

**THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GERING CITY COUNCIL,  
August 28, 2023**

A regular meeting of the City Council of Gering, Nebraska was held in open session on August 28, 2023, 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 and 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 O'Neal to excuse the absence of Councilmembers Backus and Bohl from the August 14, 2023 regular City Council meeting. 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.**

**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 August 9, 2023 Budget Work Session
2. Approve minutes of the August 14, 2023 Regular City Council meeting
3. Approve Claims
4. Approve July, 2023 Financial Report

**Claims 8/15/23 – 8/28/23**

24/7 FITNESS \$226.00, A & A PORTA POTTIES \$600.00, AC ELECTRIC MOTOR SERVICE \$3,072.35, ACE HARDWARE \$59.25, ACUSHNET COMPANY \$1,850.51, AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES \$385.45, AMERITAS LIFE INSURANCE COPR. \$603.68, AT&T MOBILITY \$1,090.35, B & C STEEL \$793.44, B & H INVESTMENTS, INC \$86.00, BAD BIRDIE GOLF \$1,000.00, BAKER & ASSOCIATES, INC. \$900.00, BENZEL PEST CONTROL \$165.00, BESLER, INC. \$49,478.58, BIG MACK HEATING & COOLING \$95.00, BLACK HILLS ENERGY \$1,350.56, BLUFFS FACILITY SOLUTIONS \$586.39, BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES, INC \$6,603.21, BUSHNELL OUTDOOR PRODUCTS \$957.10, CERTIFIED LABORATORIES \$514.63, CITY OF GERING \$1,263.80, CITY OF SCOTTSBLUFF \$42,082.72, CLARK PRINTING LLC \$205.40, CNA SURETY DIRECT BILL \$575.03, CONSOLIDATED MANAGEMENT COMPAN \$66.50, CONTRACTORS MATERIALS, INC. \$471.80, CRESCENT ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO. \$656.04, CROELL, INC \$2,263.50, CS PRECISION MANUFACTURING \$15,266.40, DEARBORN LIFE INSURANCE COMPAN \$141.04, DOCU-SHRED LLC \$30.00, DUTTON-LAINSON COMPANY \$2,262.32, EAKES INC \$94.78, EASY PICKER GOLF PRODUCTS \$382.29, ECOLAB \$357.38, EJS SUPPLY, LLC \$2,589.58, ELITE TOTAL FITNESS \$112.00, ELLISON, KOVARIK & TURMAN LAW \$10,105.59, ESI \$346.16, FASTENAL COMPANY \$70.99, FEDEX \$144.44, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OMAHA \$8,804.61, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA - POLICE \$550.00, FRANK PARTS COMPANY \$1,534.55, FYR-TEK, INC. \$6,421.15, GENERAL TRAFFIC CONTROLS, INC. \$300.00, GERING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT. \$347.54, GOLF AND SPORT SOLUTIONS, LLC \$3,100.74, GREATAMERICA FINANCIAL SERVICE \$100.00, GREG PETERS \$300.00, HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS \$37.44, HD ARMS, LLC \$1,330.00, HEALTHBREAK, INC. \$595.00, HOMETOWN LEASING \$144.52, IDEAL LAUNDRY AND CLEANERS, INC. \$490.79, INDEPENDENT PLUMBING & HEATING \$179.31, INDOFF INCORPORATED \$417.48, INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES \$678.82, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE \$48,088.60, INTRALINKS, INC. \$1,019.00, J & A TRAFFIC PRODUCTS \$3,627.50, JACK'S UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT \$5,027.58, JIRDON AGRI CHEMICALS, INC \$1,897.30, JOEL CAMPOS HUERTA \$380.00, JOHN HANCOCK USA \$16,343.06, JOHN HANCOCK USA FIRE \$725.54, JOHN HANCOCK USA POLICE \$7,559.56, JORDAN

MCBRIDE \$134.00, KENT EWING \$262.46, KRISTEN MASSIE \$134.00, LEE ENTERPRISES \$268.30, MARK CHRISMAN TRUCKING \$23,784.79, MATHESON TRI-GAS INC \$321.69, MB KEM ENTERPRISE \$1,641.00, MEAT SHOPPE \$42,665.40, MENARDS \$416.47, MIDLANDS CONTRACTING, INC \$55,835.00, MIDWEST CONNECT \$351.58, MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGENCY OF NE \$337,976.40, MUNICIPAL SUPPLY, INC. OF NE. \$369.50, NEBRASKA CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT CENTE \$571.63, NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR \$2.80, NEBRASKA DEPT OF REVENUE \$994.30, NEBRASKA DEPT. OF REVENUE \$70,300.49, NEBRASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRO LAB \$457.00, NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT \$3,806.07, NEBRASKA RURAL RADIO ASSOC. \$583.18, NEBRASKA SAFETY AND FIRE EQUIPMENT, INC \$135.00, NKC TIRE \$86.86, NORTHERN TRUCK EQUIP CORP \$257.75, PANHANDLE COOP ASSOCIATION \$16,230.96, PANHANDLE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE, INC. \$804.00, PANHANDLE HUMANE SOCIETY \$3,168.50, PAT HEATH \$173.00, PATTLEN ENTERPRISES, INC \$2,592.79, PAUL REED CONSTRUCTION & SUPP \$473.10, PETE'S QUICK LUBE \$205.85, PRECISION AIR \$475.00, PT HOSE AND BEARING \$1,040.63, QUADIENT POSTAGE FUNDING \$817.86, REGIONAL CARE INC. \$84,603.50, RHONDA CALISTRO \$37.50, RIVERSTONE BANK \$587.21, ROAD BUILDERS \$57,250.00, ROCKMOUNT RESEARCH & ALLOYS IN \$416.43, RON'S TOWING & RECOVERY, LLC \$200.00, SAFELITE FULFILLMENT, INC. \$345.94, SARAH WYNN \$425.00, SCB CO. GIS/MAPPING DEPT. \$4,486.66, SCB COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS \$20.00, SCB. COUNTY AMBULANCE SERVICE \$316.23, SCB. COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE \$137.04, SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY COURT \$68.00, SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY TREASURER \$294.67, SCOTTSBLUFF-GERING UNITED WAY \$221.25, SCS ENGINEERS \$5,125.00, SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER \$1,200.00, SHAWNA WINCHELL \$1,100.00, SHERWIN WILLIAMS \$149.97, SIMMONS OLSEN LAW FIRM, P.C. \$1,762.50, SIMON CONTRACTORS \$3,702.39, SIRCHIE ACQUISITION COMPANY, LLC \$350.35, SWANA \$290.00, SWEET DREAMS SLEEP SERVICES \$22,500.00, TEAM CHEVROLET \$375.00, TERI DESJARDIN \$190.00, TERRY CARPENTER, INC. \$650.00, TERRY TODD \$150.00, TITAN MACHINERY INC. \$410.00, VALLEY AUTO LOCATORS LLC \$137.87, VAN DIEST SUPPLY COMPANY \$3,630.00, VERIZON CONNECT \$38.38, W & R INC. \$2,304.35, WESCO RECEIVABLES CORP. \$1,838.25, WESTERN COOPERATIVE COMPANY \$2,544.31, WESTERN CPAP SUPPLY, LLC \$15,000.00, WESTERN SLEEP MEDICINE \$17,500.00, WYOMING FIRST AID & SAFETY \$168.27, YMCA OF SCOTTSBLUFF \$1,065.00, ZAC BIBB \$513.52, ZAVALA CONSTRUCTION \$55.00, TOTAL \$1,059,402.30

**Motion by Councilmember Gillen to approve the Consent Agenda. 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. Accept letter of resignation from Acting Finance Director, Elizabeth Loutzenhiser**

**Motion by Councilmember Gillen to accept a letter of resignation from Acting Finance Director, Elizabeth Loutzenhiser. 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.**

##### **2. Approve Resolution 8-23-1 regarding depositories and/or financial investment institutions and designated signatories**

#### **RESOLUTION 8-23-1**

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

1. Platte Valley Bank, US Bank NA, First National Bank Omaha, Riverstone Bank (formerly First State Bank), all with local branches in Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska, and the Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust (NPAIT), Heartland Trust Company, Moreton Capital Markets, LLC and Invesco, are designated as depositories and/or financial investment institutions for funds of the City of Gering, Nebraska ("City").

- a. Depository funds of the City deposited in each bank or financial institution shall be subject to withdraw upon checks, notes, drafts or other orders for the payment of money when signed on the City's behalf by any two of the following City officials:

**Kent E. Ewing  
Pat Heath  
Kathleen J. Welff**

- b. All investment funds of the City held as Government Money Market Funds, Certificates of Deposit, Treasury Notes, and other authorized securities purchase by the City shall be signed by the Deputy Finance Director for the City, Cheri Hutchison, and one of the following City officials per the City's Investment Policy:

**Pat Heath or Kathleen J Welfl**

2. Provided, the Deputy Finance Director for the City, Cheri Hutchison, is authorized to make ACH drafts and withdrawals for payroll, electronic claims, utility payment drafts and debt payments on behalf of the City from any of the financial institutions named in paragraph 1 of this Resolution.
3. The banks are authorized to pay all orders and receive them for the credit of or in payment from the payee or any other holder without inquiring into the circumstances of the issue or the disposition of the proceeds.
4. Platte Valley Bank is authorized to issue Visa credit cards to City personnel. The personnel to receive the cards and the credit limit on said card, shall be as approved by the City Administrator or his or her designee.
5. This resolution will revoke all prior banking resolutions and shall be delivered to all banks named in this Resolution. This Resolution will remain in effect until notice of revocation is delivered to any of these banks.

Passed, approved and effective this \_\_\_\_ day of August, 2023.



Kent E. Ewing, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen J. Welfl, City Clerk

**Motion by Councilmember Gillen to approve Resolution 8-23-1 regarding depositories and/or financial investment institutions and designated signatories. 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. Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign Interlocal Agreement with Scotts Bluff County for the use of the County's Aerial Imagery**

**Motion by Councilmember Morrison to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an Interlocal Agreement with Scotts Bluff County for the use of the County's Aerial Imagery. Second by Councilmember Cowan. 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.**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None

**BIDS/PROPOSALS:** None

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

**REPORTS:** (Information only)

**1. Liaison Report – Parks, Cemetery and Tree Board, Councilmember Cowan**

Councilmember Cowan reported the following on behalf of the Parks, Cemetery and Tree Board:

- Applied for and received Tree USA Recognition. Gering has been a Tree City for 32 years.
- Applied for and received the Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA Growth Award. This is awarded to communities that show substantial growth in tree planting, tree care and education.

- Board member, Phillip Schmitt, attended the Wyoming Groundskeeper and Growers Association Conference.
- Board member, Dr. Don Gentry, attended a Tree Board Training put on by the Nebraska Forest Service.
- Board created and approved a Tree Annual Work Plan.
- Board hosted the Annual Arbor Day Program. Due to weather, the event was held at Northfield Elementary.
- Board is reworking the City of Gering Tree Ordinances with the assistance of Chrissy Land with the Nebraska Forest Service.
- Board received training on Tree Plotter Tree Inventory software.
- Board members have been conducting a complete tree inventory of all public trees in the city of Gering and anticipate they will be done in late August or early September. This information will be used to create a Tree Master Plan and Management Plan.

## 2. Liaison Report – Downtown Merchant Association, Mayor Ewing

Mayor Ewing reported the following on behalf of RaNae Garton and the Gering Merchant Association:

- The Gering Merchant Association held another successful Summer Bash on June 10<sup>th</sup> at the Plaza. The Summer Bash is a family event with live entertainment all day, games with prizes for the kids, food trucks and Riverside Zoo brings live animals. Through donations from area businesses, each family received a bag full of informational flyers and goodies.
- They are currently working on putting together the First Annual Gering Oktoberfest which will be held on October 14<sup>th</sup> at the Plaza. There will be a live Polka band, food trucks, a beer garden provided by The Flyover, costume contest and Oktoberfest-themed games. The City of Gering and the Gering Merchants are working together to bring this new event to Gering.
- The 2023 Holiday Parade will be held on November 24. There has been a lot of discussion about the Santa's Village and the future of the current buildings. It has been decided this year to have the Santa Village in the south parking lot of the Plaza. Looking ahead, the buildings will be revised to be able to put them inside of the Plaza in 2024. Their vision is that the buildings will have to be much smaller but will be interactive for the kids.
- The events/projects that the Gering Merchant Association holds helps bring people to Gering and also utilizes our beautiful Plaza. The Gering Merchant Association are very thankful for the support of our community, the amazing staff of the City of Gering and The Gering Keno Committee.

**OPEN COMMENT:** Discussion or action by Council regarding unscheduled business will not take place. This section is for citizen comment only. None.

### ADJOURN:

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

ATTEST:

Kathleen J. Welfl, City Clerk



Kent E. Ewing, Mayor