

**THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GERING CITY COUNCIL,
SEPTEMBER 8, 2021**

A special meeting of the City Council of Gering, Nebraska was held on September 8, 2021 at 5:15 p.m. at Gering City Hall Council Chambers, 1025 P Street, Gering, NE. Present were Mayor Kaufman and Councilmembers Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, Morrison and Cowan. Also present were City Administrator Pat Heath and City Clerk Kathy Welfl. Absent was Councilmember O'Neal. 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 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 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 Council determines that the matter requires emergency action.

BIDS:

1. Approve purchase of projectors and screens for Civic Center

City Engineer, Annie Folck, stated as Council is aware, we are currently in the middle of a major renovation at the Civic Center. The audio/visual equipment needed updated as well. Staff is proposing to purchase new projectors and motorized screens and worked with Intralinks to put together a list of what is needed. This will be purchased through a purchasing consortium which allows the City to purchase at a discounted rate. The City will contract with Intralinks for installation. Councilmember Wiedeman clarified that this is just for the parts, not the installation. Ms. Folck replied, that is correct. The installation cost is pretty minimal and will be way under the amount that needs bid. Intralinks will install the equipment, Anderson-Shaw will mount the screens.

Motion by Councilmember Wiedeman to approve the purchase of projectors and screens for the Civic Center in the amount of \$41,239.32 through the Omnia Purchasing Consortium. Second by Councilmember Morrison. There was no discussion. The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: O'Neal. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Public hearing for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers related to the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Proposed Tax Request

Mayor Kaufman 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 2021/2022 Proposed Tax Request at 5:20 p.m.

Mayor Kaufman asked twice if anyone in the Council Chambers wished to speak in favor of the FY 22 proposed tax request. Seeing none, he asked twice if anyone wished to speak in opposition of the FY22 proposed tax request.

There were no staff or Council comments. With no discussion, the public hearing was closed at 5:22 p.m.

1a. Adopt Resolution 9-21-1 regarding the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Property Tax Request

Resolution 9-21-1

WHEREAS, Nebraska Revised Statute 77-1601.02 provides that the Governing Body of the City of Gering passes by a majority vote a resolution or ordinance setting the tax request: and

WHEREAS, a special public hearing was held as required by law to hear and consider comments concerning the property tax request;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Governing Body of the City of Gering, resolves that:

1. The 2021-2022 property tax request for non-bond purposes be set at \$1,767,985.00.
2. The 2020-2021 property tax request for bond purposes be set at \$0.00.
3. The total assessed value of property differs from last year's total assessed value by 5%.
4. The tax rate which would levy the same amount of property taxes as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of property, would be \$.327276 per \$100 of assessed value.
5. The City of Gering proposes to adopt a property tax request that will cause its tax rate to be \$.342697 per \$100 of assessed value.
6. Based on the proposed property tax request and changes in other revenue, the total operating budget of the City of Gering will exceed last year's by 9%.
7. A copy of this resolution be certified and forwarded to the County Clerk on or before October 13, 2021.

PASSED AND APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2021.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk (seal)

Motion by Councilmember Gillen to approve Resolution 9-21-1 regarding the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Property Tax Request. Second by Councilmember Wiedeman. There was no discussion. The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: O'Neal. Motion Carried.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

1. First reading of Ordinance No. 2103 – AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE BUDGET STATEMENT TO BE TERMED THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BILL; TO APPROPRIATE SUMS FOR NECESSARY EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Councilmember Gillen made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2103 as the first reading – AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE BUDGET STATEMENT TO BE TERMED THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BILL; TO APPROPRIATE SUMS FOR NECESSARY EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Seconded by Councilmember Backus. There was no discussion. The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: O'Neal. Motion Carried.

2. First reading of Ordinance No. 2104 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FEES CHARGED FOR THE USE OF THE CITY LANDFILL; AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF

Councilmember Morrison made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2104 as the first reading – 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 Cowan. There was no discussion. The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: O'Neal. Motion Carried.

3. First reading of Ordinance No. 2105 - AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE AMENDING FEES FOR RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL SEWER SERVICE CHARGES, AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF

Councilmember Wiedeman made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2105 as the first reading – 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 Morrison. There was no discussion. The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: O'Neal. Motion Carried.

4. First reading of Ordinance No. 2106 - 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 Gillen made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2106 as the first reading – 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 Backus. There was no discussion. The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: O'Neal. Motion Carried.

5. First reading of Ordinance No. 2107 - 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 Cowan made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2107 as the first reading – 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 Smith. There was no discussion. The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: O'Neal. Motion Carried.

6. Adopt Resolution 9-21-2 regarding Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Enterprise Fees Transfer

RESOLUTION NO. 9-21-2

WHEREAS, the City of Gering transfers Enterprise Fees to the General Fund to assist in balancing the budget; and

WHEREAS, Enterprise Fees are derived from the Electric, Water, Wastewater and Sanitation Funds; and

WHEREAS, the transfer has been maintained at approximately 13% of budgeted Enterprise Fund Revenues over the last few years; and

WHEREAS, the transfer is budgeted at \$1,990,000 for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Gering, Nebraska, that staff is authorized to transfer Enterprise Fees of approximately 13% of Enterprise Fund Revenues to the General for the fiscal year 2021-2022 in the amount of \$1,990,000.

PASSED AND APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2021.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

(seal)

Motion by Councilmember Morrison to approve Resolution 9-21-2 regarding the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Enterprise Fees Transfer. Second by Councilmember Bohl. There was no discussion. The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: O'Neal. Motion Carried.

7. Adopt Resolution 9-21-3 regarding Pay Plan for Officers and Employees for the City of Gering, NE

Resolution 9-21-3

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

1. That the following Pay Plan for Officers and employees of the City of Gering, Nebraska employed in Classified Positions be approved September 8, 2021 and effective October 4, 2021.

PAY SCHEDULE – GENERAL EMPLOYEES ONLY

| | STEP 1 | STEP 2 | STEP 3 | STEP 4 | STEP 5 | STEP 6 | STEP 7 | STEP 8 | STEP 9 |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Grade 1 | \$9.89 | \$10.08 | \$10.35 | \$10.60 | \$10.87 | \$11.13 | \$11.39 | \$11.67 | \$11.93 |
| Grade 2 | \$10.32 | \$10.59 | \$10.87 | \$11.13 | \$11.40 | \$11.71 | \$11.96 | \$12.25 | \$12.68 |
| Grade 3 | \$10.85 | \$11.26 | \$11.69 | \$12.12 | \$12.47 | \$12.92 | \$13.29 | \$13.73 | \$14.14 |
| Grade 4 | \$11.37 | \$11.84 | \$12.26 | \$12.72 | \$13.15 | \$13.59 | \$14.04 | \$14.48 | \$14.91 |
| Grade 5 | \$11.92 | \$12.36 | \$12.83 | \$13.27 | \$13.75 | \$14.20 | \$14.67 | \$15.11 | \$15.58 |
| Grade 6 | \$12.60 | \$13.06 | \$13.55 | \$14.02 | \$14.51 | \$14.97 | \$15.45 | \$15.93 | \$16.42 |
| Grade 7 | \$13.21 | \$13.71 | \$14.20 | \$14.71 | \$15.19 | \$15.68 | \$16.17 | \$16.68 | \$17.18 |
| Grade 8 | \$13.86 | \$14.39 | \$14.91 | \$15.43 | \$15.94 | \$16.46 | \$16.97 | \$17.47 | \$18.01 |
| Grade 9 | \$14.55 | \$15.08 | \$15.63 | \$16.17 | \$16.73 | \$17.27 | \$17.84 | \$18.37 | \$18.93 |
| Grade 10 | \$15.26 | \$15.83 | \$16.42 | \$16.97 | \$17.53 | \$18.12 | \$18.69 | \$19.25 | \$19.81 |
| Grade 11 | \$16.10 | \$16.69 | \$17.26 | \$17.86 | \$18.42 | \$19.03 | \$19.59 | \$20.20 | \$20.77 |
| Grade 12 | \$16.88 | \$17.46 | \$18.10 | \$18.69 | \$19.30 | \$19.90 | \$20.51 | \$21.12 | \$21.72 |
| Grade 13 | \$17.69 | \$18.32 | \$18.96 | \$19.59 | \$20.25 | \$20.88 | \$21.54 | \$22.16 | \$22.82 |
| Grade 14 | \$18.55 | \$19.20 | \$19.87 | \$20.53 | \$21.23 | \$21.88 | \$22.55 | \$23.22 | \$23.88 |
| Grade 15 | \$19.56 | \$20.21 | \$20.89 | \$21.60 | \$22.27 | \$22.95 | \$23.67 | \$24.33 | \$25.02 |
| Grade 16 | \$20.43 | \$21.12 | \$21.87 | \$22.59 | \$23.29 | \$24.04 | \$24.74 | \$25.46 | \$26.18 |
| Grade 17 | \$21.42 | \$22.19 | \$22.95 | \$23.72 | \$24.47 | \$25.23 | \$25.99 | \$26.75 | \$27.53 |
| Grade 18 | \$22.45 | \$23.23 | \$24.04 | \$24.80 | \$25.59 | \$26.59 | \$27.15 | \$27.94 | \$28.76 |
| Grade 19 | \$23.49 | \$24.33 | \$25.18 | \$26.04 | \$26.87 | \$27.73 | \$28.58 | \$29.41 | \$30.33 |
| Grade 20 | \$24.66 | \$25.56 | \$26.44 | \$27.33 | \$28.22 | \$29.11 | \$29.99 | \$30.89 | \$31.78 |
| Grade 21 | \$25.83 | \$26.76 | \$27.72 | \$28.65 | \$29.59 | \$30.51 | \$31.44 | \$32.39 | \$33.31 |
| Grade 22 | \$27.02 | \$28.01 | \$28.97 | \$29.97 | \$30.96 | \$31.92 | \$32.94 | \$33.90 | \$34.88 |
| Grade 23 | \$28.36 | \$29.39 | \$30.43 | \$31.45 | \$32.47 | \$33.52 | \$34.56 | \$35.56 | \$36.58 |
| Grade 24 | \$29.70 | \$30.77 | \$31.86 | \$32.97 | \$34.05 | \$35.14 | \$36.24 | \$37.32 | \$38.41 |
| Grade 25 | \$31.22 | \$32.35 | \$33.51 | \$34.64 | \$35.78 | \$36.94 | \$38.06 | \$38.19 | \$40.33 |
| Grade 26 | \$32.74 | \$33.94 | \$35.14 | \$36.36 | \$37.53 | \$38.78 | \$39.96 | \$41.15 | \$42.36 |
| Grade 27 | \$34.23 | \$35.46 | \$36.65 | \$37.87 | \$39.05 | \$40.27 | \$41.50 | \$42.69 | \$43.88 |
| Grade 28 | \$35.84 | \$37.17 | \$38.55 | \$39.97 | \$41.44 | \$42.98 | \$44.57 | \$46.23 | \$47.93 |

2. That the following positions in the Classification Plan are assigned to the following Class Grades:

HOURLY POSITIONS - GENERAL EMPLOYEES ONLY

| <u>Grade</u> | <u>Class Titles</u> | <u>Grade</u> | <u>Class Titles</u> |
|--------------|------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | School Crossing Guard | 11 | Accounting Clerk II |
| 1 | Library Page | 11 | Customer Service Clerk |
| 1 | Laborer I | 11 | Administration Secretary Police |
| 1 | Lifeguard | 14 | Deputy City Clerk |
| 1 | Clubhouse Attendant I | 14 | Drafting/GIS Tech |
| 1 | Camp Host | 14 | Utility Office Coordinator |
| 3 | Assistant Pool Manager | 14 | Accounting Office Coordinator |
| 3 | Laborer II | 15 | Youth Service Librarian |
| 3 | Clubhouse Attendant II | 15 | Public Service Librarian |
| 5 | Library Assistant I | 15 | Technical Service Librarian |
| 5 | Pool Manager | 15 | EMS Coordinator |
| 6 | Utility Clerk I | 16 | Cemetery Sexton |
| 7 | Library Assistant II | 19 | Combination Building Inspector |
| 8 | Records Clerk | 19 | Transportation Supervisor |
| 8 | Secretary | 19 | Golf Course Supervisor |

| | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|----|-------------------------------|
| 9 | Maintenance Person | 19 | Sanitation Coordinator |
| 10 | Account Clerk | 19 | Park Maintenance Supervisor |
| 10 | Recreation Coordinator | 19 | Engineering Technician |
| 10 | Utility Clerk II | 19 | Water/Wastewater Supervisor |
| 11 | Landfill Administration Clerk | 22 | Electric Line Crew Supervisor |
| 11 | Administrative Secretary | 28 | City Engineer |

EXEMPT POSITIONS - Professional, Administrative and Executive

| <u>Grade</u> | <u>Class Titles</u> | <u>Grade</u> | <u>Class Titles</u> |
|--------------|----------------------------------|--------------|--|
| 21 | City Planner | 25 | City Clerk/Asst. to City Administrator |
| 22 | Library Director | 25 | Director of Tourism |
| 23 | Golf Professional | 25 | Director of Environmental Services |
| 24 | Captain | 26 | Electric Utility Superintendent |
| 24 | Transportation Superintendent | 27 | Chief of Police |
| 25 | Director of Parks/Rec/Leis Serv. | 27 | Director of Public Works |
| 25 | Director of Human Resources | 27 | Fire Chief/Marshal |
| 25 | Deputy Finance Director | 28 | City Treasurer |

3. That the Pay Schedule for the position of Patrol Officer, Detective, Animal Control Officer and Police Sergeant shall be the Schedule approved in a resolution approved by the Mayor and City Council on September 8, 2021 and effective October 4, 2021.

Class Title

Hourly Pay Schedule

| | Start | Post-Cert/FTO | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|------------------------|---------|---------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Patrol Officer | \$22.34 | \$22.78 | \$23.84 | \$24.36 | \$25.40 | \$26.44 | \$27.46 | \$28.43 | \$29.49 | \$30.52 |
| Police Detective | | | \$25.23 | \$26.44 | \$27.65 | \$28.86 | \$30.07 | \$31.29 | \$32.46 | \$33.71 |
| Animal Control Officer | | | \$17.76 | \$18.75 | \$19.65 | \$20.61 | \$21.55 | \$22.53 | \$23.45 | \$24.42 |
| Police Sergeant | | | \$24.87 | \$26.41 | \$27.88 | \$29.43 | \$30.96 | \$32.47 | \$34.02 | \$35.56 |

4. That the following Pay Schedule for the above listed IBEW eligible positions of the City of Gering, Nebraska employed in Classified Positions be approved September 8, 2021 and effective October 4, 2021.

**Hourly Pay Schedule –
IBEW Eligible Employees
only Hourly Rates (based on
40 hour work week)**

Class Title

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Equipment Operator | \$14.20 | \$14.91 | \$15.62 | \$16.35 | \$17.04 | \$17.75 | \$18.45 | \$19.18 | \$19.88 |
| Heavy Equipment Operator | \$15.05 | \$15.81 | \$16.57 | \$17.33 | \$18.10 | \$18.84 | \$19.59 | \$20.36 | \$21.12 |
| Solid Waste Handler | \$15.20 | \$15.86 | \$16.69 | \$17.50 | \$18.34 | \$19.17 | \$19.99 | \$20.81 | \$21.64 |
| Park Caretaker | \$14.61 | \$15.23 | \$15.87 | \$16.53 | \$17.18 | \$17.83 | \$18.43 | \$19.09 | \$19.74 |
| Park Crew Leader | \$16.60 | \$17.22 | \$17.84 | \$18.43 | \$19.07 | \$19.67 | \$20.28 | \$20.91 | \$21.56 |
| Master Mechanic | \$17.93 | \$18.70 | \$19.51 | \$20.28 | \$21.07 | \$21.86 | \$22.64 | \$23.41 | \$24.21 |
| Maintenance Mechanic | \$17.93 | \$18.70 | \$19.51 | \$20.28 | \$21.07 | \$21.86 | \$22.64 | \$23.41 | \$24.21 |
| Storekeeper/Purchasing Agent | \$17.47 | \$18.05 | \$18.63 | \$19.19 | \$19.77 | \$20.34 | \$20.91 | \$21.46 | \$22.04 |
| Electric Meter/Service Man | \$19.91 | \$20.76 | \$21.60 | \$22.44 | \$23.28 | \$24.12 | \$24.97 | \$25.81 | \$26.68 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Electric Line Apprentice | \$18.86 | \$19.55 | \$20.22 | \$20.92 | \$21.60 | \$22.28 | \$22.96 | \$23.68 | \$24.35 |
| Electric Journey/Lineman | \$22.94 | \$23.82 | \$24.68 | \$25.56 | \$26.41 | \$27.28 | \$28.14 | \$29.01 | \$29.83 |
| Water/Wastewater Opr I | \$14.85 | \$15.55 | \$16.20 | \$16.90 | \$17.57 | \$18.28 | \$18.95 | \$19.62 | \$20.34 |
| Water/Wastewater Opr II | \$16.42 | \$17.14 | \$17.88 | \$18.63 | \$19.35 | \$20.10 | \$20.83 | \$21.60 | \$22.31 |
| Water/Wastewater Opr III | \$18.04 | \$18.84 | \$19.66 | \$20.47 | \$21.29 | \$22.10 | \$22.90 | \$23.72 | \$24.53 |
| WW Treatment Plant Opr | \$19.31 | \$19.66 | \$20.45 | \$21.27 | \$22.12 | \$23.00 | \$23.92 | \$24.88 | \$25.88 |

7. Resolution No. 6-21-1 and all other resolutions in conflict with this resolution are repealed.

Passed and approved this 8th day of September, 2021.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Motion by Councilmember Cowan to approve Resolution 9-21-3 regarding Pay Plan for Officers and Employees for the City of Gering, NE. Second by Councilmember Bohl. There was no discussion. The Mayor called the vote. "AYES": Smith, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: O'Neal. Motion Carried.

Mayor Kaufman provided an opportunity for public comment. Mike Brunner, 1785 21st Street, Gering, addressed the Council. He stated he was glad that Council did not waive the three readings for ordinances 2104-2107. He encouraged Council to use that time to talk to their constituents and neighbors to get their read on some of the points he's going to try to make.

Ordinance 2104, Section 1: "Minimum billing for a single-family residence" proposes an increase from \$17.85 to \$23.23 per month. That's a 30% increase per month; he feels that's excessive. Utility overage should not be used as a slush fund to balance the budget. If Gering is indeed behind on a comparability schedule, why not go 10% for three years? It doesn't need to be equalized all at once. Item G calls for a 30% upcharge for customers outside the city limits; he thinks that's fair. Section 2, both A and B have the same upcharge. He said he's not being critical of the work City staff have done, he's just presenting Council with his perception of what is undoubtedly a very tough job.

Ordinance 2105, Section 1 – Rate: "Minimum charge outside the city limits" increased from \$30.18 to \$32.20 - a 30% upcharge. Worded this way, it locks the City into a set number. If passed as is, it cannot be changed.

Ordinance 2106, (A) – List of Rates: "Water meter size" proposes an increase from \$1.55 to \$1.75 per thousand gallons up to 150,000. That's nearly a 14% increase. Everyone is entitled to a fair return, but who gets 14%? Again, if we are behind the scale, and trying to keep up, why equalize all at once? "Out of City Limits" is noted as 30% in the title line, but it's not. It's now 20% higher than us city dwellers. The proposal would bring it up to just under 30%. He added that there's a wholesale rate; it appears unchanged at \$0.65 or \$0.75 per thousand depending on metered gallons. He understands wholesale prices are lower, but why no increase for them? Likewise, "Construction Water" - no change. He asked, "So why dump this all on me?"

Ordinance 2107, Section 1: "Stormwater Surcharge" - while it's a small and insignificant amount, \$1.50 to \$1.75, it's still nearly a 17% increase. He asked, is the City that pressed for money they need to stick it in him all at once? A little at a time over a few years would be a lot more palatable. Would it be bad for Gering to be on the low end of the municipal comparability scale? Those four items alone on his July bill

total \$137.07. If passed, it will change to \$155.50 - over a 13% increase without adding in any electric or taxes. Mr. Brunner thanked the Mayor and Council Members for providing him an opportunity to voice his opinion. He stated that too often people find it easier to complain on social media without standing up for what they believe or perceive.

Mayor Kaufman asked if there were any additional comments from the audience. Hearing none, Mayor Kaufman stated that he and Council appreciate the public coming in and commenting. They appreciate the public engaging and getting involved in how they govern.

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.


Mark A. Kaufman, Mayor

ATTEST:


Kathleen J. Welfl, City Clerk

