**BEREA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 20, 2016**

The Berea City Council met in a regular session, Tuesday, September 20, 2016, Mayor Steven Connelly presiding. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

**VISITORS:** Thirty visitors were present.

* A joint work session was held at 5:30 with the Berea Tourism Commission.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 6, 2016**

Farmer moved, Caudill seconded to approve the minutes of September 6, 2016; all ayes.

**PROCLAMATION – FALL PREVENTION AWARENESS DAY**

Mayor Connelly read the Proclamation declaring September 22, 2016 as Fall Prevention Day in the City of Berea. Lloyd Jordison of the Madison County Health Department was present to accept the proclamation; he invited everyone to the event being held at the Russel Acton Folk Center from 9am-noon.

**BEREA COMMUNITY SCHOOL – ANNUAL REPORT**

Mike Hogg, Principal distributed additional handouts to the city council highlighting the schools continuing goal to ensure a focus on providing all students access to opportunity by graduation, through a rigorous, world-class, instructional program delivered by a well-trained, motivated staff. In the near future, a $4,000,000 building project will add 4 additional classrooms, and the high school’s side HVAC units will be replaced. BCS’s commitment is “Ensuring Opportunity for All Students”.

**ACCELA TRENDSETTER AWARD RECOGNITION – UTILITY BILLING DEPARTMENT**

Utility Director Ed Fortner introduced the Customer Service Representatives; Heather Powell, Sheila Wolfe, Luann, not present, Amanda Smith and Amber Whitaker. Heather and Sheila attended the conference to receive the award.

Director Fortner introduced new employee, Elliott Witt, he is an electric lineman in the Utility Department.

**ORDINANCE #18-2016; SURPLUS VEHICLES**

Corporate Counsel read the ordinance in its entirety; first reading.

**RESOLUTION #20-2016; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE BY THE KENTUCKY**

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**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY OF REVENUE BONDS TO FINANCE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, COST INCURRED BY BAPTIST HEALTHCARE SYSTEM, INC., IN CONSTRUCTION AND ACQUIRING CERTAIN HOSPITAL FACILITIES IN THE CITY.**

Mayor Connelly read the resolution in its entirety; Baptist Healthcare has purchased property neat Exit 77 and will begin construction in 2017 on at 20,000 square building facility, with completion date expected in 2018. Farmer moved, Terrill seconded to approve the resolution; all ayes.

**CHANGE ORDER #1; CITY HALL SEWER LINE**

Utility Director, Ed Fortner stated the revised contract price is $37,950.00, cost of change order, $19,400.00. An unexpected expense occurred to replace the old clay sewer line which improved the city’s infrastructure. Contractor is Johnson & Johnson.

**TRICK-OR-TREAT; DATE AND TIME**

Trick & Treat time is set for 6pm-8pm on Oct. 31st, in the city limits for houses with their porch lights on.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Audit & Finance** – no report.

**Personnel** – V. Farmer; new hire for the Codes Enforcement office is Bryon Reed, he will begin on Oct. 3rd.

**Public Works** – C. Powell; the next meeting will be on October 3rd, at 5pm. Reminder to everyone the Rail Road crossing on Jefferson Street will be closed this Wednesday and Thursday for repairs, and the Hwy 595 crossing will be repaired next week. There has been a complaint of speeders on Short Line Pike.

**Economic Development** – C. Hembree; the next meeting will be on Monday, Oct. 17th.

**Human Rights Commission** – C. Gilbert; announced the 2016 recipient of the John G. Fee award was Diane Kerby for her diligent work with the Berea City Council for the fair treatment of all people. Ms. Kerby is role model of Leadership and support of Human Rights.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**: None

**DEPARTMENT HEADS**:

Police Chief David Gregory; reminded everyone that Madison Sothern’s Homecoming Parade will be held this Thursday at 6pm.

Public Works Director, Dwayne Brumley stated the rail road closing will begin at 8:15 a.m. on Wednesday, but do expect to be complete by parade time.

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

* In response to Mr. Terrill’s question; we are keeping track of all cost incurred from the city and the utilities for our Berea Municipal Police, Fire and Safety Building Project. As part of the acceptance of our loan from Rural Development, we pledged to spend one million eight hundred and forty dollars towards our part of the project; our architectural fees and the sewer line upgrades that were recently performed count as our contribution towards the project, and there is the possibility of a cash reimbursement. D.W. Wilburn is making excellent progress on the building construction; the weather has been a tremendous asset so far. The interiors walls of the building has been demolished, the footers are dug for the fire department section, and the basement dug out for the police section of the building. The storm sewer has been installed and the new sewer line portion was completed by Carter Johnson. There will be a change order to the building project; we had originally anticipated the EOC operations staying in the basement of city hall, but just prior to the beginning of our construction we were notified that they will not be operating from this location. Their permanent backup location will be in the Berea Municipal Utility Bldg.; this will allow us to fully utilize our entire basement area. We will replace the ceiling fixtures, lighting fixtures, and finish the exterior walls, along with upgrades to the flooring.
* To our knowledge the State is keeping our US25 Project in the Jan. 2017 bid letting; Delta Gas has moved their lines that were in conflict with the process, and BMU will be moving the electric poles.
* Banks Engineering is working with our staff in studying the drainage issues we will need to address as part of the US25 project.
* We remain hopeful that the construction funds will be released from the State for our By-Pass Project; District 7 tells us that this is one of the projects that is designed and ready for letting.
* Integrated Engineering continues to work with the city and Berea College to finalize the traffic study and road design for the intersections of Hwy595, Ellipse Street, and Scaffold Cane. We have met with District 7 and presented options for their review; a public meeting will be scheduled at a later date. The state has afforded us the opportunity to advertise for engineer service to design the Scaffold Cane Shared Use Path. The services will be paid for from the traffic studies money.
* South Cumberland and Hughes Ave; staff is reviewing the drainage systems for this area, we plan to bring it before the Public Works Committee and bid the project to install a new drainage system and upgrading the curbs, gutters and driveways, and reshape the present detention basin.
* Duerson Stadium; we continue to work with Berea Community School to finalize a plan to maximize the use of the space. The field will be widened and aluminum bleachers will be installed. Brandstetter & Carroll has given us a quote of $8,000 to design our proposal.

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* The walking path around the city park will be widened and repaved; Parrett Paving will complete the job once our Public Works Department completes the prep work. We expect to have the work completed prior to our “Halloween in the Park” event.
* The Indian Fort Trail Connector is awaiting approval from the Department of Transportation; once we receive the project number and final word we will submit offers for the Rights-of-Way purchases.
* Bluegrass Recreational has been assisting our Parks Department with the design for a Splash Pad, which will replace the baby pool. We hope to have this project complete prior to opening 2017.
* For more than a year the city has been having conversation with a local entrepreneur who wants to lease the L & N Depot for a “Farm to Table” Restaurant. The conversation has been centered on the investment of the city to make the total space conducive to a restaurant and the investment would require the lessee to establish the business. A plan has been submitted, but the terms of the lease have not been fully agreed upon. A number of conversations have also taken place with local farmers and growers who would be suppliers to this business. We have received numerous request from the merchants in the area to have some type of eatery located in, or, near the Broadway area. This is in the support and future of our Arts & Crafts Industries.
* El Rio Grande received their license for sale of alcohol today, and Yamoto’s application for their license has also been submitted for approval, it will take approximately 60 days.
* On our last agenda we had an ordinance to surplus two police cruisers to the City of Stanford; based on council comments, we have removed this ordinance and will surplus them for sale. One vehicle has 75,000 miles on it, and the other has 85,000, both are 2006 Dodge Chargers and did not have the life expectancy we had hoped for. One has a rod knocking and the other has a blown transmission; we used Kelly Blue Book to determine the value of the ten-year old vehicles. Repairs, and the cost to get the vehicles back on the road would equal their value, somewhere between $3,500 and $4,500. Stanford continued to ask for the vehicles with even knowing their condition; we do have the option to surplus our vehicles KRS.83.083. In the past few years, the city has benefited from receiving surplus items from other taxing entities. In the recent years we have received the following; an End-Loader from the Madison Co. Road Dept. that saved us about $60,000,; a generator large enough to power the BMU Building; a generator for the Volunteer Fire Station; Server switches to complete the move from city hall to the BMU Bldg..; DOCJT has surplused, and donated our work out equipment for our new police and fire training areas; Madison County will soon donate two reader boards, and a mobile light to our Public Works Department. In the future we will bring items for surplus in a work session to the council.
* As of Monday our General Fund had $893,259, and Tourism had $283,160. At the end of August when we balanced out, our cash accounts had $6, 878,176.

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Our general fund has $5,102,402 in CD’s. Our Capital Sinking Fund has $2,115,962. Our General Fund has CD’s in the amount of $7,218,364. Tourism has CD’s in the amount of $766,716; our Industrial Development CD’s has $103,466, our Utilities Construction Fund has $1,340,000, our Utilities revenue has CD’s of $1,300,000, and in Utilities Funds, there is $6,981,953 in CD’s. At the end of August our cash stood at $21,948,675; we are able to pay our bills and we appreciate the council’s interest that you take in helping us with our budgets.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**Terrill** – he wanted to thank the mayor for being able to drive through town this past week-end; for everyone knowledge this would have been the SpoonBread Festival week-end, but because you wouldn’t work with the chamber we didn’t have it.

**Caudill** – good news; we received word this week that the grant programs with the state we had submitted with the Madison County Schools & Berea Community was accepted. We can now move to round two with a full submission.

**Farmer** – congratulated Diane Kerby for her award; its most deserving.

**Kerby** – she expressed her appreciation to the Human Rights Commission; for the work that they and other folks do to uphold the principals that John G. Fee sat forward back in the 1800’s. It was a pretty radical concept that all people were created equal, and all people should be treated equal, and with love and respect. As simple as that concept was, it was controversial, but we persevered, and that’s Berea’s history; treating people with respect and love. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if we could do that today and uphold our legacy? It would be great if we could replace the fear, and the hate, anger and rage, with love and respect for each other.

**Mayor Connelly** added that it is hard for us in 2016 to have a perspective of what Revered Fee and early Berea people were going up against. About the same time that early Berea was being founded, the Lincoln-Douglas debates took place. If you have a chance read the five Lincoln-Douglas debates; this took place in Illinois; Lincoln was running for senator against Douglas; the language and political rhetoric that was being used was so much about the African-American individuals, it is really eye opening, it puts you back in the context of what Rev. Fee was up against.

**Powell** – appreciates the reports presented this evening from both the Tourism and Berea Community School; congratulated Ms. Kerby for receiving the H.R. award.

Meeting adjourned: 7:38 p.m.