

THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GERING CITY COUNCIL, FEBRUARY 10, 2020

A regular meeting of the City Council of Gering, Nebraska was held in open session on February 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at Gering City Hall, 1025 P Street, Gering, NE. Present were Mayor Kaufman and Councilmembers Gillen, Backus, Abel, Wiedeman, O'Neal, and Cowan. Also present were City Administrator Lane Danielzuk, City Clerk Kathy Welfl and City Attorney Jim Ellison. Absent was Councilmembers Smith and Morrison. 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 Kaufman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Mayor stated that there was a quorum of the Council and City business could be conducted.

1. Recital of the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer
2. Roll Call
3. Excuse councilmember absence

Motion by Councilmember Gillen to excuse the absence of Councilmember Morrison from the January 27, 2020 regular meeting. Second by Councilmember O'Neal. There was no discussion. The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Gillen, Backus, Abel, Wiedeman, O'Neal, and Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Smith, Morrison. Motion Carried.

Mayor Kaufman welcomed Matt Palomo and Troop 17.

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

Mayor Kaufman 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 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 January 27, 2020 regular City Council meeting
2. Approve Claims and Financials

Claims:

1-29-2020 to 2-5-2020

24/7 FITNESS -\$445.00; ABDO-SPOTLIGHT-MAGIC WAGON -\$280.25; AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, INC -\$336.68; AMERITAS LIFE INSURANCE COPR. -\$1106.28; ASP ENTERPRISES -\$584.5; AUTO ZONE 1657 -\$44.95; B & H INVESTMENTS, INC -\$21.50; BAKER & ASSOCIATES, INC. -\$6187.50; BENZEL PEST CONTROL -\$85.49; BKD RENTALS LLC -\$2154.20; BLUFFS FACILITY SOLUTIONS -\$287.22; BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES, INC -\$341.02; BRETHOURS HONEYWAGON EXPRESS -\$360.00; CENTURYLINK -\$2822.20; CITY INSURANCE FUND -\$180331.47; CITY OF GERING -\$1558.65; CITY PAYROLL TRUST -\$4943.44; CLINTON RATLIFF -\$150.00; COOK'S COUNTRY -\$29.95; CORE & MAIN LP -\$1720.00; COULTER INC. -\$1789.16; CREDIT MANAGEMENT SERVICES -\$369.00; DALE'S TIRE -\$18.00; DAS STATE ACCOUNTING-CENTRAL -\$139.72; DEARBORN LIFE INSURANCE COMPAN -\$127.28; DEMCO, INC -\$164.49; DENNIS SUPPLY COMPANY -\$130.96; DUTTON-LAINSON COMPANY -\$232.60; ECOLAB -\$31.05; ELITE TOTAL FITNESS -\$257.00; ELLISON, KOVARIK & TURMAN LAW -\$2888.75; FAIRFIELD INN -\$229.90; FASTENAL COMPANY -\$950.42; FAT BOYS TIRE & AUTO -\$959.00; FIRST STATE BANK -\$341.71; FLOYD'S TRUCK CENTER, INC. -\$11297.98; FRANK PARTS COMPANY -\$473.02; FREMONT MOTOR SCOTTSBLUFF, LLC -\$151.52; GALE -\$172.71; GALL'S INC. -\$1056.00; GENE PETERSON -\$150.00; GERING U-SAVE PHARMACY -\$7.88; GERING VALLEY PLUMBING & HTG. -\$2436.60; GERING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT. -\$120.44; GREATAMERICA FINANCIAL SERVICE -\$100.00; GUNS & AMMO -\$18.00; HAWKINS, INC. -\$50.00; HENSLEY BATTERY, LLC -\$1207.60; HOME DEPOT CREDIT SERVICES -\$323.90; ICMA ELECTRONIC RETIREMENT -\$709.74; IDEAL LAUNDRY AND CLEANERS, IN -\$273.16; INDOFF INCORPORATED -\$140.36; INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES -\$374.53; INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE -\$38782.87; INTRALINKS, INC. -\$10587.93; IRBY TOOL & SAFETY -\$128.40; JOHN HANCOCK USA -\$13519.63; JOHN HANCOCK USA POLICE -\$6188.02; JOHNSON CASHWAY CO. -\$74.41; LINDA PETERSON -\$163.97; LOGOZ LLC -\$353.00; MASEK DISTRIBUTING INC -\$205.90; MATRIX TRUST COMPANY -\$534.68; MEAT SHOPPE -\$21005.62; MENARDS -\$623.44; MIDAMERICA BOOKS -\$353.10; MONEY WISE OFFICE SUPPLY -\$170.41; MUTUAL OF OMAHA -\$363.75; NE CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT CENTE -\$647.09; NE DEPARTMENT OF REV (PR) -\$19505.23; NE PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRO LAB -\$420.00; NEBRASKA DEPT OF REVENUE -\$8537.00; NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT -\$1571.51; NEBRASKA SALT AND GRAIN CO. -\$4214.81; NEOFUNDS BY NEOPOST -\$1600.00; OCLC, INC. -\$160.66; PANHANDLE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVIC -\$1217.00; PANHANDLE HUMANE SOCIETY -\$3168.50; PATTLEN ENTERPRISES, INC -\$833.14; POSTMASTER -\$800.00; POWERPLAN OIB -\$0; RECORDED BOOKS, INC. -\$80.99; REGIONAL WEST PHYSICIANS CLINIC -\$180.70; RUSSELL INDUSTRIES -\$1372.96; RYAN'S WELDING LLC -\$1400.00; SCB. COUNTY AMBULANCE SERVICE -\$316.23; SCB. COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE -\$107.08; SCI SALES, LLC -\$1680.00; SCOTTS BLUFF CO. CONSOLIDATED -\$340.00; SCOTTSBLUFF TENT & AWNING -\$48.50; SCOTTSBLUFF-GERING UNITED WAY -\$127.50; SECURITY NATIONAL BANK OF OMAH -\$746.69; SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER -\$525.00; SERGIO RODRIGUEZ -\$50.00; SHAWNA WINCHELL -\$600.00; SIMON CONTRACTORS -\$1246.42; SNELL

SERVICES, INC -\$49.44;SOLUTIONS EAP -\$244.55;SOUTHWESTERN EQUIPMENT COMPANY -\$1339.73;STAPLES CREDIT PLAN - \$94.97;SUGAR VALLEY FEDERAL CREDIT -\$678.37;TAMMY COOLEY -\$114.00;TANISHA GARCIA -\$75.00;TEAM CHEVROLET - \$46.20;TERRY CARPENTER, INC. -\$650.00;TONY KAUFMAN -\$86.00;VERIZON WIRELESS SERVICES, LLC -\$616.31;WALMART - \$20.84;WAREHOUSE FITNESS CENTER -\$252.00;WESTERN COOPERATIVE COMPANY -\$5617.09;WESTERN STATES BANK - \$19443.70;WESTERN STATES BANK - POLICE -\$516.00;WESTERN UNITED ELECTRIC -\$273.31;WNCC ADULT EDUCATION - \$30.00;WYOMING BEARING & SUPPLY -\$260.69;YMCA OF SCOTTSBLUFF -\$603.50

Motion by Councilmember Gillen to approve the consent agenda. Second by Councilmember Wiedeman. There was no discussion. The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Gillen, Backus, Abel, Wiedeman, O'Neal, and Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Smith, Morrison. Motion Carried.

BIDS/RFQ:

1. Approve Agreement with Baker & Associates for Construction Observation and Administration for the Oregon Trail Ball Park Quad Field Project

Annie Folck, City Engineer, stated that this agreement will be for concrete and soils testing, checking grades, etc., as well as having someone down there on site to help ensure construction is done correctly and that everything stays on track. Staff believe having the extra observation and supervision will be well-worth the money. The RFQ only received one proposal but we are very pleased with the proposal that was submitted. The cost is in line with what we expected. The stadium project was covered with in-house staff but it set that department back the whole year. Staff felt it was more prudent to hire an outside firm to handle this project.

Motion by Councilmember Wiedeman to approve an agreement with Baker & Associates for Construction Observation and Administration for the Oregon Trail Ball Park Quad Field Project. Second by Councilmember Gillen. There was no discussion. The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Gillen, Backus, Abel, Wiedeman, O'Neal, and Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Smith, Morrison. Motion Carried.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

1. Approve appointment of Tami Pierce to the LB840 Citizens Advisory Committee

Motion by Councilmember Gillen to approve the appointment of Tami Pierce to the LB840 Citizens Advisory Committee. Second by Councilmember Cowan. There was no discussion. The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Gillen, Backus, Abel, Wiedeman, O'Neal, and Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Smith, Morrison. Motion Carried.

2. First reading of Ordinance 2086 - AN ORDINANCE DEALING WITH THE BUILDING CODE, ADOPTING THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE 2018 EDITION, WITH APPENDIX F AND THE INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE 2018 EDITION WITH EXCLUDED PORTIONS: AMENDING CURRENT SECTIONS OF THE GERING MUNICIPAL CODE; REPEALING PRIOR PROVISIONS OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE, PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN PAMPHLET FORM AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Annie Folck stated that the State recently updated their building codes; by statute we are supposed to follow suit within two years. Scottsbluff updated theirs a few months ago; it's beneficial if both communities can be on the same building code. The codes we are adopting are the 2018 IBC and IRC; we are going to stay with the 2009 Energy Code and we're going to have to start enforcing radon requirements passed in a State law last year. We're having this ordinance read three times to get as much attention to it as possible and we're sending letters to all of our contractors to let them know the effective date. We're sending our Building Inspector to classes in March so he can learn more about the changes in the 2018 code so we'll be able to enforce it appropriately.

Councilmember Cowan made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2086 as the first reading - AN ORDINANCE DEALING WITH THE BUILDING CODE, ADOPTING THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE 2018 EDITION, WITH APPENDIX F AND THE INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE 2018 EDITION WITH EXCLUDED PORTIONS: AMENDING CURRENT SECTIONS OF THE GERING MUNICIPAL CODE; REPEALING PRIOR PROVISIONS OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE, PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN PAMPHLET FORM AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Seconded by Councilmember Abel. There was no discussion. The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Gillen, Backus, Abel, Wiedeman, O'Neal, and Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Smith and Morrison. Motion Carried.

3. Gering Public Library Annual Report

Tracy Henderson, Library Board President, thanked Council and presented the Library's Annual Report along with photos in a Power Point and an annual report brochure:

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Library Board of Directors: Monthly meetings every third Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. in the library.
Tracy Henderson, President
Michelle Moore, Vice President
Catharine Houstoun, Dr. Alan Johnson, Suzanne Myers

Staff (5.6 full time equivalent):

- Diane Downer, Director, 29 1/2 years of service with the City (14 years in current position).
- Tammie Gitschel, Technical Services Librarian, 3 1/2 years of service with the City (1 year in current position)
- Christie Clarke, Youth Services Librarian, 9 1/2 years of service with the City (6 1/2 years in current position)
- Shery Preston, Public Services Librarian, 4 years of service with the City
- Myra Dillman, Library Assistant II, 4 1/2 years of service with the City
- Kira Wysocki, Library Assistant I, 9 months of service with the City
- Lexi Tallmon, Library Page, 2 years of service with the City
- Library Assistant I and Library Page

Volunteers:

- Sandra Dyer and Lisa Walter (deliver books to our homebound) and Connie King (covers books)

Foundation Board of Directors:

Charles Lieske, President
William C. Peteres, Vice-President
Tom Swan, Treasurer
Katy Grote, Secretary
Penny Bugsina
Sandra Reddish
Crystal Sandberg

David Nash
Beverly Russell
Leann Sato

Friends Board of Directors:

Liz Ossian, President
Kathy Yost, Vice President
Carol Enderle, Treasurer
Karen Carrizales, Secretary
Sandra Dyer Judy Sharp Lisa Walter

Financial Data

Revenue

City of Gering	\$449,550
Library State Aid	\$1,270
Lender's Compensation	\$947
Other	\$650

Expenditures

Staff, Benefits Training	\$369,390
Library Materials	\$34,514
Support Services	\$48,886

Statistical Information

Circulation

Adult Materials (includes downloadable materials)	28,928
Children's Materials (includes downloadable materials)	14,275
Total	43,901

Statistical Information cont...

Interlibrary Loans

Loaned	354
Borrowed	231

Collection

Books (print)	29,937
Audio	1,226
Videos/DVDs	1,605
Periodicals/Newspapers	69
Cake pans	36
Total	32,676

Statistical Information cont...

Electronic Collection

E-books (NE Overdrive)	27,501
Audio (NE Overdrive)	15,664
Databases	28

Library Services

Community Room Usage	180
Registered Borrowers	6,957
Library Visits	40,548
Reference Transactions	4,944
Public Computers Usage	7,479
Children's Programs	138
Young Adult Programs	6
Adult Programs	18

Highlights:

Children Programs: Story times continue to be successful with attendance of 25 to 30 at our Toddler Storytime on Wednesday mornings. The preschool from Lincoln elementary comes once a month for the story time that is held on Thursday mornings. Because of the popularity of story time, Christie Clarke, Youth Services Librarian, included story time during the summer reading program and had up to 45 children in attendance.

LEAP: Registration is required for the LEAP program (Learn, Explore, Achieve & Play), which is eight weeks and is offered twice a year.

Lego Club is offered Wednesday afternoons to coincide with early release from school.

SMILE (See Me in the Library Event) is our program to introduce 2nd graders to the library and getting their own card. The students visit the library in March and April.

STEM: The library was awarded a Youth Grant for Excellence in the amount of \$650, which helped furnish STEM activities for programming.

Summer Reading Program: "Universe of stories" was the theme for 2019 Summer Reading Program. It was for 4 weeks only because attendance drops off during the 4th of July and Oregon Trail Days. We had several programs, including Adam White, a magician from Lincoln, a STEAM program on outer space by Dino O'Dell and a performance by the Everhardts at Five Rocks Amphitheater. We had up to 50 attendees for story time, 80 for kids programs, 25 for the teens, and 20 for the adult programs. A total of 429 participants in the summer reading program. We also had over 40 community organizations and businesses as partners and sponsors.

Technology: The Library is a member of the Panhandle Library Consortium and the decision was made to switch our integrated library system from Alexandria to Apollo. It was a good move. In addition, we now offer Gabbie, which allows you to text questions to the library. Patrons can also renew and find out the status of their items by text. Your library card continues to be good at the other participating libraries in the consortium.

Little Free Libraries: The Rotary Club provided three little free libraries to our community. They're located in Hampton Park, Johannes Park, and the last one yet to be installed will be in McLellan Park. The Friends of the Gering Library and the community help us maintain them with donated books.

Library Services

- Story times for both toddlers and preschool ages
- S.M.I.L.E. (See Me in the Library Event for 2nd graders)
- LEAP (Learn, Explore, Achieve, Play—an early childhood school readiness program)
- Tours for all ages—scouts, seniors, community groups, etc.
- Computers and Printers—for word-processing, spreadsheet, graphics, etc.
- Summer Reading Program for all ages
- Book Drop—return your materials 24 hours a day
- Interlibrary Loan—get materials from anywhere in the world
- Online Card Catalog
- Phone, email, and online renewals
- Readers' Advisory
- Scanner
- Book Discussion Groups
- Community Room
- Reserve or Hold List
- Downloadable audio & e-books
- Internet Access—including Wi-Fi
- ADA Workstation
- Homebound Delivery Service
- Community Bulletin Board
- Fax Service
- Class Visits
- Public Notary
- Reference Service
- Microfilm Reader and Printer
- Daily/Weekly Newspapers
- Lego Club
- Tax Forms
- Copier

Hours

Monday	9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Friday	10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday	Closed

Ms. Henderson added that, regarding the accreditation process, the Gering Library is currently at the Silver Level because we are below our peers in circulation, total materials held and total collection expenditures.

Library Foundation President, Charles Lieske, addressed Council and stated the following:

The first official meeting of our organization was held January 15, 2019. This group did all of the normal things a new foundation would do: designed a logo, developed bylaws and confidentiality agreements, established mechanisms to receive donations as a 501(c)3, brainstormed processes for fundraising and sustainability, planned for marketing and education, and so forth.

In my experience, this Board has done a better-than-average job of setting a firm foundation for the future. The board held a strategic planning session that was preceded by an in-depth library tour and review of the Gering Library Final Library Report.

Our planning began with a focus on the Mission, Vision and Values of this new entity and considered not just the proposed building project, but also ways this foundation can be useful and supportive after the building project is completed. I brought handouts for the Council with those Mission Vision and Values statements.

The second half of our strategic planning focused on building-related issues and solutions. Gering's comprehensive plan first noted the needs of the Library in 1995, noting concerns about a lack of space and lack of parking, lack of adjacent space to expand, and the need for expansion by the year 2000. Now that with each suggested, proposed or researched location (including the possible remodel of the current site) we are taking a well-rounded approach, considering safety, parking, function and programming as well as the cost/benefit ratio: how different proposals might enhance or hinder private contributions and how design will effect ongoing costs (such as additional labor for a two-story design or the utility savings incorporating geothermal systems).

Members of the Foundation have met with the mayor, some of the members of this Council, and other city officials; and, were actively monitoring and involved in the Gering Comprehensive Planning process and

Community Survey process. Additionally, we have worked closely with the Gering Library Board and Friends of the Gering Library during this past year. We are pleased to report that without extensive effort, we raised approximately \$20,000 in 2019.

During our collaborations in 2019, it was made clear that a visible commitment needed to be made regarding the Foundation's desire for the library, which we understood to include seed money and/or the Foundation's purchase or optioning of desired land.

We have continued to evaluate the pros and cons of different plans as we move forward with our first major task: providing Gering with a library that is a destination for generations and transitions our building from a book depository to a true community center.

When I served on the City Council in Seward, another Nebraska First Class City, we completed a library renovation that provided for true community spaces that allowed for wonderful collaborations, trainings and programming and helped make the library a contributor to an already wonderful city culture.

As we move forward, we will be considering elements that have potential to fill gaps in the greater-Gering area. These elements, strategically selected, will also help create excitement for private donors and open additional grant opportunities in areas such as tourism or energy efficiency dollars.

As we stated at our annual meeting last month, we are excited to receive input from the public as we move forward; but, we ask this. Partner with us and actively participate as we discuss and evaluate the needs and options. Don't let others do the heavy lifting and then offer solutions at the 11th hour without the knowledge and benefit of the discussions, analysis and thought that will shape the final proposals.

This group is determined, driven and developing a path forward. We will continue to make rapid progress and look forward to working with members of the community and Council during this journey of our first major project: transforming the Gering Public Library into a destination for generations.

Mr. Lieske thanked Council and offered to answer any questions.

Motion by Councilmember Cowan to enter the 2020 Gering Public Library Annual Report into the public record. Second by Councilmember Gillen. There was no discussion. The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Gillen, Backus, Abel, Wiedeman, O'Neal, and Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Smith and Morrison. Motion Carried.

4. Request for Public Works Committee meeting – Agenda items: 1.) Discuss One and Six Year Plan 2.) Discuss street projects

Motion by Councilmember Wiedeman to approve a request for a Public Works Committee meeting with agenda items: 1.) Discuss One and Six Year Plan 2.) Discuss street projects. Second by Councilmember Gillen. There was no discussion. The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Gillen, Backus, Abel, Wiedeman, O'Neal, and Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Smith and Morrison. Motion Carried.

5. Request for Administrative Committee meeting – Agenda item: 1.) Discuss early closure on Christmas Eve

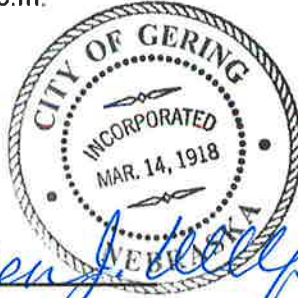
Motion by Councilmember O'Neal to approve a request for Administrative Committee meeting with agenda item: 1.) Discuss early closure on Christmas Eve. Second by Councilmember Gillen. There was no discussion. The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Gillen, Backus, Abel, Wiedeman, O'Neal, and Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Smith and Morrison. Motion Carried.

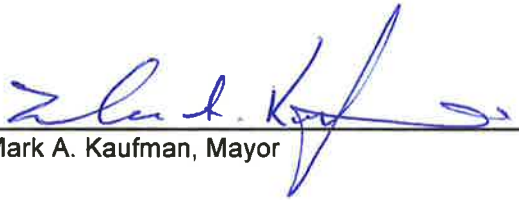
CLOSED SESSION: (Council reserves the right to enter into closed session if deemed necessary.) None

ADJOURN:

Motion by Councilmember Gillen to adjourn. Second by Councilmember Cowan. There was no discussion. The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Gillen, Backus, Abel, Wiedeman, O'Neal, and Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Smith and Morrison. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.




Mark A. Kaufman, Mayor

ATTEST:


Kathleen J. Welfl, City Clerk