

**THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GERING CITY COUNCIL,
SEPTEMBER 23, 2024**

A special meeting of the City Council of Gering, Nebraska was held on September 23, 2024 at 5:15 p.m. at Gering City Hall Council Chambers, 1025 P Street, Gering, NE. Present were Mayor Ewing and Councilmembers Shields (at 5:20 p.m.), Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. Also present were City Administrator Pat Heath, Finance Director Lyndsey Mathews, Deputy Finance Director Cheri Hutchison, City Clerk Kathy Welfl and City Attorney Matt Turman. 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 related to the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Proposed Tax Request

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 2024/2025 Proposed Tax Request at 5:16 p.m.

Mayor Ewing stated the following: The 2023 property tax request was \$2,130,611.16 and the 2024 tax request is \$2,181,743.00. The 2023 Tax Rate was 0.342697 and the 2024 Tax Rate is set at 0.320630.

Mayor Ewing asked if anyone in the Council Chambers wished to speak regarding the Fiscal Year 2025 proposed budget.

Mike Brunner 1785 21st Street, Gering, NE, addressed the Council and stated he doesn't want Council to say that nobody ever comes to these hearings. Second, he wants the press to be able to say everybody that spoke from the public was opposed to an increase in taxes. He thanked Council.

Mayor Ewing asked if anyone else wished to speak regarding the proposed FY24/25 Budget. With no further comments, the administrative record was closed and the public hearing closed at 5:18 p.m.

Following the public hearing, Councilmember Gillen clarified that it's correct that the actual tax levy request is lower this year. It went from \$.34 to \$.32; the City's tax levy is lower than what was asked for last year. Administrator Heath replied, that is correct.

CLOSED SESSION:

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

OPEN COMMENT: Discussion or action by Council regarding unscheduled business will not take place. This section is for citizen comment only.

Mike Brunner, 1785 21st Street, Gering, NE, addressed Council again and stated in response to Councilmember Gillen's comments, yes, the levy the City is asking for is lower. But because the valuation is higher, the City is actually asking for slightly more money in the budget, which is understandable because

things go up. But it's misleading to the public to say the City's levy is dropping when the valuation has increased to where there is a larger pool of money to draw from, a larger pool of valuation to get the tax levy from, correct? Mayor Ewing replied that Council cannot comment under this section of the agenda.

ADJOURN:

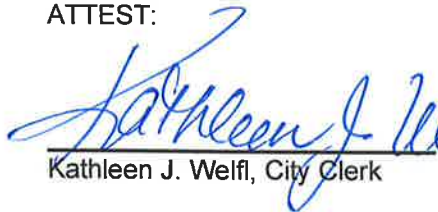
Motion to adjourn by Councilmember Gillen. Second by Councilmember O'Neal. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Backus, Bohl, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Cowan. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.



Kent E. Ewing, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kathleen J. Welfl, City Clerk

