

THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GERING CITY COUNCIL, SEPTEMBER 26, 2022

A regular meeting of the City Council of Gering, Nebraska was held in open session on September 26, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at Gering City Hall, 1025 P Street, Gering, NE. Present were Council President Gillen and Councilmembers Smith, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. Also present were City Administrator Pat Heath, City Clerk Kathy Welfl and City Attorney Jim Ellison. Absent was Mayor Kaufman (Mayor Kaufman was attending a Joint Public Hearing at WNCC regarding the FY22/23 property tax request on behalf of the City of Gering). 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

Council President Gillen 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 Gillen from the September 12, 2022 regular City Council meeting. Second by Councilmember Morrison. There was no discussion. Council President Gillen 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

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 September 12, 2022 regular City Council meeting
2. Approve Claims
3. Approve August, 2022 Financial Report

Claims 9/13/22 - 9/26/22

24/7 FITNESS \$263.00, A & A PORTA POTTIES \$375.00, ACE HARDWARE \$999.83, ACTION COMMUNICATIONS, INC. \$50.40, ACUSHNET COMPANY \$627.96, ALL STAR PRO GOLF \$163.91, AL'S TOWING, INC \$300.00, AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES \$80.65, AMERICAN BUS ASSOCIATION \$620.00, AMERITAS LIFE INSURANCE COPR. \$574.80, ASHLEY MASONER \$75.00, B & S RASK GRILL \$500.76, BENZEL PEST CONTROL \$90.95, BH MEDIA GROUP HOLDING, INC. \$726.68, BIG MACK HEATING & COOLING \$12,153.00, BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES, INC \$7,781.54, BRADLEY'S MISSION \$300.00, CALLAWAY GOLF COMPANY \$872.15, CARTMILL BOBBI \$300.00, CITY OF GERING \$998.68, CLARK PRINTING LLC \$743.50, CONNECTING POINT \$18.68, CONTRACTORS MATERIALS, INC. \$342.00, CORE & MAIN LP \$2,266.40, CROSSROADS COOPERATIVE \$12,089.38, DANA F. COLE & COMPANY \$775.00, DEMCO, INC \$99.84, DOCU-SHRED LLC \$773.50, DON SCHMIDT CARPET, INC. \$30.00, DOOLEY OIL \$395.00, EAKES INC \$92.13, ECOLAB \$406.68, ELITE TOTAL FITNESS \$194.00, ELLISON, KOVARIK & TURMAN LAW \$6,628.75, ENERGY LABORATORIES INC. \$561.00, ESC ENGINEERING \$1,889.24, FASTENAL COMPANY \$468.14, FISHER WELL SERVICE, INC \$3,662.55, FLOYD'S TRUCK CENTER, INC. \$1,915.21, FRANCISCOS BUMPER TO BUMPER IN \$880.00, GERING VALLEY PLUMBING & HTG. \$1,023.20, GERING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT. \$500.00, GERING ZION CHURCH \$300.00, GOOD HOUSEKEEPING \$15.97, GROUND UP CONSTRUCTION & CLEAN \$678.50, HD ARMS, LLC \$5,172.80, HENNING BROTHERS \$83.00, HENSLEY BATTERY, LLC \$1,118.00, HOSA FUTURE HEALTH PROFESSIONA \$595.00, IDEAL LAUNDRY AND CLEANERS, IN \$309.09, INDOFF INCORPORATED \$98.23, INFINITE MEDICAL SPA \$7,500.00, INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES \$726.83, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE \$41,658.57, INTERSTATE BATTERIE/RAPID CITY \$371.85, INTRALINKS, INC. \$1,809.78, J RODZ \$475.00, JC GOLF ACCESSORIES \$364.39, JOHN HANCOCK USA \$13,812.15, JOHN HANCOCK USA FIRE \$635.07, JOHN HANCOCK USA POLICE \$6,401.63, JOHNSON CASHWAY CO. \$188.30, KATHY WELFL \$18.81, KENT EWING \$6,696.38, KEVIN LEHR \$40.00, LAKEVIEW BOOKS \$389.99, LANE LEAH \$75.00, LOGOZ LLC \$100.00, M.C. SCHAFF & ASSOCIATES, INC. \$7,331.65, MALY MARKETING \$2,341.64, MANUEL BARRAZA \$17,600.00, MASEK DISTRIBUTING INC \$1,573.50, MATHESON TRI-GAS INC \$35.34, MEAT SHOPPE

\$30,111.27, MELISSA LEWIS \$20.00, MENARDS \$2,166.90, MIDAMERICA BOOKS \$464.00, MILCO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, I \$13,559.17, MIZUNO USA, INC. \$141.00, MONUMENT INN & SUITES \$192.00, MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGENCY OF NE \$363,031.80, MUNICIPAL SUPPLY, INC. OF NE. \$457.46, NE CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT CENTE \$640.18, NE DEPARTMENT OF REV (PR) \$13,488.79, NE DEPT OF REVENUE \$1,265.81, NE DEPT. OF REVENUE \$74,586.98, NE SAFETY/FIRE EQUIPMENT, INC \$87.00, NEBRASKA FOREST SERVICE \$30.00, NEBRASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRO LAB \$519.00, NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT \$107.83, NEBRASKA RURAL RADIO ASSOC. \$583.18, NORTHWEST PIPE FITTINGS, INC \$161.85, OCLC, INC. \$7.43, ONE TIME VENDOR \$164.65, O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE STORE \$13.20, PANHANDLE COOP ASSOCIATION \$14,795.81, PANHANDLE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVIC \$2,582.00, PANHANDLE HUMANE SOCIETY \$3,168.50, PIPE WORKS PLUMBING LLC \$850.00, PRECISION AIR \$200.00, PT HOSE AND BEARING \$774.54, PVB VISA \$5,851.37, QUADIENT LEASING USA, INC \$1,052.11, REGIONAL CARE INC. \$29,562.30, RIVERSTONE BANK \$585.32, SANDBERG IMPLEMENT, INC. \$599.22, SARAH WYNN \$425.00, SCB COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS \$40.00, SCB. COUNTY AMBULANCE SERVICE \$316.23, SCHLUTER EATS, INC \$7,000.00, SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY COURT \$36.00, SCOTTSBLUFF-GERING UNITED WAY \$141.75, SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER \$525.00, SHAWNA WINCHELL \$1,080.00, SIMMONS OLSEN LAW FIRM, P.C. \$2,952.50, SIMON CONTRACTORS \$1,571.80, SKIP KELLEY \$98.00, SOLUTIONS EAP \$244.55, SOUTHWESTERN EQUIPMENT COMPANY \$550.87, SPEAK WRITE \$429.96, STAPLES CREDIT PLAN \$574.97, STEVE MOUNT \$213.00, SUGAR VALLEY FEDERAL CREDIT \$528.37, SUN MOUNTAIN SPORTS \$374.00, TAYLOR MADE GOLF COMPANY \$1,050.03, TERRY CARPENTER, INC. \$650.00, THE TORO COMPANY \$155.00, TOPKOTE INC \$477,748.90, TRIHYDRO CORPORATION \$105.75, TYLER TECHNOLOGIES \$10,257.50, TYNDALE \$1,403.81, VALLEY AUTO LOCATORS LLC \$107.50, VAN DIEST SUPPLY COMPANY \$4,077.50, VAN PELT FENCING CO., INC. \$1,428.00, VANTAGE APPAREL \$1,199.75, VERIZON CONNECT \$38.38, W & R INC. \$3,171.07, WAREHOUSE FITNESS CENTER \$96.00, WESTERN COOPERATIVE COMPANY \$9,638.54, WESTERN PATHOLOGY CONSULTANTS \$71.00, WESTERN STATES BANK \$7,110.47, WESTERN STATES BANK - POLICE \$482.00, YMCA OF SCOTTSBLUFF \$670.00, Total \$1,280,508.85

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

CURRENT BUSINESS:

1. NPPD Presentation regarding a 115kV Transmission Line Project in the Gering/Scottsbluff area

Project Manager Paul Brune, Sr. and Engineer Lead Nick Mertens with Nebraska Public Power District provided bound copies of their presentation and talked through the information with the Council regarding the 115kV Transmission Line Project. A copy of their presentation is on file at the Gering City Offices.

2. Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign Agreement for Professional Services with Panhandle Area Development District

Motion by Councilmember Wiedeman to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an Agreement for Professional Services with Panhandle Area Development District. Second by Councilmember Bohl. There was no discussion. Council President Gillen called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

3. Second reading of Ordinance No. 2111 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GERING, NEBRASKA TO ADOPT THE BUDGET STATEMENT TO BE TERMED THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2022; TO APPROPRIATE SUMS FOR NECESSARY EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Councilmember Smith made a motion to move the second reading of Ordinance No. 2111 – AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE BUDGET STATEMENT TO BE TERMED THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2022; TO APPROPRIATE SUMS FOR NECESSARY EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. There was no discussion. Council President Gillen called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

4. Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2112 - AN ORDINANCE ALLOWING FOR EXCEEDING THE ALLOWABLE GROWTH AND BASIC ALLOWABLE GROWTH LIMITS FOR THE 2022-2023 FISCAL YEAR BY ONE PERCENT OF BUDGETED RESTRICTED FUNDS, AND CORRECTING THE ADOPTED BUDGET STATEMENT AND ACCOMPANYING FORMS

Councilmember Morrison made a motion to move the second reading of Ordinance No. 2112 - AN ORDINANCE ALLOWING FOR EXCEEDING THE ALLOWABLE GROWTH AND BASIC ALLOWABLE GROWTH LIMITS FOR THE 2022-2023 FISCAL YEAR BY ONE PERCENT OF BUDGETED RESTRICTED FUNDS, AND CORRECTING THE ADOPTED BUDGET STATEMENT AND ACCOMPANYING FORMS. Seconded by Councilmember Cowan. There was no discussion. Council President Gillen called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

5. Second reading of Ordinance No. 2113 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FEES CHARGED FOR THE USE OF THE CITY LANDFILL; AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF

Councilmember Wiedeman made a motion to move the second reading of Ordinance No. 2113 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FEES CHARGED FOR THE USE OF THE CITY LANDFILL; AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF. Seconded by Councilmember O'Neal. There was no discussion. Council President Gillen called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

6. Second reading of Ordinance No. 2114 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE WATER RATES FOR CITY AND OUT OF CITY LIMITS RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL USERS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF

Councilmember Bohl made a motion to move the second reading of Ordinance No. 2114 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE WATER RATES FOR CITY AND OUT OF CITY LIMITS RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL USERS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF. Seconded by Councilmember Wiedeman. There was no discussion. Council President Gillen called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

7. Second reading of Ordinance No. 2115 - AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE AMENDING FEES FOR RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL SEWER SERVICE CHARGES, AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF

Councilmember Morrison made a motion to move the second reading of Ordinance No. 2115 - AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE AMENDING FEES FOR RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL SEWER SERVICE CHARGES, AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF. Seconded by Councilmember Cowan. There was no discussion. Council President Gillen called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

8. Second reading of Ordinance No. 2116 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GERING, NEBRASKA TO ESTABLISH FEES FOR RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL STORMWATER SURCHARGE, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF

Councilmember Wiedeman made a motion to move the second reading of Ordinance No. 2116 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GERING, NEBRASKA TO ESTABLISH FEES FOR RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL STORMWATER SURCHARGE, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF. Seconded by Councilmember O'Neal. There was no discussion. Council President Gillen called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

9. Approve Ordinance No. 2117 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GERING, NEBRASKA TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 5.1.1 RESTRICTING THE USE OF

SHIPPING CONTAINERS FOR ACCESSORY BUILDINGS AND STORAGE IN BOTH RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF

City Engineer, Annie Folck, stated this ordinance is more of a house keeping ordinance. In 2019, Council passed a shipping container ordinance that allowed shipping containers on a limited basis in commercial and industrial zones. It's not allowed in residential zones unless it's for moving or construction. In Commercial Zones, they can have one per lot. There are a number of other requirements for the Industrial Zone. It also doesn't allow people to use them for a home (which is the second ordinance). When the Zoning Code was updated, this was not incorporated in the accessory building part of the code; that needs to be done so it's easier to find. There are no other material changes to the shipping container ordinance that was in effect. Staff recommends approval of this ordinance and the Planning Commission recommended approval as well.

Councilmember Wiedeman made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2117 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GERING, NEBRASKA TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 5.1.1 RESTRICTING THE USE OF SHIPPING CONTAINERS FOR ACCESSORY BUILDINGS AND STORAGE IN BOTH RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF. Seconded by Councilmember O'Neal. There was no discussion. Council President Gillen called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Councilmember Morrison moved that the Ordinance be designated as Ordinance No. 2117 and the title thereof approved, and that the Statutory Rule requiring Ordinances to be fully and distinctly read on three different days be dispensed with, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Cowan. There was no discussion. The Clerk called the roll. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

The motion to suspend the statutory rule having been concurred in by three-fourths of all members elected to the Council, was, by the Council President declared to have carried. Whereupon Ordinance No. 2117 was read by title only, Councilmember Smith moved that the Ordinance be passed as read, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Gillen. The question is shall Ordinance No. 2117 be passed? There was no discussion. Council President Gillen called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

The passage and adoption of the Ordinance having been concurred in by a majority of all members elected to the Council was by the Council President declared passed.

10. Approve Ordinance No. 2118 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GERING, NEBRASKA TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 5.7, ADDING SECTION 5.7.6 PROVIDING FOR SHIPPING CONTAINER HOMES AND SHIPPING CONTAINER HOME COMMUNITIES AS A PLANNED

Engineer Folck stated that when the shipping container ordinance was originally considered, the possibility of using them for houses was brought up. At the time, no one knew how likely that would be in Gering and it was decided that "we'd cross that bridge when we come to it". We have now come to that bridge. Ms. Folck stated there are people interested in developing container homes in the City of Gering. Container homes can look really amazing but they can also not look amazing. She further described how they can look and showed slides of container homes to the Council. The Comp Plan talks about providing a range of housing in Gering and there is such a need for housing in our community right now. What staff and the Planning Commission are recommending is that the City treat container homes the same way tiny homes and mobile homes are treated in the Code in that they cannot be allowed to go in any residential area. They can't go on a single vacant lot in the middle of a typical single-family home neighborhood. The City would require that it be done through the Planned Development Process, Section 2.2.4 of the City Zoning Code. It's like what the City does with Heritage Estates. The developer would come to the City and would have to have a minimum of two acres and show what the lay out would be, what parking

would look like, landscaping, the appearance of the homes themselves, exterior materials to be used, the colors, etc. All of that would allow both the Planning Commission and Council to weigh in and have some oversight to make sure the development is a good development, that it will be well-maintained and accessible for first responders and that it's a safe, good development. The International Building Code is actually more open to this now than it was years ago; there have been revisions in recent years. It strongly recommends that a design-professional stamps it; she would feel better about that as well. The City wants to be sure these are safe. The City will do its due diligence as well, but she is not a structural engineer and doesn't expect our building inspector to be able to figure all of that out either. Staff would feel much better if all of these were reviewed and stamped by a licensed architect. That would take a lot of liability and risk out of it. These are the two main requirements and would allow the City to have flexibility in the housing types that are available here in Gering while still having a lot of oversight to make sure that this will be a credit to Gering and that it has a positive, beneficial effect on our community. Staff and the Planning Commission recommend approval of the ordinance.

Councilmember Morrison asked if the architectural stamp will be required per each home or per development. Ms. Folck replied each home would have to have its own stamp.

Councilmember Morrison made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2118 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GERING, NEBRASKA TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 5.7, ADDING SECTION 5.7.6 PROVIDING FOR SHIPPING CONTAINER HOMES AND SHIPPING CONTAINER HOME COMMUNITIES AS A PLANNED. Seconded by Councilmember Cowan.

Discussion: Council President Gillen asked if other municipalities in our region have similar ordinances or is Gering a trend setter. Engineer Folck replied, Gering will be the trend setter. He asked if staff feel this would be overly burdensome on the developer; he wants to be sure the City doesn't stifle development when there's currently a (housing) crisis. Ms. Folck replied that she sent the draft ordinance to the company that is interested in doing this. She asked if there was anything in there that concerned them and they replied no. They felt it was reasonable. The main thing is that everyone gets treated equally when they come through the process. Everyone will be held to the same standards. Councilmember O'Neal asked if staff looked at Lincoln, that has these. Administrator Heath replied that the video he showed Council had some in Lincoln. Ms. Folck stated that Lincoln has container homes that would be similar to what staff are anticipating in Gering, except they can be on their own lot (in Lincoln).

Council President Gillen called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Councilmember Smith moved that the Ordinance be designated as Ordinance No. 2118 and the title thereof approved, and that the Statutory Rule requiring Ordinances to be fully and distinctly read on three different days be dispensed with, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Gillen. There was no discussion. The Clerk called the roll. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

The motion to suspend the statutory rule having been concurred in by three-fourths of all members elected to the Council, was, by the Council President declared to have carried. Whereupon Ordinance No. 2118 was read by title only, Councilmember Backus moved that the Ordinance be passed as read, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Bohl. The question is shall Ordinance No. 2118 be passed? There was no discussion. Council President Gillen called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

The passage and adoption of the Ordinance having been concurred in by a majority of all members elected to the Council was by the Council President declared passed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

BIDS/PROPOSALS: None.

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

REPORTS:

1. Liaison Report, Councilmember Cowan – Gering Public Library

Councilmember Cowan presented the following update:

The Library Board has been very busy throughout the year. They've been reviewing and updating the library policies. They've gone through a retirement process with Library Director, Diane Downer, and with that they've also gone through the process of hiring a Library Director. The new Library Director, Christie Clarke, hit the road running and is doing a fine job. She brings a lot to the table with fresh new ideas and changes. The library is going to look and feel way different in the next couple months. I encourage everyone to stop by the library and see the major changes when they're done. I, for one, am very excited and can't wait for them.

The board has also seen changes of their own. They have two new members which make up a full library board of five. Did you know that every three years they have to have 20 credit hours just to be a library board member? They watch videos made possible by the Nebraska Library Association to get these credit hours which they voted to include in their meetings instead of doing them on their own. Their meetings are exciting to sit in and listen to. They are held in the community room in the basement of the library every third Tuesday of the month at 5 pm. They are open to the public and everyone is welcome to attend. While you are there, check out the new chair lift.

There will be a Gering Friends of the Library Annual Meeting on November 6 at 1:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. They will elect officers for the upcoming year and hear reports of the past year. There will be a wonderful program given on 'Saving a Legacy - Japanese Americans in the Valley'. Everyone is invited.

OPEN COMMENT: Mayor Kaufman stated that discussion or action by Council regarding unscheduled business will not take place. This section is for citizen comment only.

Councilmember Wiedeman noted UNMC Nursing students in the audience. One of the students stated that they have a class called Policy and Issues which requires them to attend a City Council or School Board meeting and write a paper about it. Council President Gillen welcomed them.

ADJOURN:

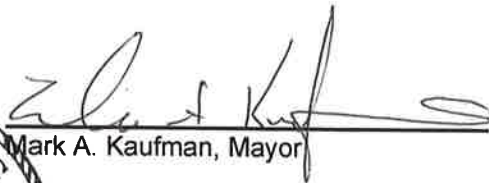
Motion by Councilmember Smith to adjourn. Second by Councilmember Cowan. There was no discussion. Council President Gillen called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

ATTEST:


Kathleen J. Welfl, City Clerk




Mark A. Kaufman, Mayor