**BEREA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING FEB. 2, 2016**

The Berea City Council met in a regular session, Tuesday, February 2, 2016; Mayor Steven Connelly presiding. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT**: Terrill, Hembree, Caudill, Wagers, Farmer, Kerby, Powell

**ABSENT**: Little

**OFFICIALS:** J. Gilbert, R. Stone, C. Chasteen, D. Brumley, D. Gregory, S. Sandlin, K. Hensley, P. Bloom, D. Isaacs, D. VanWinkle

**VISITORS:** Tim Taylor, Bryon Dozier

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JANUARY 19, 2016**

Farmer motioned, Kerby seconded to approve the minutes of January 19, 2016; all ayes.

**OPEN BIDS: UTILITY DEPT. – CONTRACT 344-16-01 CHERRY ROAD COURT – WATER MAIN UPGRADE**

Five bids were received and opened by Mayor Connelly.

1. Atkins Excavating - $48,075.00
2. G. T. Construction - $38,772.00
3. T. T. Excavating LLC. - $54,550.00
4. D. M. H. Construction - $46,995.10
5. Johnson & Johnson; Carter Johnson – $40,869.00

Bids will be referred to the Utility Department for review and referral.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Personnel –** No report.

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**Public Works**

Chairman Powell reported the committee met on Monday, Feb. 1st and reviewed many items the department are currently working on.

* Discussion was held on the project for S. Cumberland and Hughes Ave.; waiting on the engineers Report.
* Trees was removed on Chestnut Street that was blocking the view of some driveways.
* Signage has been replaced in the Oaks Subdivision; the area is now in compliance.
* The snow removal event was discussed; much of the equipment will need to be upgraded and /or replaced.

Council person Farmer has received several complaints about the railroad crossings being very rough. Public Works Director, Dwayne Brumley informed the council that the railroad crossings are property of CSX Railroad; we are not allowed to do any repairs on them; CSX has been notified. Council person Kerby received some inquiries regarding city streets not accepted into the cities maintenance plan. Brumley stated when

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developments are not completed and the second layer of blacktop has not been laid, this leaves manholes sticking up; we cannot take our plows and equipment in these areas. Residents could go to the developer and ask the streets be completed and accepted in the cities maintenance plan. There are some private streets in town that the city does not maintain; snow removal and repairs is left up to the property owner.

**Economic Development** – No report.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS** – None.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT – R. STONE**

* We met with District 7 Highway Department last week to discuss a number of projects that we have with the State. Three projects that we presently have, that are involved with transportation funds are: Hwy 595 Project; this project is going well, Windstream will complete their move soon, and we expect the contractors to start early spring. The US/25 North Project is going very well also; purchase of rights-of-way is progressing, we are scheduled for a March letting date. The six-year plan still contains the second phase of the By-Pass, but funds have been placed on hold, therefore it has been taken out of any letting date. We are still purchasing rights-of-way, and will continue talking with our legislators to keep on top of this project. Many other projects around the state that have exceeded twenty million dollars have been cut out of the state budgets.
* Prior to the business meeting this evening, the council, and staff meet with Waste Connections and Poff Carting, our garbage disposal companies. We had previously extended their contract by two years with no additional cost; the first contract was for three years. We received two proposals this evening; first option is to continue their contract by two years with a slight increase. Commercial waste will have a 10% increase per month, and household garbage will go from the base rate of $8.35 to $9.30 per month, there are add-ons if you use their carts. Waste Connections are the operators/managers of the transfer station; it is in dire need of repairs and safety upgrades. They have agreed to make the necessary renovations which will likely exceed $30,000 dollars. The other option would be an additional three year extension with no additional fees on the commercial side, but residential customers would see an increase that would include every customer having a 95 gallon recycling container. By the next council meeting we will need to review the proposals, our contract is up March 1st. Their rates are much less than what other surrounding cities and counties are paying for their garbage disposal. The staff is recommending the two year contract at this time, but we would like to get public input on the extended proposal.
* The amended budget is now complete; I expect to have it ready for council review at the next meeting.

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**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**Caudill** – Mr. Little could not be present this evening, he had prepared a statement that he asked be read. As chair of the Audit and Finance Committee he is very interested in keeping the city’s finances very secure and our risk to a minimal. He is concerned about the 10 million dollar dilemma regarding our electric provider. He does not wish to gamble on a new electric contract. or with a new start-up agency that has no track record, or history. The council needs to know when spending the citizen’s money that it will be secure, safe and with minimum risk and that we will get for what we pay for in our contract. We have the option to re-sign a new contract with our current provider at a new discounted rate. In five years, we could re-evaluate our situation.

**Caudill** – no comment.

Mayor Connelly distributed information provided by our electric consultants regarding the $10 million dilemma; for council review.

**Powell** – the council needs to research the utility issue further so that we are all on the same page. We need to have work sessions among the city council first to see what everyone’s opinions are, and then get the consultants in to talk with us. We need to meet every week or two and get this discussion going. The council owes it to our public to do the best thing; we can’t wait four or five years. Caudill asked if an actual list of the utility bidders with the prices submitted can be disclosed. Mayor Connelly stated at this point, as part of the RFP’s, that information cannot be disclosed; he further informed the council that according to the preliminary analysis there could be as much as over a ten million dollar savings, over five years from one of these bidders. If we decide we are going to stay with KU, we would owe it to our BMU customers and to our citizens to be able to defend our choice of walking away from a potential ten million dollar savings, but there could be reasons why we would choose to do that. It could be cost and risk, the certainty of delivery and the violability of market cost. Administrator Stone stated he will set up meetings with the council and the consultants to discuss the RFP’s and the risk factors we must consider. We will hold a special called meeting to look at all of our options.

Meeting adjourned: 7:11 p.m.