**BEREA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 1, 2016**

The Berea City Council met in a regular session, Tuesday, November 1, 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, S. Meeks, D. Brumley, P. Bloom, D. Gregory, S. Sandlin, E. Fortner, K. Coffey

**VISITORS:** Beth Meyers, Heather Cochran, Ken Berry, Reid Connelly, John Payne, David Rowlette, Robert New, Bruce Fraley, Jim Davis, Jr. & Lynetta Chasteen, Jacqueline Bowling, Anthony Carpenter, Randy Coffey, Virginia Bland, Ali Blair

* A work session was held at 5:30 p.m. with Ray. Foley & Hensley, Auditor Heather Cochran. RF&H preformed the annual audit of the city financials for the year ending June 30, 2016. She reviewed the statements and balance sheets of each department with the mayor and city council.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 18, 2016**

Kerby motioned, Little seconded to approve the minutes of October 18, 2016; all ayes.

**PROCLAMATION – WORLD DIABETES DAY**

Mayor Connelly read the proclamation declaring November 14, 2016 as World Diabetes Day in Madison County. All three governments will sign this proclamation, Berea was the first. Paula Hann of the Madison County Health Department accepted the proclamation and thanked the mayor and city council for their support. There will be a Health Fair this Saturday with free screenings at the First Christian Church in Richmond. Blue illuminated lights will be placed at Boone Tavern to support the day, and small blue flags will be placed in the college square representing residents in Madison County who haVE diabetes.

**ORDINANCE #21-2016; AMENDING ORDINANCE #18-04 THE LAND MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE – 1ST READING**

Corporate Counsel read the ordinance in its entirety.

**2016 AUDIT REPORT – RAY, FOLEY & HENSLEY – HEATHER COCHRAN**

Ms. Cochran reported the city received a “Clean Opinion” from the recent audited financial review, and there were no instances of non-compliance; the city remains in a strong financial position. She presented a three-year slide presentation as a comparison; expenses decreased; city assets increased by $3 million, and the general fund balance increased by $688,834. The City of Berea has done a good job of making sure that the internal controls are operating well.

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Audit & Finance J. Little**; he is glad to hear the good report of our Audit; thanks to all the departments who are mindful to their spending.

**Personnel – V. Farmer**; the committee interviewed candidates for the maintenance position in the Public Works Department. Nick McCollum will start employment on Monday, Nov. 7th.

**Public Works – C. Powell;** the committee will met Monday, Nov. 15th at 5pm.

**Economic Development – C. Hembree;** encouraged everyone to attend the workshops being held. The next committee meeting will be on Monday, Dec, 19th.

**VISITORS:**

Ali Blair, representing First Friday Berea; announced the upcoming voting opportunity for Berea to land a grant for a 10-week live Music/Concert Series for the summer of 2017. Fifteen non-profit organizations will receive up to twenty-five thousand dollars to bring the series to their town. On-line voting will start today at “grant.levittamp.org”. Please show your support.

Randy Coffey; thanked the city council members for their service. Gondolier has closed, Old Town Grill has limited their hours, and Side Street (Street Side Café) is for sale; the rumor is a restaurant is going to locate in the old train depot and the city and Tourism will be assisting in this? Is this a good decision for the city to make, be in competition with other restaurants that are struggling? Mayor Connelly stated no decision had been finalized, and that it would be up to the council to review and decide if they wish to support it. Mr. Coffey suggested the city place a museum at this location, all the town’s people are suggesting it.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS:** No additional reports.

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

* Echo’s to what Mr. Little said concerning our audit; this is the cities testing time each year, Ms. Meeks does an excellent job working with them. The auditors interviewed all of us during the process.
* In reference to Ord. #21-2016; documentation will be sent out prior to the next council meeting to reflect the changes. Codes Enforcement Director, Dale VanWinkle added that the changes are on the cities web-site at this time, he will review the changes prior to the meeting. Many of the old documents were in three formats but it has now been updated and easier to read.
* Gondolier leased its location to Wings Ect., a National Chain Restaurant; they are planning a grand opening in December; they have applied for their liquor license.
* Due to very little rain in recent weeks, we are asking residents to be mindful of their water usage. As of today we have 182 days of water in reserve.

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* The Fire Department has stopped issuing burn permits at this time; there was a forest fire Sunday evening at the Pinnacles.

**Questions:**

Powell – will work be starting on our damn soon? Stone stated the Army Core of Engineers are working on this; we are hopeful after the first of year we will be able to move forward with this project. Our Utility Director, Ed Fortner is working with the engineers.

**MAYORS COMMENTS:**

Thanks to the Richmond Register for holding the vote on the “Best of Madison County”; our city clerk was voted Best City Office.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**Terrill** – encouraged everyone to get out and vote on November 8th; this is a very important vote.

**Hembree** – please go vote!

**Caudill** – he commended the Finance Director, Susan Meek and the city staff for the good and clean financial report; this shows that our city is doing what it needs to be doing financially. He also encouraged everyone to go vote.

**Farmer** – echo what Steve said, go vote! She thanked the Finance Dept., the department heads, and Mr. Stone for all the hard work they do to keep our financials in order to receive such a good and glowing report from our auditors.

**Little** – echo what Farmer said.

**Kerby** – encouraged everyone to vote as well; congratulations on the good audit report. As you consider your choices for council please look at our audit and the management of our city funds.

**Powell** – the audit is a good report; the Halloween in the Park was a great community event and well attended.

Meeting adjourned: 7:07 p.m.