

**THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GERING CITY COUNCIL,  
SEPTEMBER 6, 2023**

A special meeting of the City Council of Gering, Nebraska was held on September 6, 2023 at 5:15 p.m. at Gering City Hall Council Chambers, 1025 P Street, Gering, NE. Present were Mayor Ewing and Councilmembers Shields, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison and Cowan. Also present were City Administrator Pat Heath, Elizabeth Loutzenhiser, City Clerk Kathy Welfl, 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 5:15 p.m. A quorum of the Council was present and City business could be conducted.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call

**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 Council determines that the matter requires emergency action.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**1. Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers and citizens relating to the City of Gering Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Proposed Budget**

Mayor Ewing opened a public hearing for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers and citizens regarding the City of Gering Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Proposed Budget at 5:16 p.m.

Mayor Ewing stated the following:

FY24 Budgeted Government-Wide Total Revenues net of transfers \$32,561,426 (increase due sales tax revenue projections and LB357 sales tax, 15% property tax valuation increases on residential property)

FY23 Budgeted Government-Wide Total Revenues net of transfers \$29,661,422

FY24 Budgeted Revenues - General Fund only \$5,831,048 (includes enterprise transfer in of \$2 Million, and \$662,500 sales tax revenue, no transfers in from sinking fund for capital purchases)

FY23 Budgeted Revenues - General Fund only \$5,442,357 (includes enterprise transfer in of \$1.9 Million and \$600,000 sales tax revenue, no transfers in from sinking fund for capital purchases)

FY24 Budgeted Property Tax Revenues \$2,130,611

FY23 Budgeted Property Tax Revenues \$1,907,582

FY24 Budgeted Sales Tax Revenues \$2,425,000 (includes estimated LB357 sales tax of \$450,000)

FY23 Budgeted Sales Tax Revenues \$2,160,000 (includes estimated LB357 sales tax of \$350,000)

FY24 Budgeted Enterprise Transfers \$2,060,000

FY23 Budgeted Enterprise Transfers \$1,960,000

FY24 Budgeted Gov't Wide Total Expenditures \$43,439,115 (includes capital expenditures of \$8,032,404, debt service \$856,719, contingencies \$1,000,000)

FY23 Budgeted Gov't Wide Total Expenditures \$42,133,252 (includes capital expenditures of \$9,213,021, debt service \$1,007,128, contingencies \$1,000,000)

FY24 Budgeted Total Operating Expenses (excludes debt and capital expense) is \$31,249,960 (the largest increase was payroll and benefits with a 5% COLA - \$907,753). There is an increase in health insurance expense of 8% (cost of approximately \$139,200), a 37.6% increase in property insurance, 8.4% increase in liability insurance and a 3.6% decrease in workers comp insurance. FY23 Budgeted Total Operating Expenses (excludes debt and capital expense) was \$28,841,858 (the largest increase was payroll and benefits with a 3.5% COLA - \$533,961. Increase in health insurance expense of 10% (cost of approximately \$148,686), 11% increase in property insurance, 5.5% increase in liability insurance and a 5% increase in work comp insurance.

FY24 Budgeted Expenses - General Fund \$6,471,875 (includes \$75,000 in capital expenditures and \$305,421 in transfers out)

FY23 Budgeted Expenses - General Fund \$5,497,679 (includes \$15,000 in capital expenditures and \$45,421 in transfers out)

FY24 Budgeted operating expense General Fund without capital improvements or contingency \$6,396,875

FY23 Budgeted operating expense General Fund without capital improvements or contingency \$5,437,258

Fiscal Year 24 Budgeted Full-time employees authorized is 87

Fiscal Year 23 Budgeted Full-time employees authorized was also 87

Mayor Ewing asked if anyone in the Council Chambers wished to speak regarding the Fiscal Year 24 proposed budget. Hearing none, Mayor Ewing asked again if anyone wished to speak regarding the proposed FY24 Budget. With no further comments, the administrative record was closed and the public hearing closed at 5:24 p.m.

**CLOSED SESSION:** None.

(Council reserves the right to enter into closed session if deemed necessary.)

**ADJOURN:**

**Motion to adjourn by Councilmember Gillen. 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.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

  
Kent E. Ewing, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Kathleen J. Welfl, City Clerk

