

**THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GERING CITY COUNCIL,  
DECEMBER 12, 2022**

A regular meeting of the City Council of Gering, Nebraska was held in open session on December 12, 2022 at 6:33 p.m. at Gering City Hall, 1025 P Street, Gering, NE (after adjourning Sine Die per City Ordinance). Present were Mayor Ewing and Councilmembers Shields, Gillen, Backus, Wiedeman, Morrison, Cowan. Also present were City Administrator Pat Heath, City Clerk Kathy Welfl and City Attorney Jim Ellison. Absent were Councilmembers Bohl and O'Neal. 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 6:33 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
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 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.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None.

**BIDS:** None.

**CURRENT BUSINESS:**

Mayor Ewing moved Current Business Agenda item Number 11 up on the agenda.

**11. Approve Appointment of Acting City Finance Director/City Treasurer**

**Motion by Councilmember Wiedeman to approve the appointment of Elizabeth Loutzenhiser as the Acting City Finance Director/Treasurer. Second by Councilmember Morrison. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Backus, Wiedeman, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Bohl, O'Neal. Motion Carried.**

**1. Elect Council President**

Mayor Ewing entertained nominations for Council President. Councilmember Morrison nominated Councilmember Wiedeman for Council President. Councilmember Backus nominated Councilmember Gillen for Council President. With no other nominations, Mayor Ewing entertained a motion to cease nominations.

**Motion by Councilmember Morrison to cease nominations. Second by Councilmember Cowan. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Backus, Wiedeman, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Bohl, O'Neal. Motion Carried.**

The Council voted by ballot. The Clerk recorded the votes. With four votes in favor of Councilmember Gillen and two votes in favor of Councilmember Wiedeman, Mayor Ewing announced Councilmember Gillen as the Council President.

**2. Elect Acting Council President**

Mayor Ewing entertained nominations for Acting Council President. Councilmember Cowan nominated Councilmember Morrison for Acting Council President. With no other nominations, Mayor Ewing entertained a motion to cease nominations.

**Councilmember Wiedeman made a motion to cease nominations. Second by Councilmember Gillen. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Backus, Wiedeman, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Bohl, O'Neal. Motion Carried.**

The Council voted by ballot. The Clerk recorded the votes. With a unanimous vote in favor of Councilmember Morrison, Mayor Ewing announced Councilmember Morrison as Acting Council President.

### **3. Approve Appointments to Council Standing Committees**

#### **Administrative, Office, Economic Development**

Julie Morrison	Chair
Pam O'Neal	Vice Chair
Troy Cowan	
Susan Wiedeman	
<b>Alternate</b>	Cody Bohl
	Ben Backus

#### **Personnel**

Pam O'Neal	Chair
Julie Morrison	Vice Chair
Ben Backus	
Troy Cowan	
<b>Alternate</b>	Michael Gillen
	Susan Wiedeman

#### **Public Safety**

Troy Cowan	Chair
Ben Backus	Vice Chair
Michael Gillen	
Cody Bohl	
<b>Alternate</b>	Julie Morrison
	Rebecca Shields

#### **Public Works**

Michael Gillen	Chair
Pam O'Neal	Vice Chair
Rebecca Shields	
Cody Bohl	
<b>Alternate</b>	Troy Cowan
	Susan Wiedeman

#### **Recreation, Amusement and Cultural**

Susan Wiedeman	Chair
Cody Bohl	Vice Chair
Rebecca Shields	
Pam O'Neal	
<b>Alternate</b>	Ben Backus
	Michael Gillen

**Motion by Councilmember Gillen to approve the appointments of Standing Committees as presented. Second by Councilmember Morrison. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Backus, Wiedeman, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Bohl, O'Neal. Motion Carried.**

#### 4. Approve appointment of City of Gering Safety Committee

##### Safety Committee:

Nathan Flowers, Fire Department  
Shannon Goss, HR Director  
LaKreasha Imus, Police Dept.  
Jeff Vance, Building Inspector/  
Code Enforcement (Chairman)

Tammie Gitschel, Library  
Erin Hinze, Street Dept.  
Tom Walsh, Parks Dept.  
Kristen Vogel, Sanitation Dept.  
George Miramontes, Water Dept.

Kathy Welfl, City Clerk  
Kaleb Shaw, Electric Dept.

**Councilmember Cowan made a motion to approve the Safety Committee as presented. Second by Councilmember Wiedeman. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Backus, Wiedeman, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Bohl, O'Neal. Motion Carried.**

#### 5. Approve appointments to Boards and Commissions

- o Approve re-appointment of Chris Kautz to the Park, Cemetery & Tree Board
- o Approve re-appointment of Jody Miles to the Planning Commission
- o Approve re-appointment of Cathy Kaufman to the Planning Commission
- o Approve re-appointment of Paulette Schnell to the Plumbing Board
- o Approve appointment of Josh Schlaepfer to the Plumbing Board
- o Approve appointment of Lucan Palomo to the Plumbing Board
- o Approve appointment of Mark Geis to the Civil Service Commission

**Councilmember Morrison made a motion to approve the appointments to Boards and Commissions as presented. Second by Councilmember Gillen. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Backus, Wiedeman, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Bohl, O'Neal. Motion Carried.**

#### 6. Approve Council/Staff Liaisons

##### Board or Committee

Central Irrigation District  
Gering CVB (Convention & Visitor's Bureau)  
Gering Library Board  
Gering Merchants  
Oregon Trail Days Committee  
PADD (Panhandle Area Development District)  
Panhandle RC & D (Resource, Conservation & Development)  
Park, Cemetery & Tree Board  
Regional Governance  
Scotts Bluff County Airport Authority  
Scotts Bluff County Comm. Center Advisory Board  
Twin Cities Development  
Valley Visions  
WNED (Western Nebraska Economic Development)

##### Council/Staff Member

Cody Bohl  
Michael Gillen  
Rebecca Shields  
Kent Ewing  
Pam O'Neal  
Pat Heath  
Ben Backus  
Troy Cowan  
Mayor Ewing & Pat Heath  
Cody Bohl  
Ben Backus  
Mayor Kaufman, Pat Heath & Julie Morrison  
Susan Wiedeman  
Michael Gillen

**Motion by Councilmember Gillen to approve Council/Staff Liaisons as presented. Second by Councilmember Morrison. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Backus, Wiedeman, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Bohl, O'Neal. Motion Carried.**

#### 7. Approve Resolution 12-22-2 regarding payment of claims in lieu of a second regular Council meeting in December

##### Resolution 12-22-2

**Whereas**, City of Gering claims are to be approved by Council for payment;

**Whereas**, The Gering City Council has chosen not to hold a second regular meeting in December, 2022 (which would have been held on the fourth Monday of the month);

**Whereas**, claims need to be processed and paid in a timely manner;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that City staff are authorized to prepare and pay claims that have been processed as if the second meeting in December, 2022 was held. The paid claims will then be presented to Council for review at the first meeting in January, 2023.

Adopted this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kent E. Ewing

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen J. Welfl, City Clerk

**Motion by Councilmember Wiedeman to approve Resolution 12-22-2 regarding payment of claims in lieu of a second regular Council meeting in December. Second by Councilmember Gillen. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Backus, Wiedeman, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Bohl, O'Neal. Motion Carried.**

**8. Approve Resolution 12-22-3 regarding Appointment of Depositors and Authorized Signers**

**RESOLUTION NO. 12-22-3**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GERING, NEBRASKA:**

1. Platte Valley Bank, US Bank NA, First National Bank Omaha, Riverstone Bank (formerly First State Bank), all with local branches in Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska, and the Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust (NPAIT), Heartland Trust Company, Moreton Capital Markets, LLC and Invesco, are designated as depositories and/or financial investment institutions for funds of the City of Gering, Nebraska ("City").

- a. Depository funds of the City deposited in each bank or financial institution shall be subject to withdraw upon checks, notes, drafts or other orders for the payment of money when signed on the City's behalf by any two of the following City officials:

**Kent E. Ewing  
Pat Heath  
Kathleen J. Welfl**

- b. All investment funds of the City held as Government Money Market Funds, Certificates of Deposit, Treasury Notes, and other authorized securities purchase by the City shall be signed by the Finance Director for the City, Elizabeth Loutzenhiser, and one of the following City officials per the City's Investment Policy:

**Pat Heath or Kathleen J Welfl**

2. Provided, the Finance Director for the City, Elizabeth Loutzenhiser, is authorized to make ACH drafts and withdrawals for payroll, electronic claims, utility payment drafts and debt payments on behalf of the City from any of the financial institutions named in paragraph 1 of this Resolution.

3. The banks are authorized to pay all orders and receive them for the credit of or in payment from the payee or any other holder without inquiring into the circumstances of the issue or the disposition of the proceeds.

4. Platte Valley Bank is authorized to issue Visa credit cards to City personnel. The personnel to receive the cards and the credit limit on said card, shall be as approved by the City Administrator or his or her designee.

5. This resolution will revoke all prior banking resolutions and shall be delivered to all banks named in this Resolution. This Resolution will remain in effect until notice of revocation is delivered to any of these banks.

Passed, approved and effective this 12th day of December, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kent E. Ewing, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen J. Welfl, City Clerk

Councilmember Morrison made a motion to approve Resolution 12-22-3 regarding Appointment of Depositors and Authorized Signers. Second by Councilmember Gillen. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Backus, Wiedeman, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Bohl, O'Neal. Motion Carried.

**9. Approve Appointment of Official Newspaper**

Councilmember Gillen made a motion to approve the Star-Herald as the Official Newspaper. Second by Councilmember Wiedeman. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Backus, Wiedeman, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Bohl, O'Neal. Motion Carried.

**10. Approve Appointment of City Administrator**

Motion by Councilmember Morrison to approve the appointment of Pat Heath as the City Administrator. Second by Councilmember Gillen. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Backus, Wiedeman, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Bohl, O'Neal. Motion Carried.

**12. Approve Appointment of City Engineer**

Motion by Councilmember Wiedeman to approve the appointment of Annie Folck as the City Engineer. Second by Councilmember Morrison. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Backus, Wiedeman, Morrison. "NAYS": Cowan. Abstaining: None. Absent: Bohl, O'Neal. Motion Carried.

**13. Approve Appointment of City Clerk**

Motion by Councilmember Morrison to approve the appointment of Kathleen Welfl as the City Clerk. Second by Councilmember Gillen. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Backus, Wiedeman, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Bohl, O'Neal. Motion Carried.

**14. Approve Appointment of City Attorney**

Motion by Councilmember Shields to approve the appointment of Ellison, Kavorik & Turman Law Firm, P.C. as the City Attorneys. Second by Councilmember Morrison. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Backus, Wiedeman, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Bohl, O'Neal. Motion Carried.

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

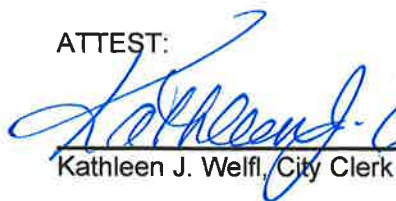
**OPEN COMMENT SECTION:** Discussion or action by Council regarding unscheduled business will not take place. This section is for citizen comment only. None.

**ADJOURN:**

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
Kathleen J. Welfl, City Clerk



  
Kent E. Ewing, Mayor