

**THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GERING CITY COUNCIL,
MARCH 31, 2020**

A special meeting of the City Council of Gering, Nebraska was held on March 31, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. Pursuant to a Limited Waiver Executive Order by Governor Ricketts, the Gering City Council held this meeting by teleconference. Present were Mayor Kaufman and Councilmembers, Gillen, Backus, Abel, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison and Cowan. Also present by teleconference were City Administrator Lane Danielzuk, City Clerk Kathy Welfl, City Attorney Jim Ellison and Finance Director Renae Jimenez. Absent was Councilmember Smith. 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 media and public via teleconference.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kaufman called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. The Mayor stated that there was a quorum of the Council present via teleconference and City business could be conducted.

1. Roll Call

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, in this case available in the Council packet or online at nebraska.gov/open-meetings. 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.

BIDS:

1. HMA Overlay Bid – U Street, Intersection of Lockwood Road and M Street

Annie Folck, City Engineer, stated these were two CIP items that were budgeted for last year. Staff bid them together to get a better price. When staff originally received the bids, they came in higher than expected, mainly because when we originally bid those (pertaining to the Lockwood Road intersection) the engineer at the time thought that only a portion of the road would need replaced. Since that time that intersection has deteriorated considerably. A lot more of it needed replaced than we originally thought at budget time. Staff made some changes such as going from a four-inch overlay to a three-inch overlay on U Street to bring that cost down. They got it down to \$523,000. With the amount staff had budgeted and the amount from the stormwater project that is probably not going to happen this budget year, we'll have the money to do this project.

Councilmember O'Neal asked if Simon Contractors is in agreement with the new amount as it's much lower than what they bid. Ms. Folck replied yes and there is an attachment in the packet submitted by Simon's. We only expected one bidder as they are the only ones in the area with an asphalt plant. Because we only had one bidder it made it easy to go back and do some negotiations. Councilmember Gillen asked, because we're not looking to do the stormwater project, if we take that one off the table and are not able to accommodate that in the budget, what are the ramifications going forward in the next budget cycle if we can't integrate that into our project list (because of budget constraints). Ms. Folck replied that to a certain extent the stormwater projects we had in there were place holders; staff thought we might be ready to do those projects in this fiscal year. The money we're spending on the study – that's well in progress. When we get that back we'll have a much better idea for dollar amounts for those projects. We had three projects in mind; one of them it looks like we won't be doing at all. It'll just be a matter of working out the other two. This all comes out of the Street Department budget; Casey Dahlgrin, Street Superintendent, is comfortable that we would still be able to take care of the stormwater projects within next year's budget. Councilmember Morrison asked if the money that is not going to be spent is going to be enough to cover what we're pulling out to take care of the overlay. Ms. Folck replied yes; if the other two projects come to fruition, there will most likely be enough to cover them. Councilmember Wiedeman added that this is a project that has been put off several times; it is obviously something that needs to be done. She commends staff for working with the contractor to get some of the costs down.

Motion by Councilmember Wiedeman to approve staff's recommendation and award the HMA Overlay bid for U Street, intersection of Lockwood Road and M Street to Simon

Contractors in the amount of \$523,074. Second by Councilmember Gillen. There was no discussion. The Clerk called the roll. "AYES": Gillen, Backus, Abel, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison and Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Smith. Motion Carried.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

1. Scotts Bluff County and Allo Franchise Fees (2010-2019)

Motion by Councilmember Abel to reject the joint offer to settle that the county has made to the Cities of Gering, Scottsbluff and Terrytown concerning past due ALLO franchise fees. Second by Councilmember Cowan. There was no discussion. The Clerk called the roll. "AYES": Gillen, Backus, Abel, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison and Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Smith. Motion Carried.

2. Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign Environmental Review Record pertaining to Prime Metal Products

Motion by Councilmember Gillen to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an Environmental Review Record pertaining to Prime Metal Products. Second by Councilmember Wiedeman. There was no discussion. The Clerk called the roll. "AYES": Gillen, Backus, Abel, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison and Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Smith. Motion Carried.

3. Annual Financial Audit Review – Fiscal Year Ended 9-30-19

Kevin Sylvester with Dana Cole & Co. presented a brief overview of the Annual Audit to the Council.

Motion by Councilmember Gillen to approve the Audited Financial Statement for Fiscal Year 2018/2019. second by Councilmember Wiedeman. There was no discussion. The Clerk called the roll. "AYES": Gillen, Backus, Abel, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison and Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Smith. Motion Carried.

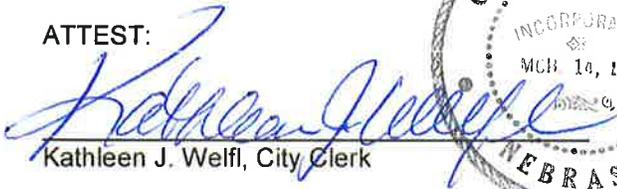
CLOSED SESSION: (Council reserves the right to enter into closed session if deemed necessary.) None.

ADJOURN:

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

ATTEST:


Kathleen J. Welfl, City Clerk




Mark A. Kaufman, Mayor