

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

A regular meeting of the City Council of Gering, Nebraska was held in an open session on July 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

Motion by Councilmember O'Neal to approve the absence of Councilmember Smith from the July 12, 2021 regular City Council meeting. Second by Councilmember Morrison. There was no discussion. The Mayor 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 July 12, 2021 regular City Council meeting
2. Approve Claims
3. File for record Nebraska Games and Parks Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Reimbursement
4. File for record Stipulation for Surrender of Trailer related to Noah's Burritos Economic Development Assistance Agreement

Claims 7-13-21 to 7-26-21

21ST CENTURY EQUIPMENT \$693.89; A & A PORTA POTTIES \$405.00; ACE HARDWARE \$77.13; ACUSHNET COMPANY \$472.27; ADIDAS AMERICA, INC \$87.89; ALEXANDER PUBLICATIONS \$83.70; ALLEN, RONALD K \$115.00; ALLRED BROTHERS FIREWORKS \$5,000.00; AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES \$(172.86); AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION \$225.00; ANDREW LEHR \$70.00; B & S RASK GRILL \$2,382.00; BIG MACK HEATING & COOLING \$193.94; BLACK HILLS ENERGY \$3,088.76; BLUFFS FACILITY SOLUTIONS \$1,512.71; BOMGAARS \$269.99; BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES, INC \$4,378.93; BOSSELMAN TRAVEL CENTER \$35.87; BOUND TREE MEDICAL \$593.50; BRANDON BARBER \$300.00; BROOKE DOMINGUEZ \$175.00; BRYCE LEAVITT \$213.00; CALLAWAY GOLF COMPANY \$764.69; CAROLINA BIOLOGICAL SUPPLY \$41.90; CASEY'S GENERAL STORE \$37.19; CENTURYLINK \$2,747.75; CHRIS BURGMAN \$174.00; CITY OF GERING \$1,811.89; CNA SURETY DIRECT BILL \$80.00; CONSTANT CONTACT \$45.00; CONTRACTORS MATERIALS, INC. \$14.60; CORE & MAIN LP \$2,350.68; COUNTRY GARDENS \$288.00; D & H ELECTRONIC SUPPLY, INC. \$2.99; DANKO EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT CO \$1.50; DETER DYNASTY \$2,450.00; DIAMOND TRAFFIC PRODUCTS \$100.35; DOLLAR TREE \$21.00; DOOLEY OIL \$67.48; DUTTON-LAINSON COMPANY \$80.26; DYKES OIL INC. \$34.70; ECOLAB \$355.14; ELLISON, KOVARIK & TURMAN LAW \$9,693.75; ENERGY LABORATORIES INC. \$407.00; ETRAILER \$706.47; FASTENAL COMPANY \$50.61; FAT BOYS TIRE & AUTO \$53.02; FIRST AID & SAFETY ONLINE \$- ; FLOYD'S TRUCK CENTER, INC. \$268.22; FRANK PARTS COMPANY \$1,035.62; FREE CONFERENCE CALL.COM \$4.00; GARDNER, LOUTZENHISER & RYAN \$6,267.00; GCSAA \$400.00; GERALD SMITH \$75.00; GFOA \$500.00; GODADDY \$19.17; GREATAMERICA FINANCIAL SERVICE \$126.00; HAWKINS, INC. \$3,739.62; HEARTLAND BANK \$250.00; HEYING COMPANY \$145.00; HIBBETT SPORTS \$59.84; HIGH PLAINS SPAS & RECREATION \$19.98; HOBBY LOBBY \$43.58; HOME DEPOT CREDIT SERVICES \$42.71; HOTELS.COM \$125.43; IACP \$525.00; IDEAL LAUNDRY AND CLEANERS, IN \$113.93; INDEPENDENT PLUMBING & HEATING \$55.61; INDOFF INCORPORATED \$133.88; INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES \$926.57; INTERSTATE BATTERIE/RAPID CITY \$996.60; INTRALINKS, INC. \$119.00; IRBY TOOL & SAFETY \$669.29; JACOB PITTMAN \$50.00; JEREMIAH CLOSSON \$130.00; JOHNSON CASHWAY CO. \$13.79; JULIE WHITE \$180.00; KALE HAMILTON \$60.00; KELLER AMERICA \$670.27; KEVIN LEHR \$250.00; KWIK STOP \$64.64; LEAGUE ASSOC./RISK MANAGEMENT \$50.07; MASEK DISTRIBUTING INC \$1,373.50; MB KEM ENTERPRISE \$129.20; MEAT SHOPPE \$16,687.89; MEDLINE INDUSTRIES \$194.66; MENARDS \$1,314.56; MITCHELL BEREAN CHURCH \$300.00; MONEY WISE OFFICE SUPPLY \$189.61; MOTOR FUELS DIVISION \$2,415.00; MSC 410526/DOLLAR GENERAL CORP \$106.95; MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGENCY OF NE \$318,521.95; MURDOCH'S RANCH & HOME \$70.96; NATIONWIDE LIFTS OF COLORADO \$2,000.00; NE DEPT OF REVENUE \$1,130.31; NE DEPT. OF REVENUE \$61,721.63; NE FLOODPLAIN & STORMWATER \$135.00; NE PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRO LAB \$352.00; NEBRASKA GOLF ASSOCIATION \$230.00; NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DIS \$6,053.82; NEBRASKA RURAL RADIO ASSOC. \$583.18; NEBRASKA SECRETARY OF STATE \$60.00; NEWSBANK, INC \$1,150.50; NIK TIRE \$55.43; NMC EXCHANGE LLC \$367.93; NORTHWEST PIPE FITTINGS, INC \$233.05; OASIS

TRUCK CENTER \$41.45; OCLC, INC. \$163.87; OSCAR WILSDON ENGINES \$(130.62), PANHANDLE COOP ASSOCIATION \$3,886.60; PANHANDLE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVIC \$1,444.00; PANHANDLE GEOTECHNICAL & \$233.05; PATTLEN ENTERPRISES, INC \$261.74; PAYROLL \$170,150.97; PIPE WORKS PLUMBING LLC \$913.69; POOLWEB \$144.00; POWERPLAN OIB \$225.10; PRIME-STRIPE, INC. \$502.50; PROTEX CENTRAL, INC. \$98.00; QUADIENT LEASING USA, INC \$1,683.64; REGION 22 EMERGENCY MANAG \$4,461.17; RELIABLE EQUIPMENT \$1,210.71; RIVERSIDE DISCOVERY CENTER \$12,500.00; ROBERT GLEIM \$174.00; SAFELITE FULFILLMENT, INC. \$240.88; SANDBERG IMPLEMENT, INC. \$139.26; SCB COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS \$38.00; SCB. COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS \$40.00; SCOTTS BLUFF CELTIC GATHERING \$4,000.00; SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY COURT \$68.00; SHAWNA WINCHELL \$780.00; SHERRY PRESTON \$1,200.00; SIMMONS OLSEN LAW FIRM, P.C. \$1,762.50; SIMON CONTRACTORS \$1,349.59; SOLOMON TRANSFORMERS, LLC \$(3,045.00), STAPLES CREDIT PLAN \$87.67; SWANA \$89.00; SWIMOUTLET \$42.30; TEAM CHEVROLET \$375.00; THE CIT GROUP \$627.96; THE LIFEGUARD STORE \$230.51; THE TORO COMPANY \$155.00; THIS OLD HOUSE MAGAZINE \$20.00; TIMOTHY LYNN MILTON \$70.00; TOOL PARTS PRO \$27.52; TRIHYDRO CORPORATION \$47,670.81; UMCVB \$254.75; UNANIMOUS, INC. \$90.00; UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVE \$4,550.00; UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE \$147.00; VALLEY AUTO LOCATORS LLC \$152.85; VERIZON CONNECT \$38.38; VIDEO BREAD \$165.00; VISTA PRINT \$45.87; WALMART COMMUNITY/SYNCB \$390.95; WESTERN COOPERATIVE COMPANY \$1,237.70; WILBUR MARKHEIM \$500.00; WYOMING BEARING & SUPPLY \$575.62; ZAC BIBB \$213.00; ZOOM VIDEO COMMUNICATIONS \$14.99

Motion by Councilmember Gillen to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Councilmember Wiedeman. There was no discussion. The Mayor 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:

- Carpenter Center \$9,800.00
- Riverside Discovery Center \$16,173.38

Mayor Kaufman stated that he attended the July Keno Committee meeting. The Keno Committee does a great job. Darrell and his group, for many years, have been very good stewards of that money and very fiscally-minded. All applications are carefully vetted.

Councilmember Gillen noted a perceived conflict of interest due to his employment at the Riverside Discovery Center. City Attorney, Matt Turman, responded that Councilmember Gillen can vote on this agenda item.

Motion by Councilmember Morrison to approve the Keno requests as presented which is \$9,800.00 for the Carpenter Center and \$16,173.38 for the Riverside Discovery Center. Second by Councilmember O'Neal. There was no discussion. The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.

2. Approve Keno Fund carry-over of \$3,500.00 for High Plains Auto Club

Motion by Councilmember Gillen to approve a carry-over of Keno Funds for High Plains Auto Club in the amount of \$3,500.00. Second by Councilmember Wiedeman. There was no discussion. The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.

3. Presentation by Tracy Juraneck and Fred Wiebelhaus with LARM – League Association of Risk Management

Tracy Juraneck, Customer Service Specialist/Assistant Executive Director and Fred Wiebelhaus, Field Adjuster Supervisor/Loss Control Assistant with LARM, addressed the Council. Tracy stated that Gering was one of the charter members of LARM in 1995. The FY 21/22 Renewal Proposal is in the folder she provided to the Council, along with some optional deductibles. That decision does not have to be made immediately; she and City staff were just looking for ways to save money. She stated that she and Fred came out in April and met with Kathy, Tammy and Pat, received a nice tour of Gering, looked at the new ball field and discussed ways to save money, including possibly moving some class codes to save money on Workers Comp. Kathy has been a great advocate with LARM the last several years in helping lower values on contractor equipment; the memo Kathy provided to Council explains a lot of what Tracy wants to talk to Council about. Property reinsurance was really tough this year. LARM goes out into the market and obtains property and liability reinsurance in order for them to be able to keep their surplus where it needs to be and to keep the pool financially safe. Due to storms in various states, property rates have really taken a drastic increase. Property reinsurance went up about 45% this year. Luckily, the surplus is

in a really good position so they don't have to pass all that on to the members. Property rates went up 7.5% this year, liability rates went up 5%, Workers Compensation stayed flat. One of Gering's biggest increases this year was in property, but that's because Gering's total insured value went from 45.9 million to 50.2 million. General Liability is based mostly on the City's net operating expenses; there was about a 7% increase on Gering's net operating expenses this year. She explained that if the City commits three years to LARM, there's a 5% discount; the resolution is on the agenda tonight. Typically, Gering has always committed to three years to get the 5% discount, which is a significant amount of money. There is also an option to go down to the two-year commitment with a 4% savings. She stated that in their packet she put information about a \$2,500 deductible on auto physical damage and a \$5,000 deductible. She had Fred run a loss run and look at the City's claims. If the City went with a \$2,500 deductible, there would be a savings of a little over \$27,000; a \$5,000 deductible would be a \$44,800 savings. She thinks it's a great option. For that savings to be diminished, the City would have to have a lot more claims than they've had in the past. She and Fred think the City would be fine taking one of those options.

Fred Wiebelhaus explained that on the loss control side, they look at the big picture of the community which includes them coming out and talking to the City, sending out safety bulletins, providing safety committee support, access to the Legal Liability Risk Management Institute Policies, LARM Armor Grant Program for Police Departments, Safety grants of \$500, Online LARM University training and more. As a LARM member, the City receives a free membership to the Nebraska Safety Council. Mr. Wiebelhaus added that the City receives Cyber Security coverage at no cost to its members. LARM has taken a huge increase for this coverage, but continues to provide it to the members at no cost.

4. Approve Resolution 7-21-1 regarding FY21/22 LARM Renewal

Motion by Councilmember Wiedeman to table approval of Resolution 7-21-1 regarding the LARM Renewal until the August 9, 2021 regular City Council meeting when staff will have final numbers. Second by Councilmember Gillen. There was no discussion. The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.

5. Approve Resolution 7-21-2 regarding pay grade for the Finance Director position

RESOLUTION 7-21-2

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CHANGE IN WAGE/GRADE FOR THE POSITION OF CITY TREASURER/FINANCE DIRECTOR

WHEREAS, the City of Gering has established a Salary Range Schedule for a Pay Plan for City of Gering employees; and

WHEREAS, as it pertains to the position of City Treasurer/Finance Director, the Gering City Council has determined it is necessary to adjust the wage/grade for this position from a Grade 27 to a Grade 28.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED BY the City Council of the City of Gering, Nebraska, that:

1. The wage/grade for the position of City Treasurer/Finance Director for the City of Gering shall be a Grade 28.
2. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

Passed and approved this 26th day of July, 2021.

Mark A. Kaufman, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathleen J. Welfl, City Clerk

Motion by Councilmember Morrison to approve Resolution 7-21-2 regarding pay grade for the Finance Director position. Second by Councilmember O'Neal. There was no discussion. The Mayor 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 an Agreement for Auction Services by and between the City of Gering and BidItBob Auction Services

Motion by Councilmember Gillen to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an Agreement for Auction Services by and between the City of Gering and BidItBob Auction Services. Second by Councilmember Wiedeman.

Discussion: Councilmember O'Neal asked if it's typical for auctions to take the percentage outlined in the agreement. City Clerk Welfl replied, yes. This will be our first online auction. The City has used Kraupie's and other auction services in the past; at the last live auction, the commission was 25%. This is actually lower.

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

REPORTS: (Information only)

1. Liaison Report – Gering CVB, Councilmember Smith

Councilmember Gillen stated he enjoys serving on the Gering CVB; there are many great public-minded individuals on the committee. He pointed out the following highlights provided by Tourism Director, Karla Niedan-Streeks:

- January thru July Bureau has experienced a "measurable" increase in destination marketing recruitment and servicing efforts; responding to strong upward movement in tourism recovery post-pandemic
- April, May & June all recorded record-setting numbers for lodging occupancy and attraction visits.
 - Hotel occupancy up 31.7% in the second quarter of 2021; leisure travel as well as corporate-business travel rebounding
- American Bus Association (ABA) annual marketplace is our primary opportunity to meet one-on-one with tour operators was all "virtual" this year
 - Booked four new tour groups coming in 2022 & 2023
 - Booked three new day-trip itineraries for motor coach tours in August and September 2021
 - Average expenditure for one full motor coach group is \$10,000 per day
- Bureau assisted with written bid and in-person presentation to NSAA to host Class B Boy's State Golf Competition in Gering-Scottsbluff; awarded 3-year bid. Gering and Scottsbluff will host both Girls and Boys Class B State Golf Championships alternating between Monument Shadows Golf Course and Scotts Bluff Country Club
- Bureau working with City Staffs on upcoming Old West Balloon Fest and US National Hot Air Balloon Championships:
- Coordinating a new "Strategic Plan" for the Robidoux Trading Post with members of Friends of Robidoux and key City of Gering staff

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

OPEN COMMENT SECTION: None

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

ADJOURN:

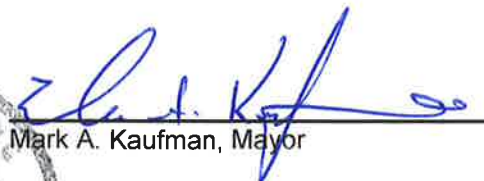
Motion by Councilmember Morrison to adjourn. Second by Councilmember Gillen. There was no discussion. Mayor Kaufman called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

ATTEST:


Kathleen J. Welfl, City Clerk




Mark A. Kaufman, Mayor