

The Berea City Council met in a regular session, Tuesday, January 3, 2017; Mayor Steven Connelly presiding. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Davis, Tom Schultz, Bruce Fraley, Billy Wooten, Jerry Little, Steve Caudill, Cora Jane Wilson, Ronnie Terrill

OFFICIALS: J. Gilbert, R. Stone, C. Chasteen, S. Meeks, D. Gregory, D. Isaacs, P. Bloom, D. VanWinkle, D. Brumley, S. Sandlin, D. Brindley

VISITORS: Beth Meyers, Bill Robinson, Tim Taylor, Kenny Davis, Jr., Mike Cornelison, David Rowlette, Terry Wilson, Todd Wilson, Bill Suters, Ray Decker, Linda Fraley, Charles Arnold, Ed Lafontaine, Rebecca Bowling, Jacqueline Bowling

DEPARTMENTAL INTRODUCTIONS:

ADMINISTRATION; RANDY STONE, CITY ADMINISTRATOR

The City of Berea operates as a Home Rule City under granted powers of the Kentucky State Legislator; KRS.81.005, using the mayor-council form of government, with the position of City Administrator established by ordinance. The distinguishing characteristics of the mayor-council form of government is the clear separation of powers between the executive and legislative branches. All the executive and administrative authority is vested in statute by KRS.83A.130. Administrator Stone stated the requirements and rights of the city council is to fulfill their legislative duties. Review of the cities Strategic Plan will begin soon; the strategic plan will allow the council the opportunity to access our community as they work towards action items, and goals for our future. The review will be facilitated by the Kentucky League of Cities. The council could consider the wording of the Berea City Code which establishes, and formats the agenda of our meeting schedules. By Code, it states our meetings are the first, and third Tuesday of each month, with the second meeting of the month to be a work session, with only formal action items, if placed on the agenda. We have not proceeded in this manner for several years, but if the council feels like it would work best, it would be an opportunity to have discussions on various topics without the call for special meetings. The work session format gives the council the ability to place on the agenda, their items of interest, and allows the staff to provide information as requested. The most important item the council will do any given year is the preparation of the annual city budget; the backbone of the cities present and future. The budgeting process, often long and drawn out; but when completed, it is reviewed by myself, the Finance Director and the department head to make sure our revenues and expenditures are in line. Each department determines a five-year capital plan along with their goals and objectives. Once compiled, it is presented to the Finance Committee for review. We are in the process of the amended budget at this time; it will be presented to each of you very soon. All meetings are open to the public unless it is an executive session which is for only specific items, and are closed to the press and public with the mayor reporting any results of the meeting.

Copies of the Ethic’s Ordinance was distributed this evening for council review and reference, also the structure of our pay scales were distributed.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – CHIEF DAVID GREGORY

(See attached power-point presentation)

FIRE DEPARTMENT – CHIEF SHAWN SANDLIN

(See attached power-point presentation)

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT – DIRECTOR, DWAYNE BRUMLEY

(See attached power-point presentation)

COUNCIL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS – MAYOR CONNELLY

Mayor Connelly stated the floor was open to chair appointments per the prepared list: Little motioned to appoint the members and the chairs, Terrill seconded; all ayes, Schultz no.

<u>Audit & Finance</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Public Works</u>	<u>Economic Development</u>
Caudill – Chair	Wilson – Chair	Little – Chair	Davis - Chair
Little	Wooten	Terrill	Terrill
Davis	Fraley	Caudill	Caudill
Fraley	Davis	Schultz	Fraley

Little motioned to create a Parks Committee; Caudill seconded, all ayes.

Schultz – Chair

Terrill
Wilson
Wooten

VISITORS: None

CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT – R. STONE

- Bids were received at the last council meeting for the South Cumberland/Hughes Avenue Project. Bids have been evaluated and Ford Contracting was the low bidder. The Public Works Committee will need to meet before the next city council meeting to review this bid in order to make an acceptance at the next business meeting.
- Department heads are working on their amended budgets; a presentation will be made to the council at a later date.
- There will be a number of city surplus items listed on GovDeals.com for sale; vehicles, bicycles, etc. This is an on-line auction that anyone can bid on starting Jan. 5th.

Questions: Terrill stated that he had received a call that it was time for the Industrial Park – Farm to be bid; could Mr. Stone follow up?

MAYORS COMMENTS:

In continuing with the State of the City, Mayor Connelly's focus tonight is on challenges; the main purpose of city government is provide municipal services and in so doing, each city department faces particular challenges. He reviewed challenges that each department will need to focus on for our future, particularly if we would lose a large industry.

He recently received two letters from our sister-city, Hokoto City, Japan. One letter was announcing the retirement of the current mayor, thanking Berea's support during his term. The second letter was from the new mayor, a female, only the second mayor elected to Hokoto. She hopes to continue our ties to both our communities.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Terrill – was disappointed with the email he received from the “mayor” about the Chamber; it plainly shows he has a bur under his saddle because he doesn't want to give the State of the City address to the chamber members who are business members of the community. He feels the mayor needs to try and work it out, if he (the mayor) cannot, then he needs to step-down! Mayor Connelly stated he had received an invitation from the Kentuckian's for the Commonwealth to make the address in an evening event to allow more accessibility and free to the public, without charge. Terrill asked if their members were business people.

Wilson – is also disappointed as a business person that he is not speaking. Mayor Connelly responded by reading an email of communication with Mr. Rowlette of the Berea Chamber. On Dec. 8th, the mayor informed Mr. Rowlette that he had received an invitation from the KFTC to host the State of the City address, at this time he had not received any other request to speak. On Dec. 29th, Mr. Rowlette responding in emailing the mayor stating the Chamber had already planned on hosting the annual city address in January and have scheduled and reserved the Russel Acton Folk Center on Jan. 26th, 11:30 to 1:30 for a luncheon. Mr. Rowlette reminded the mayor that in previous year's the mayor has spoken to both groups but it had caused some confusion among the local media and general public. Mr. Rowlette suggested that this might be a good approach with each group who have very unique interest and priorities, regarding the local economy. With so many new members of the city council, the chamber is contemplating allowing each council person a time to introduce themselves and share their priorities for the next two years, which may need to be the focus of their program if his (the mayor's schedule) would not allow him to address Berea's business community. In response the mayor replied; David it sounds like a good plan to invite the council to introduce themselves and share their priorities for the next two years; perhaps I can follow-up later with a letter to your members in which I will share my thoughts on the accomplishments and of the challenges of city government.

Caudill – welcome to the new members of the city council; it is an exciting time in the city. He thanked the department heads for their presentations this evening; he

encouraged the new members to get to know the department heads, they do an incredible job. He is looking forward to working with the new committees.

Jerry – echo what Mr. Caudill said; he would like to set the time of 5:30 p.m. for the Public Works Committee on the first Monday prior to the first council meeting of the month. He encouraged the council to consider holding one meeting of the month as a work session; the ordinance says we are to have one business a month and one work session. The benefit of having one meeting as a work session it would give us time to discuss items needed for business; please everyone think about it. He hopes everyone will come together and work together during the next two years, we have a good city!

Wooten- it is an honor to serve the city; he has meet with each of his colleagues, they are truly great people with a lot of good ideas! He thanked Mr. Rowlette for his willingness to invite the council to attend the lunch on the Jan. 26th; he looks forward to it. He likes the idea of having one of the two monthly meetings as a work session.

Schultz – thanks to the administration for giving us guidance this evening, this will make our transition a lot better, and thanks to the department heads for their presentations this evening; thanks to the new members for their wiliness to work together and work to make Berea a better city. This will probably be the quietist this council will be from now on.

Fraley – echo about the department heads and Mr. Stone who presented this evening. Thanks to the city clerk for making the arrangements for the new members and the mayor to attend the Kentucky League of Cities training next week. With the New Year, many people see it as a new beginning and a fresh start; fittingly, we too, are at a new beginning with our new city council. I hope that we, the elected representatives of our citizens, along with our business and community leaders, civic groups, and organizations, and our citizens as a whole, will seize the opportunity that this new beginning offers, and be resolved to work together in a positive and constructive manner, for the common good of our community. When we have difference in opinions I am hopeful we can work through those differences with professionalism and courtesy. As we move our city forward I hope we will hear the wisdom of our state motto “United we Stand, Divided we Fall”. I will be committed to working together in a positive and constructive manner with the highest degree of professionalism and courtesy, and I encourage all of us here today along with our business and civic, and community leaders, to join me in that commitment.

Davis – echo what Mr. Fraley said. Thanked the citizens of Berea for the opportunity to serve. Thanks to the department heads for their reports tonight and is looking forward to hearing the others, and thanks to Randy for his report, this has been a learning experience tonight. He asked for the mayor to work out his schedule to speak to the Chamber if he could.

Meeting adjourned: 8:02 p.m.