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

The Berea City Council met in a regular session Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2016 at 6:30; 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, Terrill

**ABSENT:** Hembree

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

**VISITORS:** Beth Meyers, Jennifer Webb, Ayden Willis, Kylee Powell, Emma Judd, Morgan Cox, Aleigha Judd, Tara Wooten, Dakota Baker, Dawson Baker, Mallory Smith, Ali Blair, David Rowlette, Cora Jane Wilson, Jim Davis, Bruce Fraley

* A council work session was held at 6pm to discuss the budget amendment, a building project change order, and the Fire Apparatus update.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: NOVEMBER 15, 2016**

Caudill motioned to amend the minutes to reflect that Ordinance 21-2016 was tabled for discussion at the December 6th meeting. Caudill motioned to amend the agenda for discussion of the Land Management Ordinance; Kerby seconded; all ayes. Kerby seconded the motion to amend the minutes of November 15, 2016; all ayes.

**OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD; JENNIFER WEBB**

Students from the schools in Madison County introduced themselves and announced the officers that were selected by the youth for this year’s Officer of the Year Award. Trooper Byron Judd of the Kentucky State Police department was selected as the Officer of the Year Hero Award, and Trooper Ty Robinson was the recipient as the Officer of the Year of the Kentucky State Police. Officer Joe Johnson was selected for the Officer of the Year representing the Berea Police Department. Jennifer Webb thanked the mayor and city council for their continued support of the Madison County Youth in Action; she encouraged the council and mayor to support, and pass the Social Host Ordinance.

**BEREA POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY SURVEY – CHIEF DAVID GREGORY**

Chief Gregory informed the mayor and council of a survey that was mailed to Berea residents in June in order receive feedback in response to the recent national unrest between police agencies and their communities. Dr. Kennaria Brown, Berea College Associate Professor of Communications, along with two students partnered with the Berea Police Department for the eight-week project. 324 responses were received from the survey; Chief Gregory distributed copies of the summary and recommendations for the mayor and council to review. He also distributed a memo he and his command staff recommended to improve areas of concerns. He thanked the mayor and council for their support of the police department.

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**ORDINANCE #22-2016; AMENDING 2016-2017 BUDGET – 1ST READING**

Corporate Counsel read the ordinance by title and summary.

**CHANGE ORDER #2 – BUILDING PROJECT**

Little motioned, Farmer seconded to approve the change order as presented during the work session; all ayes. The Change Order provides funding of $7,946.50 for demolition of the former EOC area in the basement.

**P & Z APPOINTMENT NOMINATION**

Mayor Connelly informed the council that Richard Bellando’s term on the P & Z Commission has expired; Chester Powell is willing to serve on this commission. Farmer motioned, Little seconded the nomination; all ayes.

**ORDINANCE #21-2016; LAND MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE**

Caudill motioned to table the ordinance to an undetermined date for further discussion, and hold a work session in January; Little seconded. All ayes.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Audit & Finance** – No report.

**Personnel** – The committee will meet on Monday, the 12th to interview for Police Officer, Parks & Rec Program Supervisor, and a Tourism position.

**Public Works** – no report.

**Economic Development** – The December 19th meeting is cancelled. The group will meet on the quarter for the year 2017.

**VISITORS:** None

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

* We will schedule a work session in January for further review of the Land Management Ordinance; there is a process if changes need to be made to the ordinance, it will have to go back to the Planning & Zoning Commission, and go through a hearing.
* Last council meeting Councilman Powell suggested a “First Responders Day” with the kids; one of our firefighters has stepped up to organize it. He will work with both Chief Gregory and Chief Sandlin to start planning the event.
* A couple of questions was raised recently regarding procedures in the police department, one being, allowing our police officers to wear sunglasses. It is the chief’s discretion to allow the officers to do so, we are asking when they make public contact that they remove them. Secondly, we do tint the windows in the police cars due to the computers and equipment in the vehicles; for protection purposes.

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* Monies in General Fund this week is; $862,357, and Tourism had $342,135. We made a Parks Bond payment of $258,207 from the General Fund; we will have two more payments due.
* Leaf collection is on-going, the crews will work on getting them removed possibly up until January.
* The Public Works Department replaced the roof on the picnic shelter near the pool.
* The city is working with the Litter Abatement program giving various organizations the opportunity’s to raise funds.
* We received official notifications to proceed with purchases of the Rights-of-Ways for the Indian Fort Trail along Short Line Pike. Integrity Engineering will be working with us to make these purchases.
* We are also talking with Berea College to establish a link between Slate Lick and Scaffold Cane to extend our shared use path; this is also part of the Boone’s Trace Path.
* The Utility Department has been working on some water leaks recently; they repaired a large leak on Peachbloom Hill. They are still searching for the leak on Main Street; four main lines meet in this area, and it has been very difficult to locate it.
* We are down to about 158 days of water; we gained some after the last rain, but we are still encouraging people to conserve.
* The Lions Club has placed a bench in Memorial Park; they will have a recognition of names placed on the bench in January.
* We appreciate all the activities that took place in town during the past week-end, we had another very good parade. The Make-It-Take-It-Give-It program is really doing well, it has exceeded last year’s attendance.
* This is Ms. Kerby’s last meeting; I wanted to thank her for her service and help, that she has given me, and our staff during her terms.

**MAYOR’S COMMENTS:**

He is required by KRS 83.A130 to report to the council and public on the conditions and needs of city government. Mayor Connelly gave a brief overview of how our city weathered the great recession. The National Bureau of Economic Research dates the recession from Dec. 2007 to June 2009. The Department of Labor reported that 8.7 million jobs were lost during that time, unemployment rose from 4.7% in Nov 2007 to 10% in Oct. 2009. By Aug. of 2015 unemployment had come down to 5.1% but that still was only slightly above the 5% level of 2007. KY experienced similar economic pains, but struggled in the unemployment with the loss of coal mining jobs, and we are still short of the 2007 employment level. Construction and manufacturing jobs still have not recovered, but we are getting reports from our Codes Office that we are seeing more

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building taking place in and around Berea. The change in net position for our city are as follows: our governmental assets in 2008 were $23,508,000, in 2016 it has increased to $26,654,000. Our Utilities in 2008 was $23,508,000, 2016 we increased to $34,535,000. 2008 totals of the city assets was $42,401,000, by 2016 they were $61,189,000. This is just example of hard work that our financial committee and council does to keep our city in good order over the years.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**Terrill-** I am glad we are putting the mayor’s firing of Billy Beavers behind us; we don’t have to worry about court, and lawyer fees.

**Caudill** – he thanked everyone who came out to the Christmas parade, it was a lot of fun and we gave out a lot of candy, my daughter really enjoyed it. Thanks to the Madison County Youth in Action and their recognitions of the Officer’s of the Year Awards, congratulations to all of them. He thanked Diane for her time on council, she will be missed, he thoroughly enjoyed working with her the past two years.

**Farmer** – echo what Steve said; she was very impressed with the students during their presentation. She appreciates all our police officers; and Diane, I will sure miss you!

**Little** – he thanked Mr. Caudill for thinking about the Land Management Ordinance by tabling it; it is very important to our builders, our business people, our economic development, and our citizens. We will try to get more information to help us make an informed decisions on it. I am going to miss my buddy sitting next to me.

**Kerby** – I appreciate all the kind words and I have been honored to serve the City of Berea for three terms on city council; I have great respect for all my fellow council people. It is a great place to live and work, she wished the new council the best of luck in the coming years.

**Powell** – he appreciates the appointment to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Meeting adjourned: 7:22 p.m.