

**THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GERING CITY COUNCIL,
APRIL 26, 2021**

A regular meeting of the City Council of Gering, Nebraska was held in an open session on April 26, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at Gering City Hall, 1025 P Street, Gering, NE. Present were Mayor Kaufman and Councilmembers Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, and Cowan. Also present were City Administrator Pat Heath, City Clerk Kathy Welfl and City Attorney Matt Turman. 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. and stated that there was a quorum of the Council present and City business could be conducted.

1. Recital of the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer
2. Roll Call
3. Excuse councilmember absence (None)

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 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 April 12, 2021 regular City Council meeting
2. Approve Claims
3. Approve March Financial Report

Claims 4-14-21 to 4-26-21

21ST CENTURY EQUIPMENT \$83.47; 24/7 FITNESS \$195.00; ABDO-SPOTLIGHT-MAGIC WAGON \$27.95; ACUSHNET COMPANY \$2,926.18; ALLAN D MITCHELL \$3,710.00; AL'S TOWING, INC \$125.00; ALYSSA HERNANDEZ \$75.00; AMAZON \$77.99; AMERICAN LEGION EMBLEM SALES \$358.88; AMERITAS LIFE INSURANCE COPR. \$548.42; B & S RASK GRILL \$65.15; BENZEL PEST CONTROL \$217.21; BEST BOOKS, INC. \$496.11; BH MEDIA GROUP HOLDING, INC. \$1,252.06; BLACK HILLS ENERGY \$1,540.44; BOMGAARS \$5.68; BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES, INC \$160.39; BOUND TREE MEDICAL \$382.48; BROWN, RICHELLE \$150.00; BUDGE-IT DRAIN SERVICE \$620.00; CALLAWAY GOLF COMPANY \$221.40; CASEY'S GENERAL STORE \$73.85; CELLEBRITE, INC \$3,445.00; CENTURY BUSINESS PRODUCTS, INC \$70.92; CENTURYLINK \$2,727.02; CITY INSURANCE FUND \$87,492.12; CITY OF GERING \$920.13; CITY PAYROLL TRUST \$2,291.88; CLEMENS CARPET MILL DIRECT \$18,753.26; CONSOLIDATED MANAGEMENT COMPAN \$46.67; CONSTANT CONTACT \$45.00; CONTRACTORS MATERIALS, INC. \$547.83; CORE & MAIN LP \$3,694.40; COVERTTRACK GROUP, INC. \$600.00; COZAD SIGNS, LLC \$683.00; CROSSCOUNTRY COURIER INC \$109.29; D & H ELECTRONIC SUPPLY, INC. \$70.29; DARRELL VANCE \$150.00; DHHS, LICENSURE UNIT \$80.00; DITCH WITCH OF WEST TEXAS, INC \$609.38; DOOLEY OIL \$675.27; DUTTON-LAINSON COMPANY \$134.10; ECOLAB \$175.56; ELECTRIC PUMP, INC. \$5,976.98; ELITE TOTAL FITNESS \$63.00; ELLISON, KOVARIK & TURMAN LAW \$2,888.75; ENERGY LABORATORIES INC. \$464.00; FASTENAL COMPANY \$169.12; FAT BOYS TIRE & AUTO \$594.76; FIRST STATE BANK \$321.09; FLOYD'S TRUCK CENTER, INC. \$612.63; FRANK PARTS COMPANY \$3,237.29; FREE CONFERENCE CALL.COM \$4.00; FRESH FOODS INC. \$31.24; FRONTIER AIRLINES \$443.82; FYR-TEK, INC. \$1,875.00; GALLS, AN ARAMARK COMPANY \$181.96; GERING U-SAVE PHARMACY \$75.59; GREATAMERICA FINANCIAL SERVICE \$126.00; HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS \$79.98; HEALTH \$15.00; HEARTLAND BANK \$250.00; HOBBY LOBBY \$7.52; HOME DEPOT CREDIT SERVICES \$174.58; HULLINGER GLASS & LOCKS \$37.50; ICMA MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS \$840.00; IDEAL LAUNDRY AND CLEANERS, IN \$542.32; INDOFF INCORPORATED \$855.86; INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES \$698.37; INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE \$39,518.43; INTRALINKS, INC. \$1,071.18; ITRON, INC. \$3,919.02; JACK'S UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT \$98.95; JOHN HANCOCK USA \$13,959.20; JOHN HANCOCK USA FIRE \$556.16; JOHN HANCOCK USA POLICE \$5,985.02; JONES & BARTLETT LEARNING \$1,167.50; K4 TRUCKING II INC \$148.50; KC TOOL CO \$26.59; LOGOZ LLC \$208.00; LONGMONT TRUCK STOP \$67.65; LOST RIVER SAND & GRAVEL, INC \$445.50; LOVE'S TRAVEL STOPS STORE \$25.61; MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT, LLC \$293.38; MAX POWELL \$33.00; MB KEM ENTERPRISE \$422.00; MEAT SHOPPE \$7,172.57; MENARDS \$290.60; MESA HOTLINE SCHOOL \$350.00; MICAH SCHROEDER \$178.00; MIDWEST CONNECT \$687.00; MIDWEST FOLDING PRODUCT \$908.00; MN GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION \$13.95; MOBIUS COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY \$30.00; MONEY WISE OFFICE SUPPLY \$276.88; MORRIS RENTALS \$671.61; MSC 410526/DOLLAR GENERAL CORP \$7.00; MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGENCY OF NE \$295,811.76; MUNICIPAL SUPPLY, INC. OF NE. \$3,063.68; MURDOCH'S RANCH & HOME \$510.77; NATIONAL RECREATION/PARK \$40.00; NE CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT CENTE \$462.93; NE DEPARTMENT OF REV (PR) \$6,382.22; NE PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRO LAB \$525.00; NE SAFETY/FIRE EQUIPMENT, INC \$348.00; NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DIS \$1,451.14; NEBRASKA RURAL RADIO ASSOC. \$583.18; NEBRASKA SECRETARY OF STATE \$23.00; NORTHWEST PIPE FITTINGS, INC \$64.64; PALMER'S PANHANDLE MONUMENT CO \$1,795.00; PANHANDLE COOP ASSOCIATION \$11,723.53; PANHANDLE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVIC \$1,382.00; PANHANDLE HUMANE SOCIETY \$3,168.50; PAUL REED CONSTRUCTION & SUPP \$546.12; PIPE WORKS PLUMBING LLC \$2,330.00; PRESTIGE

FLAG \$350.20; PRIME-STRIPE, INC. \$396.06; PRINT BROKER \$59.44; PROFESSIONAL DEVELOP ACADEMY \$1,695.00; PSZANKA, BRENDA \$75.00; QUADIENT LEASING USA, INC \$2,591.49; R & C WELDING & FABRICATION \$6,240.00; READER'S DIGEST ASSOCIATION \$21.38; REIMAN MEDIA GROUP, LLC \$21.38; RICH'S WRECKING & USED CARS, I \$45.00; RILEY SMITH \$46.00; RUSSELL & GAYLENE REISIG \$12,860.00; SANDBERG IMPLEMENT, INC. \$169.69; SCB COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS \$10.00; SCB. COUNTY AMBULANCE SERVICE \$316.23; SCOTTS BLUFF CO BUILDING & ZON \$60.00; SCOTTS BLUFF CO. CONSOLIDATED \$85.00; SCOTTSBLUFF-GERING UNITED WAY \$128.75; SELLE, SUSAN \$75.00; SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER \$525.00; SHAWNA WINCHELL \$620.00; SHELL \$94.85; SHERWIN WILLIAMS \$1,060.14; SIMMONS OLSEN LAW FIRM, P.C. \$2,550.00; SIMON CONTRACTORS \$1,771.00; SOLUTIONS EAP \$244.55; STAPLES CREDIT PLAN \$91.56; SUGAR VALLEY FEDERAL CREDIT \$528.37; SUPERBREAKERS \$207.38; SUREFIRE, L.L.C. \$179.66; SWANA \$268.00; TEAM CHEVROLET \$375.00; TERRY CARPENTER, INC. \$650.00; TWIN CITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOC \$25,000.00; UNITED CHAMBER OF COMMERCE \$205.00; UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE \$40.90; VALLEY AUTO LOCATORS LLC \$725.88; VAN PELT FENCING CO., INC. \$27,538.84; VERIZON CONNECT \$38.38; W & R INC. \$6,230.01; WAREHOUSE FITNESS CENTER \$58.00; WESTERN COOPERATIVE COMPANY \$7,209.04; WESTERN PATHOLOGY CONSULTANTS \$262.00; WESTERN STATES BANK \$9,235.06; WESTERN STATES BANK - POLICE \$550.00; WINSUPPLY SCOTTSBLUFF NE CO. \$811.77; WYOMING BEARING & SUPPLY \$221.90; YMCA OF SCOTTSBLUFF \$229.50; ZOOM VIDEO COMMUNICATIONS \$175.38

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

BIDS: None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

1. Consider approving Keno Fund Requests:

- Monument Marathon, \$3000
- Old West Balloon Fest, \$4,500
- Allred Brothers Firework Show, \$5000

Keno Committee Chairman, Darrell Bentley, stated that the Old West Balloon Fest requested \$3,600.00 last year that they did not use, and requested \$4,500.00 this year, so they will be receiving \$8,100.00 to use towards this year's Balloon Fest. The Scotts Bluff Celtic Gathering did not use the \$4,000.00 that was granted to them last year nor did they write a letter for an extension. If a letter of extension is not received, they lose that money. They moved the \$4,000.00 from last year to this year. They requested \$5,000.00 but this year's gathering will be one day less than last year; the Committee felt that \$4,000.00 would be enough.

Motion by Councilmember Wiedeman to approve the Keno requests as presented which is \$3,000.00 for the Monument Marathon, \$4,500.00 for the Old West Balloon Fest, and \$5,000.00 for the Allred Brothers Fireworks Show. In addition, Council is approving a carry-over of Keno funds of \$3600 for the Old West Balloon Fest and the carry-over of Keno funds for the Celtic Gathering of \$4000. Second by Councilmember O'Neal. There was no discussion. The Clerk called the roll. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.

2. Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an Addendum to the Rural Economic Development Loan Agreement pertaining to Legacy of the Plains, a Non-Profit Corporation

Legacy of the Plains Director, David Wolfe, addressed Council and stated that approximately two to three years ago, they had a USDA loan through the City of Gering for the addition onto the back side of the Legacy of the Plains Museum to finish up the exhibit halls. When COVID hit in March of 2020, they closed down until June 1, 2020 per the Governor's guidelines. They lost income at the start of the tourism season and had to cancel all but a couple of events and all their rentals during that time. They asked the City Finance Director, Renae Jimenez, if they could suspend those payments at 0% and the City agreed to that. They approached the City about another extension and it got lost in the shuffle. They were down approximately 50% - 75% capacity. They had an occasional event such as the Harvest Festival. The payment suspension really helped them and they are in fairly good shape now. They will start payments again in June and are very thankful to the City.

Motion by Councilmember Gillen to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an Addendum to the Rural Economic Development Loan Agreement pertaining to Legacy of

the Plains, a Non-Profit Corporation. Second by Councilmember Cowan. There was no discussion. The Clerk called the roll. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.

3. Approve Resolution 4-21-1 declaring May, 2021 as Fair Housing Month

Motion by Councilmember Gillen to approve Approve Resolution 4-21-1 declaring May, 2021 as Fair Housing Month. Second by Councilmember Morrison. There was no discussion. The Clerk called the roll. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.

4. Approve Amended Resolution 4-13-1 – A resolution creating a Problem Resolution Team; setting forth the objectives of the Problem Resolution Team and authorizing the Mayor to appoint a committee

Administrator Heath stated that in 2013 the City started the PRT (Problem Resolution Team). Staff and the Mayor felt a need to bring it back; the resolution has been revised. The members on the team will have experience in banking, real estate, large scale residential and commercial property; there will be two at large members, a member from Gering City Council as well as a realtor. The Committee will be approved by the Mayor and City Council.

Motion by Councilmember Gillen to approve Approve Amended Resolution 4-13-1 - A resolution creating a Problem Resolution Team; setting forth the objectives of the Problem Resolution Team and authorizing the Mayor to appoint a committee. Second by Councilmember Wiedeman. There was no discussion. The Clerk called the roll. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.

REPORTS:

1. Gering Library Board Liaison Report – Councilmember Cowan

Councilmember Cowan stated that Diane Downer and staff are excellent staff at the Library. Throughout the year of COVID, they met and reviewed policies. The Board has been looking at a chair lift to utilize the basement more. They also need two more members on the Library Board.

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 Clerk called the roll. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.



Kathleen J. Weiff, City Clerk

Mark A. Kaufman, Mayor