

THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GERING CITY COUNCIL, FEBRUARY 26, 2024

A regular meeting of the City Council of Gering, Nebraska was held in open session on February 26, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at Gering City Hall, 1025 P Street, Gering, NE. Present were Council President Gillen and Councilmembers Shields, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. Also present were City Clerk Kathy Welfl and City Attorney Jim Ellison. Absent were Mayor Ewing and City Administrator Pat Heath. 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 Councilmember absence

Motion by Councilmember O'Neal to excuse the absence of Councilmember Cowan from the February 12, 2024 regular City Council meeting. Second by Councilmember Wiedeman. There was no discussion. Council President Gillen called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

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

Council President Gillen 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 Council President. 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 February 12, 2024 Regular City Council meeting
2. Approve Claims

Claims 2/13/24 - 2/26/24

24/7 FITNESS \$286.00, 911 CUSTOM \$578.00, ACE HARDWARE \$948.05, ACUSHNET COMPANY \$732.34, ALTEC INDUSTRIES, INC. \$226.73, AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES \$1,183.28, AMERITAS LIFE INSURANCE COPR. \$605.16, ANTHONY PEREZ \$41.00, B & C STEEL \$896.23, B & H INVESTMENTS, INC \$50.50, BENZEL PEST CONTROL \$56.71, BLACK HILLS ENERGY \$5,352.76, BLUFFS FACILITY SOLUTIONS \$481.43, BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES, INC \$2,229.50, CALLAWAY GOLF COMPANY \$346.40, CAROL MARTIN \$26.00, CASEY DAHLGRIN \$108.00, CHASE DANIELZUK \$112.00, CITY OF GERING \$16,691.36, CODY FERGUSON \$41.00, CONTRACTORS MATERIALS, INC. \$420.00, CORE & MAIN LP \$461.58, COZAD SIGNS, LLC \$550.00, CROELL, INC \$991.50, CURTIS A. ECKMAN \$55.00, DANKO EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT CO \$62.07, DUTTON-LAINSON COMPANY \$4,517.21, ECOLAB \$281.44, EJS SUPPLY, LLC \$27,254.00, ELITE TOTAL FITNESS \$102.00, FAIRBANKS SCALES, INC. \$1,479.00, FASTENAL COMPANY \$220.18, FAT BOYS TIRE & AUTO \$35.02, FEDEX \$145.23, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OMAHA \$20,509.37, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA - POLICE \$584.00, FISHER ROOFING & RESTORATION \$1,630.37, FLOYD'S TRUCK CENTER, INC. \$6,944.52, FRANK PARTS COMPANY \$653.86, FRESH FOODS INC. \$47.27, FYR-TEK, INC. \$650.88, GENERAL TRAFFIC CONTROLS, INC. \$620.00, GERING PUBLIC SCHOOLS \$34.19, GERING VALLEY PLUMBING & HTG., INC. \$11,456.00, GOLDSTAR PRODUCTS INC \$1,057.59, GREGORY'S LOCK SHOP LLC \$157.00, HARRINGTON INDUSTRIAL PLASTICS \$732.57, HOME DEPOT CREDIT SERVICES \$77.70, IDEAL LAUNDRY AND CLEANERS, INC. \$227.43, INDOFF INCORPORATED \$574.10, INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES \$128.54, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE \$47,329.27, INTRALINKS, INC. \$1,138.00, J & A TRAFFIC PRODUCTS \$2,007.70, JEFFREY VANCE \$39.00, JOHN HANCOCK USA \$17,350.46, JOHN HANCOCK USA FIRE \$761.78, JOHN HANCOCK USA POLICE \$8,673.36, JOHNSON CASHWAY CO. \$232.10, JONES & BARTLETT LEARNING \$748.74, JORDAN SCHLAGER \$41.00, LEE ENTERPRISES \$405.12, LOGOZ LLC \$296.00, MANUEL BARRAZA \$3,850.00, MATHESON TRI-GAS INC \$238.12, MAX POWELL \$108.00, MB KEM ENTERPRISE \$263.85, MENARDS \$5,569.87, MOBIUS COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY \$30.00, MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGENCY OF NE \$385,829.16, MUNICIPAL SUPPLY, INC. OF NE. \$21,832.02, NATIONAL

GRATING, INC \$5,790.00, NATIONAL MAH JONGG LEAGUE \$57.00, NEBRASKA DEPT. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY \$40.00, NEBRASKA CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT CENTE \$714.93, NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF REV (PR) \$15,174.65, NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE \$150.00, NEBRASKA DEPT OF ENVIRONMENT AND EN \$300.00, NEBRASKA DEPT OF REVENUE \$1,293.43, NEBRASKA DEPT. OF REVENUE \$68,771.22, NEBRASKA FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION \$50.00, NEBRASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRO LAB \$315.00, NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT \$1,613.62, NEBRASKA RURAL WATER ASSOC. \$300.00, NEBRASKA SAFETY AND FIRE EQUIPMENT, INC \$2,540.00, NELSON AUTO CENTER \$40,665.00, NORTHWEST PIPE FITTINGS, INC \$90.66, NPZA \$235.00, PANHANDLE CONCRETE PROD. INC. \$2,890.00, PANHANDLE COOP ASSOCIATION \$474.99, PANHANDLE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE, INC. \$801.00, PANHANDLE HUMANE SOCIETY \$3,168.50, PATTLEN ENTERPRISES, IN \$1,319.27, PAUL REED CONSTRUCTION & SUPP \$440.00, PIPE WORKS PLUMBING LLC \$3,480.00, PLATTE VALLEY VAC & SEW \$169.70, POWERPLAN OIB \$3,346.91, PRECISION AIR \$914.99, PROTEX CENTRAL, INC. \$9,033.44, PT HOSE AND BEARING \$301.73, PVB VISA \$8,047.32, QUADIENT POSTAGE FUNDING \$826.74, REGIONAL CARE INC. \$2,032.46, RIVERSTONE BANK \$575.44, RWW INC \$2,180.00, RYAN BLAKE \$41.00, SANDBERG IMPLEMENT, INC. \$124.89, SARAH WYNN \$163.46, SCB COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS \$52.00, SCB. COUNTY AMBULANCE SERVICE \$316.23, SCOTTS BLUFF CO. CONSOLIDATED \$125.00, SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY COURT \$68.00, SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY TREASURER \$10.00, SCOTTSBLUFF-GERING UNITED WAY \$230.67, SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER \$1,000.00, SETH DEBOER \$112.00, SHAWNA WINCHELL \$430.00, SHERWIN WILLIAMS \$349.90, SIMMONS OLSEN LAW FIRM, P.C. \$1,500.00, SIMON CONTRACTORS \$3,964.83, SIRCHIE ACQUISITION COMPANY, LLC \$507.62, SOUTHWESTERN EQUIPMENT COMPANY \$932.15, STATE FIRE MARSHAL TRAINING DI \$50.00, STEVE MOUNT \$99.99, STEVE'S CLEANING & RESTORATION \$2,384.20, TEAM CHEVROLET \$375.00, TERESA TOSH \$5,416.67, TERRY CARPENTER, INC. \$650.00, THE ABY MANUFACTURING GROUP \$279.50, THE YOGA COLLECTIVE \$130.00, UNANIMOUS, INC. \$1,310.00, UTILITY BILL REFUNDS \$188.57, VALLEY AUTO LOCATORS LLC \$2,392.27, WESTERN COOPERATIVE COMPANY \$9,058.03, YANDA'S MUSIC INC \$815.90, YMCA OF SCOTTSBLUFF \$994.00, TOTAL \$822,570.50

Motion by Councilmember Morrison to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Councilmember Bohl. There was no discussion. Council President Gillen called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Public hearing to consider recommending the issuance or denial of an Application for Catering Endorsement (K) to Class C Liquor License for the Weborg 21 Centre located at 2625 10th Street, Gering, NE

Council President Gillen opened a public hearing to consider recommending the issuance or denial of an Application for Catering Endorsement (K) to Class C Liquor License for the Weborg 21 Centre located at 2625 10th Street, Gering, NE at 6:03 p.m.

Council President Gillen noted that the applicant could not be present. Clerk Welfl stated that this application is an endorsement to the existing liquor license. Adding this catering endorsement allows the applicant to be able to cater more than 12 SDLs per year. It will allow up to 12 SDLs per venue, per year. Lisa Weborg indicated to Clerk Welfl that she does a lot of off-site weddings and other events. This will give her that flexibility. Clerk Welfl also contacted the Liquor Control Commission and there has not been a violation for this liquor license, at this site. Staff sees no reason not to recommend approval.

Council President Gillen asked twice if anyone in the Chambers wished to speak regarding this public hearing. With no further comments, the public hearing closed at 6:05 p.m.

1a. Consider recommending the issuance or denial of a Catering Endorsement (K) to Class C Liquor License for the Weborg 21 Centre located at 2625 10th Street, Gering, NE

Motion by Councilmember Wiedeman to recommend the issuance of a Catering Endorsement (K) to Class C Liquor License for the Weborg 21 Centre located at 2625 10th Street, Gering, NE. Second by Councilmember Bohl. There was no discussion. Council President Gillen called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

1. Gering Library Board Annual Report

Library Board Vice-President, Mary Robinson, Secretary Suzanne Myers and Board Member Lexi Tallmon addressed the Mayor and Council and presented the Annual Library Report which is on file in the City Clerk's Office. The report was presented in bound form to the Mayor and Council and was also shown on the overhead screens.

Current staff:

Christie Clarke, Director
Sherry Preston, Public Services Librarian
Myra Dillman, Library Assistant II
Logan Allen, Library Assistant I
Jada Whipple, Library Page

Tammie Gitschel, Technician Services Librarian
Kira Perez, Youth Services Librarian
Hayley Grams, Library Assistant II
Jeff Fiet, Library Assistant I

Library Board of Directors:

Jeff Kelley, President
Alexia Tallmon

Mary Robinson, Vice-President
Suzanne Myers, Secretary

Foundation Board:

Charles Lieske, President
Penny Businga, Secretary
David Nash
Diane Downer
Carol Enderle

William Peters, Vice-President
Tom Swan, Treasurer
Peggy Fegler
Jay Skiles

Financial Report:

Income

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|---------------------------|-----------|
| City of Gering | \$494,814 |
| Federal | \$5682 |
| Library State Aid | \$1,280 |
| Lender's Compensation | \$1,700 |
| Reg. Library System Grant | \$130 |
| Other Grants/Donations | \$8738 |

Expenditures:

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| Staff & Benefits | \$402,532 |
| Collection | \$27820 |
| Operating | \$108,327 |
| Total: | \$538,679 |

Total: \$512,344

Statistical Information

Circulation

Adult Materials: 16,131 Children's Materials: 14,382 Other/Digital: 9,547 Total: 40,060

Library Services

Registered Borrowers: 7,597 Reference Transactions: 4,812 Public Computers Usage: 3,449
Community Room Reservations: 184 Total Library Visits: 28,832

Library Programs

Adult: 25.7% Teen: 8.6% Elementary: 19.4% Early Lit.: 33.1% General: 13.1% Total Programs: 175

Collection

Books (print): 28,803 Video/DVDs: 1,422 Audiobooks: 1,239 Other: 101 Total: 31,565
Number of items added to the collection: 1,650
Number of items withdrawn from the collection: 1,373

Electronic Collection – Nebraska Overdrive

E-Books: 35,645 CD Audiobooks: 1,239 Digital Audiobooks: 26,135

Periodicals and Newspapers

12 periodicals in the collection
2 newspaper subscriptions: Star-Herald, Gering Courier

Programs

ALL: Adult Learners @ the Library
Summer Reading Program
Chess Club
STEAM at Heritage

Story & Playtime
S.M.I.L.E
Adult Services Programs (wine tasting, poetry, crafts & more)
Tinker Tots

2. Gering Library Foundation Annual Report

Gering Library Foundation President, Charles Leiske, joined the meeting by Zoom and stated the following:

As I mentioned during the Foundation's 2022 report last Spring, the City's rejection of our plan to secure more than \$2M in funding as seed money toward the purchase and renovation the former DHHS building and the establishment of an endowment to guard against ongoing maintenance, put the Foundation on an unsure path. Since our founding five years ago, our clear priority has been securing an appropriate home for the Gering Public Library. When we were in our most frustrated state, Mayor Ewing encouraged me not to give up and to keep the Foundation active.

As we came together to discuss what 2023 might look like, we considered that our mission includes supporting strategic projects; and the Mayor's encouragement that we can make progress on our vision of creating a destination for generations even if a new building can't be secured at this time helped us to look for purpose this year.

During 2023, board member Dave Nash completed the American Library Association's Foundation Board training online. He learned what other Foundations are doing for their libraries and what collaboration with staff and Friends groups look like in other areas. A part of this training is understanding the difference between a Friends group's role (which is building close relationships between the library and its patrons) compared to a Foundation's role (which is working closely with library leadership to plan and fund projects that benefit new and potential users). Dave found the training very helpful and additional members of the board are considering taking this training.

Through this lens, the Foundation has worked closely with Library leadership to explore projects and potential funding opportunities for those projects.

- *Large projects discussed include a wheelchair entrance for the basement and electronic signage.*
- *Other projects discussed include a BEAM electronic interactive game system for the children's library.*
- *The Foundation supported the total refresh of library (which included painting, rearranging spaces, and the purchase of furniture).*
- *Foundation members volunteered for the summer reading kick-off, Dogman Day, and the Mingle and Jingle event, which had 153 attendees.*
- *The Foundation provided the first gift basket for the Prime-Time family Reading Program to set the standard for future donors; and, supported fund raising events that brought in a little under \$500 to enhance programming...which includes events for adults, teens and children.*

As of our January 9, 2024, meeting, the Foundation has \$31,131.85 in liquid assets.

BIDS/PROPOSALS: None.

REPORTS:

1. Liaison Report, WNED (Western Nebraska Economic Development) – Councilmember Gillen

Council President Gillen stated that:

- He serves as the representative for the WNED for Gering and is currently serving as the chair.
- They had a very successful year last year.
- They have moved to alternating business activities one month to work meetings the next month, which they found the members really appreciated. It gives them a driving force to get things

accomplished and they have had necessary conversations to further economic development and have actually grown their membership for WNED.

- They have some new members that have joined the organization as a result.
- They partner with Twin Cities Development. TCD does a lot of the secretarial work for WNED and keeps track of the minutes and sends meeting notifications; they greatly appreciate TCD's involvement.
- One of the things they are proud of is that WNED traveled to eastern Nebraska to talk about housing and the need for housing in our area. Through that, a contractor flew out that next week to look at the area and may potentially do some projects in western Nebraska. It gave WNED a voice to show that this area also needs housing.
- WNED is working on some marketing right now, they are going to look at developing a website. They are also having discussions about a regional marketing video.

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

ADJOURN:

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

ATTEST:


Kathleen J. Welfl, City Clerk




Kent E. Ewing, Mayor