

The Berea City Council met in a regular business session, Tuesday, September 15, 2026.

Mayor Bruce Fraley presiding.

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

WORK SESSION

Resolution #08-2026 Cleaner Water Grant, Project Repurposing

Resolution #09-2026 Cleaner Water Grant, Project Repurposing

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mike Barnett, John Payne, Katie Startzman, Teresa Scenters, Jerry Little, Steve Caudill, Barry Poynter, Virgil Burnside

COUNCIL ABSENT: None

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Jerry Gilbert, Shawn Sandlin, Robin Adams, Daniel Brindley, Donna Angel, Kevin Howard, Jason Hays

INVOCATION: Mike Barnett

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mike Barnett

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Caudill motioned; Payne seconded motion to approve agenda as presented.

Voice Vote: All ayes Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

Startzman motioned; Scenters seconded motion to approve minutes as presented.

Voice Vote: All ayes Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kent Gilbert, Berea

Representing the Madison County International Committee, shared this year would be the 40th year of the Sister City, Hokuto, Japan, partnership. This year's Sister City, Japanese Delegation, visit was scheduled for October 1-6. Fifteen delegates would be arriving, including their mayor. All City officials were invited to a welcome dinner, scheduled for October 2nd. Events during the visit would include a tour of City Hall and Fire Department, a tour of the school system, engaging in Madison County activities, and receiving briefings on the City of Berea, City of Richmond, and Madison County Fiscal Court. A special signing was scheduled for Monday, October 5th, in the Fiscal Court Courtroom, reaffirming the forty years of partnership. Thanked everyone for their support and invited them to take part in the joy of meeting some of the delegates.

Aaron Schaffer, Berea

Expressed his strong opposition regarding the employment of flock cameras within our City. He also suggested sidewalks for the Berea College / Scaffold Cane area for the safety of pedestrians.

Council Member, Caudill, shared there was already an active project regarding sidewalks for the Berea College / Scaffold Cane area.

BEREA COLLEGE UPDATE

Dr. Cheryl Nixon, President, Berea College, shared happenings at Berea College on the thoughts of the three different types of loves that we share, i.e., outdoors, our community, and the students. Appreciated the partnership between the college and the city and thanked Mayor Fraley for the relationship the college has with the Mayor's office.

For the love of the outdoors, the amphitheater was built in 1955 as part of the college's centennial celebration, was once an important place for the outdoor drama, Wilderness Road, and had fallen into disrepair. Nixon announced the college was actively working on planning for the restoration of the amphitheater at the Pinnacles and excited about the vision of what could be done with the Pinnacles Amphitheater for the community. She also felt this would help promote Berea as a space for tourism and special events that could bring our community together. New trails and educational signage had been added, the restoration of an endangered species of a historic chestnut tree was taking place and involved in the eminent domain case with the Eastern Kentucky Power Cooperative regarding a transmission line through their forest.

For the love of the people, the city, and the community, emphasized their Bereaships intern program, creating new types of internships where students could serve the community and give back, and learn the importance of the professionalism of our city government. Berea Kids Eat was run by the college's Grow Appalachia group, serving over 31,000 healthy, locally sourced free meals to young kids throughout Madison County. A great partnership between the city, the college, and our schools. Due to financial challenges, Berea College employees had also volunteered at Berea Community School, the college had hosted a campus field day for middle school students, and done a classroom supply resourcing the middle school, high school, and elementary school, with many other things underway.

For the love of their students, who represent the future, Nixon shared the CELTS program was their center for excellence and learning through service. Their students continue to participate in many forms of mentoring and tutoring, in turn, helping them to understand the importance of giving back.

Berea College recently received a number one ranking in the country in the Washington Monthly magazine. The magazine placed Berea College at the top of 1400 colleges across the country, recognizing schools that serve the public good.

As Berea College's mission was to make sure they brought in students that had financial need, the college was trying to express to the students that they are giving to Berea College and their community. After much heavy-duty data analysis, they had decided to move forward to fully funding the students' college degrees, i.e., funding tuition, housing, food fees, and school supplies. Beginning in the fall, Berea College would be the first college in the country to fully fund their students.

A One-Reunion was scheduled for September 25th & 26th, bringing back all alums for a celebration on the Alumni Fields near Brushy Fork. Events would include a concert and fireworks. Everyone in Berea was welcome.

CONSTITUTION WEEK 2026 PROCLAMATION

Mayor Fraley read Proclamation and presented to Members of the National Daughters of the American Revolution, Berea-Laurel Ridges Chapter, Amy Justice (VIS Chair & Chapter Historian), daughter, Abigail Justice, Heather Schill (DAR Vice Regent), and son, Jackson Schill, recognizing Constitution Week 2026 of September 17th through September 23rd.

Justice shared the Chapter was established March 22, 1930, by several ladies who wanted to establish the third southernmost Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Madison County. Their mission was to promote historic preservation, education, and patriotism. Their national motto is God,

Home, and Country. A banner was presented in celebration of America's 250th birthday which listed every original patriot ancestor of the starting of their Chapter, 96 years ago to present day. The Chapter was very involved with community service in Berea.

Constitution Week commemorated the signing of the Constitution of the United States of America. With exactly 4,440 words it is the oldest and shortest written constitution of any government in the world. As our ancestors questioned their government, the British Colonialism, they came together and formed what we call the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence.

They were proud to be members of the community, to serve the community, and serve our veterans. Appreciated what everyone does for the City.

RESOLUTION #06-2026 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, DECLARING ITS INTENT TO PROVIDE INCENTIVES TO INDUCE THE LOCATION OF AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN THE CITY OF BEREA BY FOREGOING ONE PERCENT OF THE OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE TAX OTHERWISE IMPOSED.

Resolution #06-2026 was subject to a Work Session on September 1, 2026.

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Resolution #06-2026 in entirety.

Caudill motioned; Barnett seconded motion to approve and adopt Resolution #06-2026.

Voice Vote: All ayes Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #08-2026 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BEREA ACCEPTING THE GRANT, APPROVING THE GRANT ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT, AUTHORIZING THE AMENDMENT OF THE CITY OF BEREA'S ANNUAL BUDGET, AND AUTHORIZING A REPRESENTATIVE TO SIGN ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS.

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Resolution #08-2026 in entirety.

Payne motioned; Burnside seconded motion to approve and adopt Resolution #08-2026.

Voice Vote: All ayes Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #09-2026 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BEREA ACCEPTING THE GRANT, APPROVING THE GRANT ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT, AUTHORIZING THE AMENDMENT OF THE CITY OF BEREA'S ANNUAL BUDGET, AND AUTHORIZING A REPRESENTATIVE TO SIGN ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS.

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Resolution #09-2026 by title summary. Noted this was an additional grant, similar to Resolution #08-2026, from the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority, authorized and appropriated by the Kentucky General Assembly in House Bill 1 of the 2022 regular session, for the Cleaner Water Program.

Scoters noted Resolutions #08-2029 and #09-2026 were a simple transfer from one item to another to assure all grant funding was utilized, to not lose grant funding.

Caudill motioned; Poynter seconded motion to approve and adopt Resolution #09-2026.

Voice Vote: All ayes Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

None

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- This weekend, September 18th - 20th was Berea's 30th Annual Spoonbread Festival.
- Berea Community High School Homecoming parade was scheduled for September 23rd, 6:00 p.m.
- Madison Southern Homecoming parade was scheduled for September 24th, 6:00 p.m.
- Movie Night at Memorial Park was scheduled for Friday, October 2nd, at 7:30 p.m.

MAYOR'S REPORT / COMMENTS

- Remember to invite family and friends to the Spoonbread Festival, enjoy yourself, make it a successful event, and support the Chamber of Commerce at their signature event. Favorite events included the Balloon Glow on Friday night and parade on Saturday afternoon.
- Encouraged participation in the Sister City Program, Japanese Delegation, especially the welcome event at the Berea Gallery & Event Center on Friday, October 2nd. Last October, when in Hokuto City, the delegation rolled out the red carpet, so we want to make sure to do the same for them. The Delegation was engaging and want to learn about us and our country.
- Per Resolution #06-2026, recognized the importance of Hyster-Yale's investment in our community. Beginning in 2022 this investment was originally projected to be a \$33.7M investment with plans to grow. Hyster-Yale was a worldwide company and chose to locate in Berea, Kentucky. This speaks well of the City of Berea, the Berea Hyster-Yale facility including their staff, management, and the people who have built that facility since it opened in 1974. The projections of expansion(s) speak volumes for their investment and confidence in their ability to grow in Berea. Thanked everyone involved with Hyster-Yale and their investment in our community and the facility.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Caudill The fact that when we have an expansion, we still do things and talk about it. Hyster-Yale was investing in increasing their factory. Excited and appreciated these types of anchor businesses. We have some strong industrial partners. Looking at our industrial park and the work we continue to do, we have moved in the right direction. Appreciated everyone involved and had been involved in this, it had been a team effort. We should feel fortunate to have the type of industrial partners we have that continue to invest in our City and see us as a real value. Kudos to all involved. Go to Spoonbread.

Little No comment.

Scenters Shared an article from a 2017 Chamber of Commerce magazine regarding some history of the Spoonbread Festival. The festival began in 1996 as a small one-to-two-day fair. In 1997 the first official Spoonbread Festival was organized with the goal of an event that would appeal to everyone. The first festival was a one-day affair that included spoonbread tasting, food vendors, crafters, civic organizations, church groups, a petting zoo, children's activities, a consignment auction, a parade, music, and more. By 2017 the festival continued to be a huge community event. The City had been a large contributor over the years. We are going to have a lot of visitors here this weekend, so be patient and nice and everyone go down to the festival.

Startzman No comment.

Payne Hoped to see a lot of community members at Spoonbread this weekend. Not only impressed with the amount of growth that the City had been able to have in the last few years, the growth was also what allowed us to make improvements to the parks, trails, and the general infrastructure improvements throughout our community. Commented that even though not much was said regarding

the flock system, some of the classes he had been taking, the teacher often said, “slow is smooth, smooth is fast.” They were taking in the stories, learning more about things so they could make decisions with the best information available.

Barnett No comment.

Burnside Appreciated the history of Spoonbread. Glad to see the continuation of the advancement and development of the industrial park area. As he had always said and encouraged people who serve on Council, our City Administrator, and our Mayor was to have a vision for Berea. It was a vision that the industrial park was out there, a cornfield that the City had invested in, and now you could see the good it had brought to the City. A lot of their work was not just maintaining but thinking about the future and how they could continue to develop and grow this place.

Poynter Thanked everyone who came and spoke. Thanked and appreciated the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and the 250th Celebration. Always good to get good news about the growth of our City, how we reinvest and do the things we do. Appreciated where we were and where we were going. Looking forward to attending Spoonbread this weekend.

ADJOURNMENT

Little motioned; Caudill seconded motion to adjourn at 7:39 p.m.

Voice Vote: All ayes Motion carried.

Mayor Bruce Fraley

City Clerk