

## THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GERING CITY COUNCIL, JANUARY 24, 2022

A regular meeting of the City Council of Gering, Nebraska was held in open session on January 24, 2022, 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, Cowan. Also present were City Administrator Pat Heath, City Clerk Kathy Welfl and City Attorney Jim Ellison. 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

**Motion by Councilmember O'Neal to approve the absence of Councilmember Cowan from the January 10, 2022 regular City Council meeting. Second by Councilmember Morrison. There was no discussion. Mayor Kaufman called the vote. "AYES": Smith, 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

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 January 10, 2022 regular City Council meeting
2. Approve Claims
3. Approve December, 2021 Financial Report
4. File for record Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy Signatory Authority for Wastewater Treatment Plant
5. File for record Transfer Station Permit Renewal Application for City of Gering Baler Facility
6. File for record Letter to Senator Briese and the General Affairs Committee

### Claims January 11, 2022 to January 24, 2022

21ST CENTURY EQUIPMENT \$27.90; 911 CUSTOM \$41.52; A & A PORTA POTTIES \$270.00; ACE HARDWARE \$1,210.72; ACTION COMMUNICATIONS, INC. \$65.00; ACUSHNET COMPANY \$462.80; ALLAN D MITCHELL \$2,500.00; AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES \$343.82; ART AWISZUS \$150.00; ASFPM \$165.00; AT&T MOBILITY \$(3,341.40); AULICK INDUSTRIES \$348.93; AUTO ZONE 1657 \$123.62; AXON ENTERPRISE, INC \$375.00; B & C STEEL \$585.03; B & H INVESTMENTS, INC \$224.00; BATTLE BOARD \$351.90; BENZEL PEST CONTROL \$206.71; BEST BOOKS, INC. \$635.82; BH MEDIA GROUP HOLDING, INC. \$42.64; BLACKSTONE AUDIO, INC \$65.90; BLUFFS FACILITY SOLUTIONS \$67.99; BOB BUHR \$36.00; BOMGAARS \$76.77; BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES, INC \$2,187.63; BRETHOURS HONEYWAGON EXPRESS \$200.00; CALLAWAY GOLF COMPANY \$878.30; CARHARTT \$160.49; CENTURYLINK \$1,949.59; CITY PAYROLL TRUST \$2,631.05; CNA SURETY DIRECT BILL \$1,750.00; CODY FERGUSON \$36.00; COLLABORATIVE SUMMER LIBRARY P \$65.49; CONNECTING POINT \$279.93; CONSTANT CONTACT \$45.00; CONTRACTORS MATERIALS, INC. \$1,268.15; CORE & MAIN LP \$412.27; COUNTRY INN & SUITES \$528.05; DANKO EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT CO \$549.42; DOOLEY OIL \$794.00; DUTTON-LAINSON COMPANY \$124.23; DYKES OIL INC. \$40.55; ECOLAB \$234.30; ELLISON, KOVARIK & TURMAN LAW \$8,332.00; ENERGY LABORATORIES INC. \$407.00; EVENT BRITE \$245.00; FASTENAL COMPANY \$280.05; FIRST STATE BANK \$389.85; FLOYD'S TRUCK CENTER, INC. \$4,594.81; FOX VALLEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE \$195.00; FR DEPOT \$474.95; FRANCISCOS BUMPER TO BUMPER IN \$170.00; FRANK PARTS COMPANY \$1,270.81; FREE CONFERENCE CALL.COM \$4.00; FREMONT MOTOR SCOTTSBLUFF, LLC \$503.80; FRESH FOODS INC. \$9.19; GALL'S INC. \$1,001.86; GERING COURIER \$56.99; GERING VALLEY PLUMBING & HTG. \$5,749.60; GPM PUMP & TRUCK PARTS \$17,118.17; GRAINGER \$435.11; HACH COMPANY \$826.20; HARD HEAD VETERAN \$1,143.86; HARRINGTON INDUSTRIAL PLASTICS \$787.37; HENNING BROTHERS \$83.00; HGTV MAGAZINE \$40.99; HYDRO OPTIMIZATION & AUTOMATIO \$428.00; ICMA MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS \$840.00; IDEAL LAUNDRY AND CLEANERS, IN \$207.42; INDOFF INCORPORATED \$926.22; INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES \$845.10; INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE \$38,143.42; INTERNATIONAL INST OF MUNICIPAL \$290.00; INTRALINKS, INC. \$1,972.83; IPMA-HR \$409.50; JOHN HANCOCK USA \$13,008.20; JOHN HANCOCK USA FIRE \$597.33; JOHN HANCOCK USA POLICE \$6,678.04; JORDAN SCHLAGER \$36.00; JOSE RODRIGUEZ \$95.00; KAREN SUE BRUNTZ \$425.00; KEEP SCOTTSBLUFF-GERING BEAUTI \$5,000.00; KENNETH LEROY DODGE \$585.00; LAKEVIEW BOOKS \$314.84; LEAGUE ASSOC./RISK MANAGEMENT \$1,157.45; LOGOZ LLC \$299.00; MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT, LLC \$1,282.93;

MATHESON TRI-GAS INC \$101.72; MEAT SHOPPE \$18,741.12; MENARDS \$331.93; MERRICK & COMPANY \$195.00; MIDSTATES EQUIPMENT & SUPPLY \$102.20; MIDWEST WORKWEAR \$518.64; MIRASAFETY \$670.32; MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGENCY OF NE \$307,045.92; MUNICIPAL SUPPLY, INC. OF NE. \$3,610.35; MUNICIPAL TREATMENT EQUIP \$873.09; NATE GROSS \$36.00; NATIONAL ASSOC. FIELD TRAINING \$1,300.00; NE BOARD OF ENGINEERS & A \$80.00; NE CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT CENTE \$462.93; NE PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRO LAB \$123.00; NE SAFETY/FIRE EQUIPMENT, INC \$478.00; NE STATE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER \$95.00; NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DIS \$1,405.66; NEBRASKA RURAL RADIO ASSOC. \$883.18; NEBRASKA SALT AND GRAIN CO. \$8,668.57; NEW PIG CORPORATION \$126.00; NKC TIRE \$347.18; NORTHERN TRUCK EQUIP CORP \$104.14; PANHANDLE COOP ASSOCIATION \$3,379.05; PANHANDLE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVIC \$2,290.00; PANHANDLE HUMANE SOCIETY \$3,168.50; PARRISH ABEL \$96.00; PATTLEN ENTERPRISES, INC \$142.03; PAYROLL 1/14/22 \$122,016.90; PERFORMANCE AUTO PARTS \$1,800.00; PING INC \$641.40; PLATTE RIVER GLASS RODNEY L FL \$226.00; PLATTE VALLEY VAC & SEW \$225.25; PONY EXPRESS STATION \$310.00; POWERPLAN OIB \$303.34; REMOTE PC \$79.50; ROGER CLOSSON \$75.00; RYAN BLAKE \$36.00; SANDBERG IMPLEMENT, INC. \$91.94; SCB COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS \$106.00; SCB. COUNTY AMBULANCE SERVICE \$316.23; SCB. COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE \$201.92; SCI SALES, LLC \$2,516.00; SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY COURT \$19.00; SCOTTSBLUFF-GERING UNITED WAY \$141.75; SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER \$525.00; SHAWNA WINCHELL \$730.00; SIMMONS OLSEN LAW FIRM, P.C. \$5,122.50; SIMON CONTRACTORS \$630.00; SMITTY'S EQUIPMENT \$2,029.80; STAPLES CREDIT PLAN \$513.50; SUGAR VALLEY FEDERAL CREDIT \$528.37; TD AMERITRADE \$12,400.00; TERRY CARPENTER, INC. \$650.00; TERRY YEAGER \$150.00; THE TORO COMPANY \$155.00; TRANSUNION RISK AND ALTERNATIV \$75.00; TYNDALE \$757.79; UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE \$54.91; UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN \$240.00; UNL MARKETPLACE \$124.54; USA BLUE BOOK \$3,495.35; VALLEY AUTO LOCATORS LLC \$82.43; VAN PELT FENCING CO., INC. \$144.00; WALMART COMMUNITY/SYNCB \$37.71; WESCO RECEIVABLES CORP. \$372.36; WESTERN COOPERATIVE COMPANY \$1,660.00; WESTERN PATHOLOGY CONSULTANTS \$228.75; WESTERN STATES BANK \$23,238.88; WESTERN STATES BANK - POLICE \$516.00; WYOMING BEARING & SUPPLY \$67.48; ZOOM VIDEO COMMUNICATIONS \$14.99; ZORO.COM \$575.34

**Motion by Councilmember Morrison to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Councilmember Cowan. There was no discussion. Mayor Kaufman called the vote. "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 approval of Keno Fund Requests**

- High Plains Auto Club - \$ 3,500.00
- American Legion Post 36 - \$20,000.00
- Old West Balloon Fest - \$10,000.00

Darrell Bentley, Keno Committee Chairman, addressed Council and stated, regarding the American Legion application, that the stage at the cemetery is deteriorating. The Legion is looking to rebuild that with an awning over the top of it. The old one will be removed. There will be a pathway in front of the road and a sidewalk to comply with ADA. It will be used for more than just a Memorial Day-type celebration; it should be a real asset to the Cemetery.

**Motion by Councilmember Smith to approve the Keno Fund requests as follows: \$3500 for High Plains Auto Club, \$20,000 for the American Legion Post 36, \$10,000 for Old West Balloon Fest. Second by Councilmember Morrison. There was no discussion. Mayor Kaufman called the vote. "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 Interlocal Agreement between the City of Gering and the City of Gering Community Redevelopment Authority**

**Motion by Councilmember Morrison to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Gering and the City of Gering Community Redevelopment Authority. Second by Councilmember Wiedeman. There was no discussion. Mayor Kaufman called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.**

##### **3. Approve Resolution 1-22-3 regarding imposing a 1/2% additional sales tax to the existing City Sales and Use Tax for the purpose of funding public infrastructure projects**

#### **RESOLUTION 1-22-3**

**WHEREAS:**

a. The City currently imposes a City Sales and Use Tax in the amount of 1.5% pursuant to the Local Option Revenue Act, Sections 77-27,142, et seq. of the Nebraska Statutes (the "Existing City Sales and Use Tax");

b. The City is in need of additional revenue in order to provide for public infrastructure projects;

c. §77-27, 142 of the Nebraska Statutes allows the City Council to impose an additional one-half percent (1/2%) sales tax in addition to the Existing City Sales and Use Tax for the purpose of funding public infrastructure projects, following an election at which a majority of the qualified electors of the City approve such additional sales and use tax;

d. The additional sales and use tax may not be imposed unless the City is a party to an interlocal agreement pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act, Sections 13-801 to and including 13-1827, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, as amended (the "Interlocal Act"), with a political subdivision within the municipality or the county in which the City is located, which interlocal agreement shall create a separate administrative entity related to public projects; and

e. The City has entered into an interlocal agreement with the City of Gering Community Redevelopment Authority, a body corporate and politic (the "CRA"), for the purposes of forming the Gering Community Infrastructure Cooperative, a separate administrative entity.

**Be it resolved by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Gering, Nebraska as follows:**

1. At the May 10, 2022, primary election, the following proposition in the form shown below shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the City for their approval or rejection:

Shall the City Council of the City of Gering, Nebraska increase the local sales and use tax rate by an additional one-half of one percent (1/2%) from the current rate of one and one-half percent (1-1/2%) to a total rate of two percent (2%) and impose a sales and use tax at the increased rate only for public infrastructure projects including municipal roads, streets, sidewalks, curbs and gutters; wastewater; water collection facilities, including water mains and their appurtenances, water distribution facilities, including, but not limited to, mains and their appurtenances, upon the same transactions within the City on which the State of Nebraska is authorized to impose a tax, subject to the terms and conditions set out below?

- Yes (For increasing the Sales and Use Tax)  
 No (Against increasing the Sales and Use Tax)

**Terms and Conditions:** The terms and conditions of the proposition are as follows:

a. No reductions or elimination of other taxes or fees is contemplated.

b. Revenues from the increased sales and use tax are to be used for the following public infrastructure projects as are allowed pursuant to §77-27,142 of the Nebraska Statutes: only for public infrastructure projects including municipal roads, streets, sidewalks, curbs and gutters; wastewater; water collection facilities, including water mains and their appurtenances, water distribution facilities, including, but not limited to, mains and their appurtenances.

c. The City and the Community Redevelopment Authority of the City of Gering have entered into an interlocal agreement which created a separate administrative entity (the Gering Community Infrastructure Cooperative) for purposes of the interlocal agreement, related to public infrastructure projects. The interlocal agreement contains provisions, including benchmarks, relating to the long-term development of unified governance of public infrastructure projects with respect to the parties.

d. The increased sales and use tax shall terminate no more than ten years after the effective date of the increased sales and use tax or, if bonds are issued and the local option sales and use tax revenue is pledged for payment of such bonds, upon payment of such bonds and any refunding bonds, which ever date is later, except that the portion of the rate greater than one and one-half percent imposed for the purpose of the interlocal agreement referred to above (rounded to the next higher one-quarter percent) shall not terminate.

2. Electors desiring to vote in favor of or against the proposition shall do so in the manner specified in the ballot form as provided by the Scotts Bluff County Clerk

3. The primary election shall be conducted by the Scotts Bluff County Clerk at polling places established by the County Clerk in each of the City's precincts. The polls shall be open from 7 a.m. through 7 p.m. on the day of the general election.

4. The following notice required by law shall be published in the Gering Citizen, a legal newspaper of general election in the City not more than 30 days nor less than 10 days before the date of the election. The notice shall be in substantially the following form:

**City of Gering, Nebraska  
Notice of Election**

Notice is given that at the primary election on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at the usual polling place in each precinct of the City of Gering, Nebraska, the ballot will include for the electors of the City for their approval or rejection, the following proposition:

Shall the City Council of the City of Gering, Nebraska increase the local sales and use tax rate by an additional one-half of one percent (1/2%) from the current rate of one and one-half percent (1-1/2%) to a total rate of two percent (2%) and impose a sales and use tax at the increased rate only for public infrastructure projects including municipal roads, streets, sidewalks, curbs and gutters; wastewater; water collection facilities, including water mains and their appurtenances, water distribution facilities, including, but not limited to, mains and their appurtenances, upon the same transactions within the City on which the State of Nebraska is authorized to impose a tax, subject to the terms and conditions set out below?

- Yes (For increasing the Sales and Use Tax)  
 No (Against increasing the Sales and Use Tax)

**Terms and Conditions:** The terms and conditions of the proposition are as follows:

- a. No reductions or elimination of other taxes or fees is contemplated.
- b. Revenues from the increased sales and use tax are to be used for the following public infrastructure projects as are allowed pursuant to §77-27,142 of the Nebraska Statutes: only for public infrastructure projects including municipal roads, streets, sidewalks, curbs and gutters; wastewater; water collection facilities, including water mains and their appurtenances, water distribution facilities, including, but not limited to, mains and their appurtenances.
- c. The City and the Community Redevelopment Authority of the City of Gering have entered into an interlocal agreement which created a separate administrative entity (the Gering Community Infrastructure Cooperative) for purposes of the interlocal agreement, related to public infrastructure projects. The interlocal agreement contains provisions, including benchmarks, relating to the long-term development of unified governance of public infrastructure projects with respect to the parties.
- d. The increased sales and use tax shall terminate no more than ten years after the effective date of the increased sales and use tax or, if bonds are issued and the local option sales and use tax revenue is pledged for payment of such bonds, upon payment of such bonds and any refunding bonds, which ever date is later, except that the portion of the rate greater than one and one-half percent imposed for the purpose of the interlocal agreement referred to above (rounded to the next higher one-quarter percent) shall not terminate.

The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m. on the Election Day. Absent, disabled, and confined voters' ballots may be obtained from the County Clerk as provided by law. Copies of the proposition may be obtained at the office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 1025 P Street, Gering, Nebraska 69361.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2022 /s/ Kathleen J. Welfl, City Clerk

5. The City Clerk shall cause a certified copy of the Resolution to be delivered to the Scotts Bluff County Clerk no later than March 1, 2022.
6. This Resolution shall take effect after having been voted upon favorably by at least 70% of the Council Members.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS \_\_\_\_ day of January, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark A. Kaufman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen J. Welfl, City Clerk  
(SEAL)

**Motion by Councilmember Wiedeman to approve Resolution 1-22-3 regarding imposing a 1/2% additional sales tax to the existing City Sales and Use Tax for the purpose of funding public infrastructure projects. Second by Councilmember O'Neal. There was no discussion. Mayor Kaufman called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": Backus. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.**

**4. Approve appointment of a committee to educate the public and promote a 1/2% additional sales tax to the existing City Sales and Use Tax for the purpose of funding public infrastructure projects – The Committee will be comprised of Twin Cities Development, The Scottsbluff/Gering United Chamber of Commerce, Jeff Wolfe, Darrell Bentley, George Schlothauer and Eric Wilcox**

**Motion by Councilmember Morrison to approve the appointment of a committee to educate the public and promote a 1/2% additional sales tax to the existing City Sales and Use Tax for the purpose of funding public infrastructure projects – The Committee will be comprised of Twin Cities Development, The Scottsbluff/Gering United Chamber of Commerce, Jeff Wolfe, Darrell Bentley, George Schlothauer Sr. and Eric Wilcox. Second by Councilmember Wiedeman. There was no discussion. Mayor Kaufman called the vote. “AYES”: Smith, Gillen, Bohl, Wiedeman, O’Neal, Morrison, Cowan. “NAYS”: Backus. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.**

**5. Approve appointment of Randy Meininger to the Community Redevelopment Authority**

**Motion by Councilmember Gillen to approve the appointment of Randy Meininger to the Community Redevelopment Authority. Second by Councilmember Bohl. There was no discussion. Mayor Kaufman called the vote. “AYES”: Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O’Neal, Morrison, Cowan. “NAYS”: None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.**

**6. Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign Agreement between the City of Gering and Local Union No. 1597 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)**

**Motion by Councilmember O’Neal to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign Agreement between the City of Gering and Local Union No. 1597 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW). Second by Councilmember Morrison. There was no discussion. Mayor Kaufman called the vote. “AYES”: Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O’Neal, Morrison, Cowan. “NAYS”: None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.**

**7. Approve Resolution 1-22-4 regarding the appointment of Doug Parker, Electric Superintendent, to the ACE Board of Directors**

**Resolution No. 1-22-4**

**Appointment to ACE Board of Directors**

WHEREAS, the City of Gering, State of Nebraska, is a party to the Interlocal Agreement creating the Public Alliance of Community Energy and, pursuant to the terms of said Agreement, it is the responsibility of the City to designate a representative of the City of Gering to the Public Alliance for Community Energy Board of Directors provided for under the terms of said Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Gering, that:

1. The City Clerk is hereby directed to give written notice to the Public Alliance for Community Energy of the appointment of Doug Parker as the City’s representative to said Board of Directors.
2. The City Clerk is hereby directed to give written notice to the Public Alliance for Community Energy of the appointment of Pat Heath as the City’s alternate representative to said Board of Directors.

*This is to certify that the appointments set out above were approved by the City Council of the City of Gering, State of Nebraska, at their meeting on January 24, 2022.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

(SEAL)

**Motion by Councilmember Gillen to approve Resolution 1-22-4 regarding the appointment of Doug Parker, Electric Superintendent, to the ACE Board of Directors. Second by Councilmember Cowan. There was no discussion. Mayor Kaufman called the vote. “AYES”: Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O’Neal, Morrison, Cowan. “NAYS”: None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.**

**8. Approve request for Personnel Committee meeting – Agenda item: Discuss and recommend paygrade for Maintenance Mechanic, Sanitation Department**

**Motion by Councilmember Gillen to approve a request for Personnel Committee meeting – with agenda item: Discuss and recommend paygrade for Maintenance Mechanic, Sanitation Department. Second by Councilmember Bohl. There was no discussion. Mayor Kaufman called the vote. “AYES”: Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, 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.

**REPORTS:**

**1. Liaison Report – Oregon Trail Days, Councilmember O’Neal**

Councilmember O’Neal stated she received this report from William Peters.

- It was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2021, it was amazingly successful.
- The Vera Dulaney Memorial Art Show had its most successful year ever with the assistance of the Art Show Committee, headed by Crystal Sandberg.
- The carnival was really crowded. The carnival company couldn’t bring all the attractions due to a driver shortage, but it went very well.
- The Chili Cook-off was well-attended.
- The International Food Fair had a high amount of people in attendance.
- The Car Show was highly attended also – it was almost an all-time car event as well.
- It was the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary for Mud Volleyball; they are planning on expansion it in the next few years.
- The Wine/Beer Tasting event was so well-attended that suppliers had to get additional food – they plan to expand out the area where that event is located.
- They’re re-landscaping the Oregon Trail Days building with native plants and grasses – they’ve already placed some rocks there.

**OPEN COMMENT SECTION:** Discussion or action by Council regarding unscheduled business will not take place. This section is for citizen comment only.

Mary Bowman, 2610 Prairie Street, stated that she is the chairperson of the committee working on replacing the platform at the cemetery. They’ve been working on that for about two years; it will probably take another two years to complete. She thanked Council for approving the Keno funds for this project; that really helps them get things going. They will have continuing discussions at the Legion to find out what the replacement will be. They plan to hold a Legion-wide townhall meeting – everyone in the “Legion Family” will be able to participate in discussions about the design of the pavilion. They will have a consensus of the organization as to what that will look like sometime in March.

Councilmember Morrison asked the Mayor and Council if what was approved by Council for this project veers way off-track - if the Legion and all their entities do not approve of that, can that be modified in some way? Mayor Kaufman replied that he thinks the spirit and intent of our Keno Committee making a recommendation to the Council and Council moving that forward is that we would be making in investment in an asset that would be a betterment and service to our community. As long as that design was in that line of thought and they’re not asking for more funds, he didn’t (personally) think there would be any issues. The group is going to have to work with City staff (already) to construct and manage a project on a City asset, so there will be guidance along the way. Mary Bowman added that they are working with the Parks and Cemetery Board; they have asked the Legion to come back to them with their final design. They’re keeping an eye on the project as well.

Pat Heath, City Administrator, stated that Scotts Bluff County recently recognized the City of Gering with a plaque for “helping protect and strengthen our community during the Covid pandemic”. This was primarily for our staff, and particularly Casey Dahlgren, the main person behind this. Nathan Flowers also helped and several City staff volunteered for the Covid Clinics that were held at the City’s Street Maintenance Building. Some days they vaccinated up to 600 people. Administrator Heath thanked City employees and elected officials who assisted with this endeavor.

Darrell Bentley addressed the Council and stated this would be the last time Council would see that plaque. He’s been asking and thinking the City needs a trophy case in the lobby to show these kind of things. It doesn’t hurt to blow our own horn a little bit. He has brought this up for years, for the public that walk in and out of the door.

**ADJOURN:**

**Motion by Councilmember Gillen to adjourn. Second by Councilmember Cowan. There was no discussion. Mayor Kaufman called the vote. “AYES”: Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O’Neal, Morrison, Cowan. “NAYS”: None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

ATTEST:

Kathleen J. Welfl, City Clerk



Mark A. Kaufman, Mayor