**BEREA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 6, 2016**

The Berea City Council met in a regular session, Tuesday, September 6, 2016, Mayor Steven Connelly presiding. A quorum being present the meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m.

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

**OFFICIALS:** J. Gilbert, R. Stone, C. Chasteen, D. Gregory, S. Sandlin, E. Fortner, D. Isaacs, K. Coffey

**VISITORS:** Over thirty-one visitors were present.

* A council work session was held at 5:45 p.m. to discuss the Purchase Power Transmission Provider. (See attached information)
* The agenda was amended to add Ordinance #19-2016 and the Proclamation to Celebrate the Harvest; no objections.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES; AUGUST 16, 2016**

Caudill motioned, Little seconded to approve the minutes of August 16, 2016; all

ayes.

Mayor Connelly read a proclamation declaring September 10, 2016 as “Celebrate the Harvest Day”, in Berea.

**OMBUDSMAN PROPOSAL – PATRICIA GAILY**

Ms. Gaily came before the council requesting them to consider hiring an ombudsman to fill a role of a conflict resolver/problem solver. The ombudsman would maintain confidentiality and address systemic problems and organizational issues. Mayor Connelly stated the city does not have a position available at this time, but if the position could serve without salary we could consider it. The Personnel Committee will speak with Ms. Gaily regarding her proposal.

**BEREA POLICE DEPARTMENT DONATION – BEREA MODERATES**

Police Chief, David Gregory provided information about the National Child Safety Council, an organization that the Berea Police Department has partnered with. The NCSC solicits donations from various business in our community and then they prepare books, pamphlets, stickers and coloring books that the police department distributes to our kids in the schools, the neighborhood watch programs, and kids visiting the police department. Randy Coffey representing the Berea Moderates presented a $200 donation towards the National Child Safety Coalition. Mr. Coffey challenged others in the community to step up and match, or make a donation to this organization.

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**GIS UTILITY MAPPING PRESENTATION – CLAY WHITE**

GIS, Utility Department Employee, Clay White presented information to the council and public about our utilities system. During the past three years of his employment he has been preparing a complete mapping system (GPS) of the electric, sewer, and water utilities throughout the city. Each electric pole is now located and numbered and the utility employees have the software on their computers to help locate issues and problems quickly. It is expected in the near future that customers will have the capability to check when repairs are taking place during outages. Sewer lines are currently in the process of being updated by GPS, and all water meters are currently located and numbered. Fire hydrants are colored for capacity. This new software program has been very helpful to the entire department to locate problems quickly and efficiently.

**ORDINANCE #15-2016; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR CITY PURPOSES UPON ALL PROPERTY, NOT OTHERWISE EXEMPT, IN THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY – 2ND READING.**

Corporate Counsel read the ordinance by title and summary. Little motioned, Farmer seconded to approve and adopt the ordinance. Roll call vote all ayes, with Wagers voting no. Ordinance adopted.

**ORDINANCE #16-02016; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, APPROVING AND INTER-LOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT AUTHORIZING THE FORMATION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE KENTUCKY MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGENCY – 2ND READING**

Corporate Counsel read the ordinance in its entirety. Kerby motioned, Powell seconded to approve and adopt the ordinance. Discussion was held among the council; Little stated his disapproval with page #11 and will be voting no. Caudill motioned to amend the motion to include billing and payment of the transmission, contingent on approval of the ordinance; seconded by Farmer; majority of ayes. Roll call vote of Ordinance #16-2016; Powell-yes, Kerby-yes, Little-no, Farmer-yes, Wagers-no, Caudill-yes, Hembree-yes, Terrill-no. Ordinance adopted.

**ORDINANCE #17-2016; SURPLUS ORDINANCE; 2007 DODGE CHARGER – 1ST READING**

Corporate Counsel read the ordinance in its entirety donating the vehicle to the Stanford Police Department for their use. Little recommended selling the vehicles since the tax payers paid for these cars.

**ORDINANCE #19-2016; SURPLUS ORDINANCE 2007 DODGE CHARGERS – 1ST READING**

Corporate Counsel read the ordinance in its entirety.

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Audit & Finance** – J. Little; no report

**Personnel** – V. Farmer; interviews will be held tomorrow for positions in Tourism and Codes Departments.

**Public Works** – C. Powell; the next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Monday, October 3rd at 5pm. He has received a complaint of gravel and water coming over the hill behind where the new Gold Star Chili is being built; the Planning & Zoning needs to make sure all requirements are being meet.

**Economic Development** - C. Hembree; Danny Isaacs, Director of Business informed the council that he is inviting the director of Work Force Solutions of Somerset Community College to discuss their work program with us.

**VISITORS:**

Randy Coffey; he is seeing a lot of signs up all over Berea, people are supposed to get permits and permission to put them up. He went to the Codes Office to see if the outfit putting up the sigs has a permit. He discovered the person placing up the signs sits on the Zoning Board. He not throwing off on the city departments, but someone on the board should know to get a permit, and it ain’t right for the rest of us. He went around town and the signs for the “Harvest Festival” are all over our town.

Ali Blair; she stated she moved here three years ago, this town was divided. How do we bring folks together; to not take sides; us against them; red vs. blue? She would like to see more transparency and we should all work together. Democracy survives on open-ness and engagement, essential to providing oversight; it is the government of the people after all. Because dissemination of information seems to be an underlying issue, its makes sense to look at what other municipalities are doing and implement systems changes. The City of Ashville has an open data portal that allows access to more comprehensive data than found on the city’s website. She stated she is willing to share her information with the city council members.

Jennifer Napier; President of the Berea Chamber reminded everyone that the Spoonbread Festival would normally be taking place two and half weeks from now. She wanted to clarify the misinformation that was stated by this body back in July. She had asked the mayor how many other organizations were presented with the contracts identical to theirs. He stated there were others like theirs; she requested an open records request on August 3rd, and her results showed none others were like theirs that they had received back in January. Many other contracts had received payments without being signed. She stated she is was not born or raised in Berea, and she has no background with anyone here, everything she has is objective, her concern from the beginning was the it felt like the Chamber was being targeted, like the Chamber was been bullied from the beginning. Other contracts for other organizations were signed after she initiated her open records request, and she could not locate a contract for the “First Friday Event”?

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Cheyenne Olson; she stated she finds it really disconcerting and disturbing when there is so much anger and resentment expressed. In regards to Mr. Coffey’s comments; Pam Corley is the organizer of the “Celebrate the Harvest” event, and there are several other key players including Sustainable Berea. She believes Mr. Coffey was referring to her husband; she wished Randy would have come to talk to them when he has problems rather than have this type of public argumentation and something could have been worked out.

 Sustainable Berea does have a city contract that stipulates they are not allowed vendors on the property for the “Celebrate the Harvest” event, she has no reason to believe that the city is discriminating against some, and not others.

 Ms. Corley has been very concerned about their “Celebrate the Harvest” signs going missing; she did visit the Codes office and was told the city had no issues with their temporary signs. They were not aware of a required contract with Codes, she thought as long as the rules are followed and they get permission from property owners, it was ok. She hopes as we move forward as a city, that we can embrace each other differences, and stop fighting and agreeing and celebrate our wonderful community.

Shane Morris; he thought there will be an announcement tonight for the John G. Fee award. Ms. Carla Gilbert addressed his question; she stated the announcement will come at a later date and they have received 4 nominations. A recommendation to the HRC will be made soon.

Jacqueline Bowling; wanted to know why no one was awarded last year? Ms. Gilbert stated they did not have any nominee’s, and the year got away from them.

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

* Due to a high number of complaints of speeders and running of 4-way stop signs, our police department will be running surveillance in specific areas; we will caution drivers, but tickets will be issued accordingly.
* The lighting along the walking paths in the park are being monitored for outages, and the timers adjusted for the shorter days. The lights on the Football and Soccer fields are being checked to make sure all are in working order.
* Work on the Splash Pad is continuing; plans should be ready to submit to the council soon. We have applied for a grant to help us with the construction cost.
* Talks are continuing with Berea Community School Principal Mike Hogg to determine the future of Duerson Stadium. We are working with our architects for a cost estimate and to try to accommodate some of the request they have made.
* There will be a resolution on the next agenda asking the council to support Baptist Health as they plan to purchase property at Exit 77.
* Our building project is proceeding very well; we held our first progress meeting last Friday. Our contractors are pleased with the work they have done so far; the dig has been done for the basement area of the Police Department and the

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* footers for both the Fire and Police Departments are now started. The Sewer line placement work is complete.
* I would like to commend our Public Works Director Dwayne Brumley, after weeks of daily contact with Windstream and Time Warner, their portion is finished today. We have been given a final completion date of September 5th, 2017, for the new building.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**Terrill** – he wanted to take up for Cheyenne; most of the signs are not in the right of ways, they are in personal yards.

**Caudill** – he appreciate all the time and effort Mr. Little put towards the electrical issue. Also, glad to see we are putting money back in the park to make it to what it should be, we have a beautiful park, and our kids deserve it.

**Farmer** – echo what Steve said about Mr. Little; he’s been very devout and conscientious in his study, and sharing of information to all of us.

**Little** – he is glad that it’s over with; I think the rate payers have come out ok, looks like they will save some money. He would like to suggest for the council of 2017 to talk about a standalone Utility Commission, to take this off of the council and oversee the entire utility operation. Utilities is a business and there’s no place for politics in a business.

**Kerby** – thanks to Mr. Little as well for the amount of time and questions and comments he brought to the utility conversation. I agree that we have come out in a good place and hopefully there will be savings passed onto the rate payers. I also would like to compliment the folks on the mapping technology, it was quite impressive, and I am glad we have it.

**Powell -** Approximately two weeks ago I received a call from an employee at the Berea citizen saying that I that I had sent threatening emails to some of the people running for city council. Randy Coffey was the one did that; about the only way I can send an email if is someone sends me one first. I definitely didn’t threaten anybody; I want you to know there are some fine people running for city council and I hope to work with them or see some of them up here.

Meeting adjourned: 8:09 p.m.