

**THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GERING CITY COUNCIL,
FEBRUARY 8, 2021**

A regular meeting of the City Council of Gering, Nebraska was held in open session on February 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Gering Civic Center, 1050 M Street, Gering, NE. Present were Mayor Kaufman and Councilmembers Smith, Gillen, Backus, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison and Cowan. Councilmember Morrison was present via video/teleconference per an Executive Order issued by Governor Ricketts. Also present were City Administrator Pat Heath, City Clerk Kathy Welfl and City Attorney Matt Turman. Absent was Councilmember Abel. 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

CURRENT BUSINESS:

Mayor Kaufman moved Current Business agenda item #7 up on the agenda.

7. Accept Letter of Resignation from Ward IV Councilmember, Parrish Abel

Motion by Councilmember Gillen to accept a letter of resignation from Ward IV Councilmember, Parrish Abel. Second by Councilmember Cowan. There was no discussion. The Clerk called the roll. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: Abel. Motion Carried.

CALL TO ORDER:

3. Excuse councilmember absence

Motion by Councilmember O'Neal to excuse the absence of Mayor Kaufman from the January 25, 2021 regular meeting. Second by Councilmember Wiedeman. There was no discussion. The Clerk called the roll. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.

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 25, 2021 regular City Council meeting
2. Approve Claims

Claims

January 26, 2021 to February 8, 2021

24/7 FITNESS \$375.00; A & A PORTA POTTIES \$540.00; AC ELECTRIC MOTOR SERVICE \$18.75; ACCO BRANDS \$42.10; ALLO COMMUNICATIONS \$2,120.88; AMAZON \$29.81; AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, INC \$408.71; AMERITAS LIFE INSURANCE COPR. \$1,048.06; B & H INVESTMENTS, INC \$33.50; BAKER & ASSOCIATES, INC. \$3,590.50; BENEFIT PLANS, INC \$260.00; BENZEL PEST CONTROL \$257.82; BLACK HILLS ENERGY \$2,846.96; BLUFFS FACILITY SOLUTIONS \$570.22; BOMGAARS \$119.98; BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES, INC \$4,299.46; BOUND TREE MEDICAL \$224.40; CARL THOMPSON \$35.68; CENTURY BUSINESS PRODUCTS, INC \$31.53; CENTURYLINK \$2,514.33; CHART PAPER STORE \$89.23; CIRCUIT BREAKER WAREHOUSE \$61.84; CITY INSURANCE FUND \$174,403.35; CITY OF GERING \$3,135.86; CITY OF SCOTTSBLUFF \$5,863.20; CITY PAYROLL TRUST \$2,458.51; CLARK PRINTING LLC \$275.76; CLINE WILLIAMS WRIGHT JOHNSON \$3,000.00; CNA SURETY DIRECT BILL \$255.00; CONNECTING POINT \$56.25; CONSTANT CONTACT \$73.39; CONTRACTORS MATERIALS, INC. \$904.21; CORE & MAIN LP \$378.28; COULTER INC. \$193.20; CRESCENT ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO. \$406.45; CUMMINS CENTRAL POWER \$1,847.98; DANKO EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT CO \$679.85; DAS STATE ACCOUNTING-CENTRAL \$134.40; DEARBORN LIFE INSURANCE COMPAN \$127.28; DOOLEY OIL \$31.24; DOOLEY OIL \$62.83; DUTTON-LAINSON COMPANY \$8,771.95; ECOLAB \$31.05; ELITE TOTAL FITNESS \$143.00; ELLISON, KOVARIK & TURMAN LAW \$6,740.00; ENERGY LABORATORIES INC. \$131.00; ENERGY LABORATORIES INC. \$333.00; ERIC REICHERT CONSTRUCTION \$57,034.53; FASTENAL COMPANY \$1,099.93; FIRST STATE BANK \$356.96; FLOYD'S TRUCK CENTER, INC. \$1,324.12; FRANCISCOS BUMPER TO BUMPER IN \$660.00; FRANK PARTS COMPANY \$436.45; FREE CONFERENCE CALL.COM \$4.00; FREMONT MOTOR SCOTTSBLUFF, LLC \$694.70; GALL'S INC. \$750.00; GREGORY'S LOCK SHOP LLC \$41.00;

GROUND UP CONSTRUCTION \$737.50; GWORKS \$206.91; HACH COMPANY \$1,837.88; HAK5 LLC \$259.97; HERSTEAD MONUMENT CO. \$1,800.00; HOBBY LOBBY \$13.43; HULLINGER GLASS & LOCKS \$13.00; IDEAL LAUNDRY AND CLEANERS, IN \$116.16; INDOFF INCORPORATED \$573.04; INFINITY CONSTRUCTION INC. \$3,250.00; INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES \$776.18; INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE \$38,012.30; INTRALINKS, INC. \$11,008.09; IRBY TOOL & SAFETY \$223.74; JOHN HANCOCK USA \$14,388.28; JOHN HANCOCK USA POLICE \$6,457.20; JOHNSON CASHWAY CO. \$368.68; JUSTIN REINMUTH \$75.00; K L WOOD & CO., LLC \$60,484.90; KANSAS GOLF & TURF INC \$374.16; KERRY S SCHLUTERBUSCH \$75.00; KRISTEN MASSIE \$46.00; LEAGUE OF NE. MUNICIPALITIES \$335.00; LOGOZ LLC \$200.00; MASEK DISTRIBUTING INC \$36.89; MATHESON TRI-GAS INC \$168.16; MATRIX TRUST COMPANY \$556.16; MAVERIK \$42.90; MEAT SHOPPE \$8,978.20; MEDLINE INDUSTRIES \$971.12; MENARDS \$1,266.61; MICAH SCHROEDER \$46.00; MID-STATES ORGANIZED CRIME \$150.00; MIZUNO USA, INC. \$1,529.24; MOBIUS COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY \$30.00; MONEY WISE OFFICE SUPPLY \$230.07; MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGENCY OF NE \$314,409.69; MUNICIPAL SUPPLY, INC. OF NE. \$1,615.49; MUTUAL OF OMAHA \$300.00; NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS \$30.00; NE CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT CENTE \$462.93; NE DEPARTMENT OF REV (PR) \$20,326.74; NE PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRO LAB \$18.00; NE. SAFETY/FIRE EQUIPMENT, INC \$1,473.90; NEBRASKA DEPT OF REVENUE \$897.49; NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT \$1,684.56; NEBRASKA SALT AND GRAIN CO. \$8,653.88; NEBRASKA STATEWIDE ARBORETUM \$130.00; NKC TIRE \$17.37; NORTHWEST PIPE FITTINGS, INC \$24.71; ONE CALL CONCEPTS, INC \$84.44; OREGON TRAIL PLBG. & HEATING \$450.00; PANHANDLE COOP ASSOCIATION \$2,187.60; PANHANDLE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVIC \$1,420.00; PANHANDLE HUMANE SOCIETY \$6,337.00; PANHANDLE PARTNERSHIP FOR \$210.00; PAT CLOSSON \$75.00; PATTLEN ENTERPRISES, INC \$484.99; PAYROLL \$118,084.07; PING INC \$47.05; POSTMASTER \$335.70; POWERPLAN OIB \$385.20; PRINT BROKER \$2,048.47; PRO OVERHEAD DOOR \$183.00; PUMP & PANTRY \$29.13; RANDY KLEAGER \$78.70; REGION 22 EMERGENCY MANAG \$3,082.89; REMOTE PC \$69.50; ROBERT NATION INC \$14,500.00; SANTO DE LOS SANTOS \$75.00; SCB. COUNTY AMBULANCE SERVICE \$632.46; SCB. COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS \$80.00; SCI SALES, LLC \$1,680.00; SCOTTS BLUFF CO BUILDING & ZON \$85.00; SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY TREASURER \$131.38; SCOTTSBLUFF-GERING UNITED WAY \$128.75; SECURITY NATIONAL BANK OF OMAH \$701.12; SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER \$1,050.00; SHAWNA WINCHELL \$390.00; SIMON CONTRACTORS \$3,199.50; SOLOMON TRANSFORMERS, LLC \$19,749.70; SOLUTIONS EAP \$244.55; SOUTHWESTERN EQUIPMENT COMPANY \$10,190.00; SPEAK WRITE \$2,129.47; SPECTRUM \$772.93; STAPLES CREDIT PLAN \$973.85; STATE FARM INSURANCE \$100.00; SUGAR VALLEY FEDERAL CREDIT \$528.37; T.T TECHNOLOGIES, INC \$4,936.98; TERRY CARPENTER, INC. \$1,300.00; TERRY YEAGER \$150.00; THE ROCK PILE \$946.24; THE TORO COMPANY \$155.00; TOUR EDGE MFG INC \$234.72; TRANSUNION RISK AND ALTERNATIV \$75.00; USPS \$10.95; VERIZON WIRELESS SERVICES, LLC \$1,046.82; VIAERO WIRELESS \$218.84; W & R INC. \$1,434.97; WALGREENS \$56.46; WALMART COMMUNITY/SYNCB \$27.67; WAREHOUSE FITNESS CENTER \$184.00; WESTERN STATES BANK \$34,405.97; WESTERN STATES BANK - POLICE \$550.00; WINSUPPLY SCOTTSBLUFF NE CO. \$371.78; WM RECYCLE AMERICA \$5,335.19; WYOMING BEARING & SUPPLY \$655.31; YANDA'S MUSIC INC ORD NEBRASKA \$2,365.00; YMCA OF SCOTTSBLUFF \$357.00; ZOOM VIDEO COMMUNICATIONS \$14.99

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

BIDS: None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

1. Consider approval of American Legion Post 36 Manager Application

Motion by Councilmember O'Neal to approve the American Legion Post 36 Manager Application. Second by Councilmember Gillen. There was no discussion. The Clerk called the roll. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.

2. Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign Economic Development Assistance Agreement and Deed of Trust pertaining to Hotel 21

Motion by Councilmember Wiedeman to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign Economic Development Assistance Agreement and Deed of Trust pertaining to Hotel 21. Second by Councilmember Gillen. There was no discussion. The Clerk called the roll. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.

3. 2019/20 Library Annual Report and Foundation Report

Tracy Henderson, Library Board President, presented the Annual Library Report including the following information:

Gering Public Library Report
February 8, 2021

Staffing:

- Diane Downer, Director
- Tammie Gitschel, Technical Services
- Christie Clark, Youth Services

- Sherry Preston, Public Services
- Myra Dillman & Kira Wysocki, and Patricia Rezac Library Assistants
- Lexi Tallmon & Victoria Christophersen, Library Page
- Several staff have or are working on their MLS

Finances:

Revenue:

City of Gering	\$494,678
Library State Aid	\$1,298
Lender's Compensation	\$666
Anonymous	\$30,000
Keno Funds	\$5,010
Other	\$275

Expenditures:

Staff, Benefits, Training	\$327,760
Library Materials	\$26,204
Support Services	\$48,886

Materials Held

Books: 30,179
 Video and audio materials: 2,998
 Software programs and materials in other formats: 48,488
 Periodicals/Newspapers: 56

Added to collection (does not include digital collection): 2,3
 Withdrawn from collection (does not include digital collection): 2,152
 Circulated (including digital collection): 34,307

Programming & Services:

Storytime: in person and virtual formatting when necessary
 LEAP program
 SMILE program (2nd grade)
 Book Discussion groups
 Tax forms
 NewsBank (full text of Omaha World Herald and others)
 New Online Card catalogue
 Computers/printers/scanner, copier/public notary
 Challenges: Vertical lift, insufficient space (both for current program and new program implementation)

Lego Club
 Summer Reading program
 Community room
 Interlibrary Loan
 Internet Access

Accreditation process

Currently Silver level (below peers in circulation, total materials held, and total collection expenditures)

A brochure was provided to the Council which included additional information including but not limited to:

Library Board of Directors:

Tracy Henderson, President
 Michelle Moore, Vice President
 Stephen Kaminski
 Unfilled
 Unfilled

- Monthly meetings every third Tuesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. in the library.

Volunteers:

- Staff has been delivering to the homebound and offering curbside delivery during Covid-19.

Foundation Board of Directors:

Charles Lieske, President
 William C. Peters, Vice-President
 Tom Swan, Treasurer
 Penny Businga
 David Nash
 Sandra Reddish

Friends Board of Directors:

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

Beverly Russell
Leann Sato

Revenue

City of Gering	\$494,678
Library State Aid	\$1,298
Lender's Compensation	\$666
Anonymous	\$30,000
Keno Funds	\$5,010
Other	\$275

Expenditures

Staff, Benefits, Training	\$327,760
Library Materials	\$26,204
Support Services	\$48,886

Circulation

Adult Materials (includes downloadable materials)	23,033
Children's Materials (includes downloadable materials)	11,274
Total	34,307

Collection

Books (Print)	30,179
Audio	1,279
Videos/DVDs	1,719
Periodicals/Newspapers	56
Cake Pans, ST Backpacks	42
Total	33,275

Electronic Collection

E-books (NE Overdrive)	29,666
Audio (NE Overdrive)	18,755
Databases	25

Library Services

Community Room Usage	124
Registered Borrowers	7,167
Library Visits	24,417
Reference Transactions	3,456
Public Computers Usage	4,280
Children's Programs	89
Young Adult Programs	4
Adult Programs	14

Cares Act Grant

During the time that our doors were closed because of Covid-19, we had several patrons wanting to read the Omaha World Herald. We are now able to provide remote access to full text images of the newspaper. This project was supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.

Storytime Backpacks

We've added Storytime Backpacks that provide families of young children noteworthy and fun literature along with other early childhood materials that will enhance and extend the literature experience and provide other learning opportunities in the home. Each backpack follows a theme and contain 5-7 books and activity ideas. They also contain games, manipulative and STEM

learning materials, and/or a DVD. The themes for the first six backpacks are Prince & Princess, Pets, Superheroes, Under the Sea, Fun with Food and Dinosaurs. Due to popularity, we are adding six more in the fiscal year 20/21. They are being funded with the help of the Friends group and a Youth Grant for Excellence that was awarded in November 2020.

Anonymous Donation

At the end of the fiscal year, we received a generous donation in the amount of \$30,000. The donor wrote: "So thrilled your facility stayed open to the public. Stories for all ages, of all ages, keep heritage alive and remembered. Keep up the tremendous

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)
- Lego Club
- Summer Reading Program for all ages
- Book Discussion Groups
- Book Drop—return your materials 24 hours a day
- Interlibrary Loan—get materials from anywhere in the world
- Tax Forms
- Reserve or Hold List
- Phone, email, and online renewals
- Downloadable audio and e-books
- Readers' Advisory
- Online Card Catalog
- Internet Access—including Wi-Fi
- Tours for all ages—scouts, seniors, community groups, etc.
- Class Visits
- Computers & Printers—word-processing, spreadsheets, etc.
- Scanner
- Fax Service
- ADA Workstation
- Reference Service
- Copier
- Homebound Delivery Service
- Microfilm Reader and Printer
- Community Room
- Community Bulletin Board
- Daily/Weekly Newspapers
- Public Notary
- NewsBank (full text image of Omaha World Herald and other newspapers)

Library Foundation President, Charles Lieske, also addressed the Council and stated that he believes the Library Foundation did a better than average job of setting the foundation for the future. Their focus remains, not just on their proposed building project, but also in how their foundation can be useful and supportive to the

public library in general. He added that the pandemic has affected the library but they still embrace the mission of transforming the Gering Public Library into a destination for generations. As they explore the building project, he stated that some assume that using the existing site is the best way to keep costs in check and to avoid new spending. Based on their perception of Council's desire for expanding the current site, they have continued to explore that option, even though it poses numerous complications - given the architectural limitations and the limitations caused by the current use of adjacent properties; one example being the Police Department use of the alley. They look forward to open and honest discussions that include acknowledgement of the challenges and restrictions of the current location and how that impacts the City's responsibility to meet the needs of the community. He added that there are times that additional spending that meets the needs of the taxpayers is responsible leadership. Gering needs more than a building that serves as a book depository, we need an accessible community center. Covid has caused many funders to redirect their giving to Covid relief, but he feels this kind of targeted approach is going to aid their fund-raising efforts as things shift back to what we might call "normal". A Library Foundation website and regular broadcasts featuring staff and board members sharing their visions for the building project and the library program is planned for this year. Their invitation from last year remains, and that is "Join us now and take this journey with us, please don't let others do the heavy lifting and then offer solutions at the eleventh hour without the knowledge and benefit of the decisions, discussions, analysis and thought that formed those final proposals".

Foundation Vice-Chairman, Bill Peters, talked about the 501 (c)3 application that has been made; they are waiting for some clarifications to be taken care of. They anticipate having the designation in the near future. Foundation Treasurer, Tom Swan, stated that they did not get any more donations in 2020. At the end of the year, they had \$21,461.47 in their bank account. There were management fees of \$500 to the Oregon Trail Foundation. They did receive some contributions in January of this of \$105, so they're at \$21,280.86. Mayor Kaufman stated that the library serves a need and service in our community. It takes vision to keep assets like this going into the future. He commended the boards for their time and dedication.

4. Request for Personnel Committee meeting – Agenda items: 1.) Discuss Firefighter/ EMS Coordinator position description/paygrade, 2.) Discuss Wastewater Treatment Plant Chief Operator position description/paygrade, 3.) Discuss Deputy Finance Director position description/paygrade

Motion by Councilmember Cowan to approve a request for a Personnel Committee meeting with agenda items 1.) Discuss Firefighter/ EMS Coordinator position description/paygrade, 2.) Discuss Wastewater Treatment Plant Chief Operator position description/paygrade, 3.) Discuss Deputy Finance Director position description/paygrade. Second by Councilmember Wiedeman. There was no discussion. The Clerk called the roll. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.

5. Approve Resolution 2-21-3 regarding appointments to the MEAN Board of Directors, MEAN Management Committee, NMPP's Member Council and ACE Board of Directors

Motion by Councilmember Gillen to approve Resolution 2-21-3 regarding appointments to the MEAN Board of Directors, MEAN Management Committee, NMPP's Member Council and ACE Board of Directors. Second by Councilmember Wiedeman. There was no discussion. The Clerk called the roll. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.

6. Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign grant agreements with the State of Nebraska and Crossroads Cooperative for the Economic Opportunity Program

City Engineer, Annie Folck, explained that in 2020, the City and Crossroads Cooperative jointly applied for a grant through the Nebraska Department of Transportation's Economic Opportunity Program. We were awarded \$100,000 to go towards the rail spur that will be constructed to serve the City's industrial park, including the new Crossroads Cooperative site. These grant agreements outline the responsibilities of each entity moving forward.

One agreement is between the City and the State of Nebraska which states that the project will be bid to all City standards in a manner consistent with state and local law (publicly advertised and bid, etc.) The City will oversee the project and maintain documentation on the project for at least five years.

The second agreement is between the City and Crossroads Cooperative. It states that Crossroads Cooperative will be responsible for providing design and obtaining all necessary approvals from Union Pacific Railroad, and will oversee construction and construction engineering for the project, subject to oversight by the City.

- a. City of Gering/Crossroads Cooperative Economic Opportunity Program Agreement
- b. State of Nebraska, Department of Transportation/City of Gering Economic Opportunity Program Agreement

Motion by Councilmember O'Neal to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign grant agreements with the State of Nebraska and Crossroads Cooperative for the Economic Opportunity Program, specifically the City of Gering/Crossroads Cooperative Economic Opportunity Program Agreement and the State of Nebraska, Department of Transportation/City of Gering Economic Opportunity Program Agreement. Second by Councilmember Morrison. There was no discussion. The Clerk called the roll. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.

8. Mayoral Appointment of Special Council Committee to conduct interviews for the Ward IV vacancy

Motion by Gillen to approve the Mayoral appointment of a Special Council Committee to conduct interviews for the Ward IV vacancy. The committee will be comprised of the Mayor and all sitting Council Members present during a special meeting to conduct interviews of prospective candidates. The special meeting will be held on a date to be determined in early March, 2021. A notice will be published, prior to the interviews, inviting prospective candidates to submit letters of interest. Second by Councilmember Wiedeman. There was no discussion. The Clerk called the roll. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.

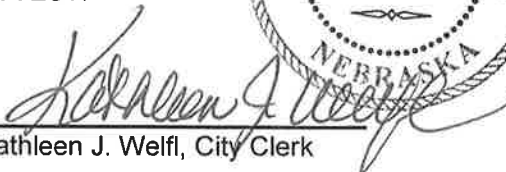
CLOSED SESSION: (Council reserves the right to enter into closed session if deemed necessary.) None

ADJOURN:


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

Meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

ATTEST:


Kathleen J. Welf, City Clerk





Mark A. Kaufman, Mayor