

## THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GERING CITY COUNCIL, JUNE 10, 2024

A regular meeting of the City Council of Gering, Nebraska was held in open session on June 10, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at Gering City Hall, 1025 P Street, Gering, NE. Present were Mayor Ewing and Councilmembers Shields, 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 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 Gillen to approve the absence of Councilmembers Shields and Backus from the May 28, 2024 regular City Council meeting. Second by Councilmember Bohl. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing 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

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.

### 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 May 28, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting
2. Approve Claims
3. Approve a Special Designated License submitted by the Oregon Trail Association for the Oregon Trail Days Chili Cook-off at 2200 D Street (Kahuna Park at Five Rocks Amphitheater), Gering, NE on July 13, 2024
4. Approve a Special Designated License submitted by the Oregon Trail Association for the Oregon Trail Days Mud Volleyball Tournament at 2505 D Street (near Five Rocks Amphitheater), Gering, NE on July 13, 2024

#### Claims 5/29/24 thru 6/10/24

24/7 FITNESS \$286.00, 911 CUSTOM \$3,891.08, ACE HARDWARE \$171.92, ACUSHNET COMPANY \$283.38, AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES \$(75.88), AMERITAS LIFE INSURANCE COPR. \$609.14, ASHLEY GOMEZ \$75.00, BLUE LADDER RENOVATIONS LLC \$3,500.00, BLUFFS FACILITY SOLUTIONS \$41.10, CAMSPOT \$1,447.69, CARI LIND \$300.00, CENGAGE LEARNING/GAGE \$121.56, CHERI HUTCHISON \$136.00, CITY OF GERING \$29,963.55, COLUMN SOFTWARE, PBC \$291.77, CONNECTING POINT \$45.87, CONSOLIDATED MANAGEMENT COMPAN \$80.45, CONTRACTORS MATERIALS, INC. \$524.00, EAKES INC \$81.72, ELITE TOTAL FITNESS \$196.00, FASTENAL COMPANY \$369.30, FAT BOYS TIRE & AUTO \$610.48, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OMAHA \$10,652.44, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA - POLICE \$584.00, FRANK PARIS COMPANY \$237.01, FRASER STRYKER PC LLO \$1,395.00, FRESH FOODS INC. \$7.88, FYR-TEK, INC. \$252.00, GOLF AND SPORT SOLUTIONS,LLC \$5,104.47, GROUND UP CONSTRUCTION & CLEAN \$1,482.50, IDEAL LAUNDRY AND CLEANERS, INC. \$104.49, INDOFF INCORPORATED \$412.93, INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES \$943.58, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE \$54,261.90, INTRALINKS, INC. \$7,852.37, JOHN HANCOCK USA \$18,271.78, JOHN HANCOCK USA FIRE \$799.83, JOHN HANCOCK USA POLICE \$8,993.84, LEGACY COOPERATIVE \$778.36, LONDON FLATS, LLC \$6,319.82, LYNDSEY MATHEWS \$136.00, MATHESON TRI-GAS INC \$328.07, MB KEM ENTERPRISE \$184.80, NEBRASKA CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT CENTE \$714.93, NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF REV (PR) \$25,907.04, NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE \$150.00, NEBRASKA GOLF ASSOCIATION \$1,179.45, NEBRASKA TRAVEL ASSOCIATION \$500.00, ONE CALL CONCEPTS, INC \$178.34, OPEN A NINE, LLC \$2,297.06, PATTLEN ENTERPRISES, INC \$473.13, RECOVERY SYSTEMS COMPANY, INC \$107,882.00, REGIONAL CARE INC. \$61,662.21, RIVERSTONE BANK \$639.96, RVW INC \$3,173.00, SAPP BROS \$3,760.31, SCHANK ROOFING SERVICE \$41,433.22, SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL \$89.00, SCOTTS BLUFF/GERING SPORTS COUNCIL \$7,631.20, SCOTTSBLUFF-GERING UNITED WAY \$230.67, SHERRY PRESTON \$1,200.00, SOUTHWESTERN EQUIPMENT COMPANY \$2,223.22, SPEAK WRITE \$35.65, TEAM CHEVROLET \$375.00, TERESA TOSH \$12,625.25, THE TORO COMPANY \$175.00, THE YOGA COLLECTIVE, \$65.00, TYLER TECHNOLOGIES,

\$45,346.85, UNITED WAY OF WESTERN NE, \$500.00, VERIZON CONNECT, \$31.94, WESTERN PATHOLOGY CONSULTANTS, \$71.00, WILLIAM BAER, \$144.86, YMCA OF SCOTTSBLUFF, \$994.00, Total, \$483,742.49

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

#### **BIDS/PROPOSALS:**

##### **1. Award Contract for 2024 Wastewater Treatment Plant Cover Replacement, approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a Notice of Award and Notice to Proceed**

Administrator Heath stated that three of the basins at the Wastewater Treatment Plant have covers on them to retain heat. Basin 3B has a cover that was replaced in 2016; it has deteriorated due to wind and hail damage to the point that it needs to be replaced. Staff advertised for bids but did not receive any. This is a unique cover; there are not a lot of manufacturers or installers nationwide. Based on that, staff and legal felt this could be handled as a sole-source procurement. The City has been working with EFI who was the installer of the original covers in 2004. There was a 10-year life on that cover, and it lasted 10 years. Two of the other basins still have that cover on them but they do not have the flexibility of the water movement that the 3B basin has. EFI submitted a sole-source bid for this cover. Staff are recommending that Council approve the contract with Environmental Fabrics Incorporated for a cost of \$229,000. \$380,000 was budgeted. Schedule A on the attached bid was just for Pond 3B. Schedule B was if the City could do all three ponds. Staff will budget next year to do the other two ponds. They've been on 20 years and have exceeded their life expectancy.

**Motion by Councilmember Wiedeman to award a Contract for 2024 Wastewater Treatment Plant Cover Replacement with EFI, USA in the amount of \$229,000 and approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a Notice of Award and Notice to Proceed. Second by Councilmember Gillen. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.**

##### **2. Award bid for 2024 Crew Cab 4x4 Pickup – Water/Wastewater Department**

Mike Davies, Public Works Director, stated that he started this project about a month ago. He budgeted for three pickups in this year's budget. He's replacing two 2014s. This is for a 2024 Crew Cab Chevy 1500. He approached Transwest Ford, Reganis Auto, Team Chevrolet, Anderson Ford and Husker Auto Group off the state bid. Team Chevrolet called on Friday and left a message while he was at the pool dealing with the boiler issue. He called them back today (June 10) and they have a 2024 1500 (half ton) on the lot for \$44,754 which would beat out the quote from Husker Auto Group (as presented in the packet). Staff recommends awarding to the low bidder, Team Chevrolet.

**Motion by Councilmember Shields to award the bid for a 2024 Crew Cab 4WD pickup for the Water and Wastewater Department to Team Chevrolet in the amount of \$44,754. Second by Councilmember Wiedeman. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.**

##### **3. Award bid for 2024 Double Cab 4x4 Pickup – Water/Wastewater Department**

Mike Davies, Public Works Director, stated this is for a 2024 Double Cab 2500 (three-quarter ton) pickup, equivalent to a Ford F-250. He approached Transwest Ford, Team Chevrolet as well as Husker Auto Group and Anderson Ford off the state bid. Husker Auto Group came back cheaper than Anderson Ford and Transwest. Team did not have one available. He budgeted \$66,000 to possibly add a plow, but there's a plow on the pickup they have now, so staff will buy the attachment and transfer it over to this truck instead of buying a \$15,000 plow. Staff recommends awarding the bid to Husker Auto Group out of Lincoln in the amount of \$47,877 plus \$400 for delivery.

**Motion by Councilmember O'Neal to award the bid for a 2024 Double Cab 4WD pickup for the Water and Wastewater Department to Husker Auto Group through the State Bid in the amount of \$48,277 which includes delivery. Second by Councilmember Gillen. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.**

#### **4. Approve emergency purchase for a boiler for the Gering Municipal Swimming Pool**

Administrator Heath stated the pool opened June 1. Staff knew at that time that it was recommended that the City budget for a new boiler. Gering Valley Plumbing was hoping the City would get through the season with the boiler that was there. Unfortunately, the boiler failed last week. Gering Valley did some checking and found one in Omaha. Staff made an emergency purchase and it's ordered. He further explained how the piping connects; there will have to be some additional piping in the pump room. Because a new boiler was found, the water can get warmed back up by the end of the week. With all the other pools in the state starting up, staff felt with this being the only available boiler, the emergency purchase needed to be made. Staff are asking for Council to approve the \$75,000 emergency purchase with Gering Valley Plumbing. There are funds budgeted in the swimming pool fund. \$100,000 was budgeted for various pool repairs this year, \$50,000 was also budgeted for the slide pier repairs. However, those piers do not have to be replaced this year. \$30,000 of the \$100,000 has been spent, but the City does have the funds to cover the cost of the boiler. Councilmember Gillen asked if funds would be budgeted to replace the piers in next year's budget. Parks and Recreation Director, Amy Seiler, stated it's to be determined. Staff are watching the piers. They will be inspected annually. Ms. Seiler further expanded on the condition of the pool.

**Motion by Councilmember Wiedeman to approve the emergency purchase of a new boiler for the Gering Municipal Swimming Pool through Gering Valley Plumbing & Heating in the amount of \$75,000 which includes labor. Second by Councilmember Bohl. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing 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. Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign Economic Development Assistance Agreement and Security Agreement pertaining to IDEM Irrigation, LLC**

**Motion by Councilmember Morrison to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an Economic Development Assistance Agreement and Security Agreement pertaining to IDEM Irrigation, LLC. Second by Councilmember Shields. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.**

##### **2. Approve Resolution 6-24-1 authorizing the submittal of a grant application to the Rural Community Recovery Program for the construction of Play Unlimited at Oregon Trail Park and surrounding enhancements, and designating Twin Cities Development Association to provide assistance with grant preparation, writing, administration, and reporting services**

#### **Resolution 6-24-1**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF GERING, NEBRASKA, AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE RURAL COMMUNITY RECOVERY PROGRAM FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PLAY UNLIMITED AT OREGON TRAIL PARK AND SURROUNDING ENHANCEMENTS, AND DESIGNATING TWIN CITIES DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE WITH GRANT PREPARATION, WRITING, ADMINISTRATION, AND REPORTING SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Gering recognizes the importance of fostering community growth and development; and  
**WHEREAS**, the City of Gering acknowledges the necessity of revitalizing public spaces and amenities to attract residents and promote community engagement; and  
**WHEREAS**, the City of Gering is committed to addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on its community and recognizes the opportunity presented by the Rural Community Recovery Program (RCRP) to secure funding for essential projects; and

**WHEREAS**, Twin Cities Development Association, as a member benefit to the City of Gering, has offered to assist with grant preparation, writing, administration, and reporting services for the Rural Community Recovery Program grant application;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Gering has identified the construction of Play Unlimited at Oregon Trail Park and surrounding enhancements as a critical project to support the recovery and revitalization of the community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GERING, NEBRASKA:**

**Section 1. Approval of Project and Grant Submittal**

The City Council of Gering hereby approves the project proposal for the construction of Play Unlimited at Oregon Trail Park and surrounding enhancements, as described in the grant application for the Rural Community Recovery Program (RCRP).

**Section 2. Designation of Twin Cities Development Association**

The City Council of Gering designates Twin Cities Development Association to provide assistance with grant preparation, writing, administration, and reporting services for the Rural Community Recovery Program grant application.

**Section 3. Authorization for Grant Application**

The City Council of Gering hereby authorizes the submission of a grant application to the Rural Community Recovery Program (RCRP) for funding in the amount of \$1,000,000 to support the aforementioned project.

**Section 4. Purpose of the Project**

The purpose of the project is to construct Play Unlimited at Oregon Trail Park, an inclusive play park, and to make surrounding enhancements, with the aim of providing equitable play opportunities for children and adults of all abilities. These improvements are intended to support the City of Gering's goal of enhancing community amenities and promoting inclusivity.

**Section 5. Eligibility for Rural Community Recovery Program**

The City of Gering affirms that it meets the eligibility criteria outlined in the Rural Community Recovery Program (RCRP) guidelines, including its status as a political subdivision located in a disproportionately impacted rural county in Nebraska.

**Section 6. Authorization to Seek Funding**

The Mayor and Twin Cities Development are hereby authorized to take all necessary actions to seek funding through the Rural Community Recovery Program (RCRP), including the preparation and submission of the grant application, and to execute any agreements or documents necessary to secure funding for the project.

**Section 7. Effective Date**

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage and approval.

PASSED AND APPROVED this \_\_\_\_ day of June, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

**Motion by Councilmember Gillen to approve Resolution 6-24-1 authorizing the submittal of a grant application to the Rural Community Recovery Program for the construction of Play Unlimited at Oregon Trail Park and surrounding enhancements, and designating Twin Cities Development Association to provide assistance with grant preparation, writing, administration, and reporting services. Second by Councilmember Cowan.**

**Discussion:** Councilmember O'Neal asked about the deadline for the letter of intent. Administrator Heath replied that the letter of intent to apply has been submitted and it does not bind the City on anything.

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

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None.

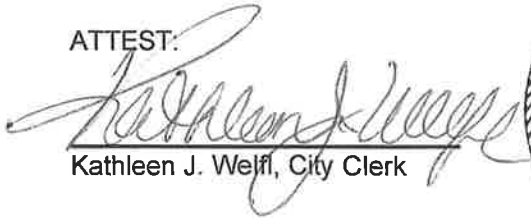
**CLOSED SESSION:** (Council reserves the right to enter into closed session if deemed necessary.) None.

**ADJOURN:**


**Motion by Councilmember Gillen to adjourn. Second by Councilmember O'Neal. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, 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



  
Kent E. Ewing, Mayor