Gillen, Kinsey. Motion carried.

Councilmember Jackson moved that the Ordinance be designated as Ordinance No. 2166 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, Frye, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Gillen, Kinsey. Motion carried.

BIDS/PROPOSALS:

REPORTS:

1. Liaison Report - Central Irrigation District, Councilmember Kinsey

Councilmember Kinsey was not present to give a liaison report.

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.

Councilmember Wiedeman commended all the City staff that worked on the Horizon Music Festival. It took a lot of work from the City; she wanted to commend the great job staff did. There were people sitting near her from Cheyenne that were staying the night and people from other areas of Nebraska. There were license plates from all over. It was a great event; she was very impressed and thanked City staff.

ADJOURN:

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

ATTEST:


Kathleen J. Welfl, City Clerk




Kent E. Ewing, Mayor