

The Berea City Council met in a regular business session, Tuesday, July 21, 2026.

Mayor Bruce Fraley presiding.

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

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

COUNCIL ABSENT: None

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Shawn Sandlin, Robin Adams, Daniel Brindley, Jason Hays

INVOCATION: John Payne

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: John Payne

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Little motioned; Startzman seconded motion to amend agenda by adding 8A. Vacant Council Position, following second reading of Ordinance #11-2026.

Voice Vote: All ayes Motion carried.

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

Voice Vote: All ayes Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - JULY 7, 2026

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

Voice Vote: All ayes Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Aaron Shaffer, Berea

Due to recent events, from his previous public comment, shared he had reconsidered his thoughts regarding the use of flock cameras and would like consideration of more discussion on implementation and/or renewal of subscription. Also, great job on the new City sign.

Shane Morris

Shared he also did not agree with the use of flock cameras. Felt you should touch base with those living in the neighborhood, not mass surveillance.

Noted on the evening of June 13th, he heard a loud boom. Later finding a tree had fallen across Harrison Road with down power lines. Many people had often driven under the tree. For two years, it had been requested for the tree to be cut. In the past he had always had fabulous experiences with Public Works and although he was not on the inside, felt something had changed within Public Works. Asked local government to get to the bottom of issue.

BLUE GRASS CHEMICAL AGENT PILOT PLANT & BLUE GRASS ARMY DEPOT PROJECTS UPDATE

Craig Williams, Program Director, Kentucky Environmental Foundation commented he felt the City was doing a great job on almost every item on the checklist. Privileged to live in a city where people work together, care about each other, get the right things done, and do a good job.

After working on the Chemical Dematerialization Project for forty-two years, the Chemical Weapons Disposal Facility was moving toward sunset. To date, the local payroll had been almost \$1.5 billion. Completed project work hours were 18,217,880 and 2,452 days without a lost time accident; a record in the chemical demilitarization program, a phenomenal accomplishment. They were currently in the closure phase of the project, meaning all chemical weapons/agent and all hazardous materials from those chemical weapons were gone. Next was the decision(s) of what to do with the billions of dollars of infrastructure created to do the job. Some infrastructure would be demolished, some utilized to be incorporated into new projects.

New projects included a metal container shipping facility, Blue Grass Army Depot SkyFoundry Innovation Hub (drones), Energetics Plant (155 mm cargo projectile load assembly pack line), and Centralized Security Monitoring (integrate artificial intelligence, anonymous drones, autonomous drones, and existing sensor networks to deliver next generation threat assessment & secure homeland installations).

Dr. William Ritter, Public Affairs Officer, Blue Grass Army Depot, retired Army Colonel with thirty-three years of army experience, and the last five years with the Depot, shared additional project information. The Energetics Plant number of employees would depend on which contractor was awarded the job, which was projected to be in 2029 or 2030. The Metal Shipping Facility would be located along the road and next to a main railroad line; great shipping access. The new innovation hubs for the drones, extreme test locations, would be located in existing buildings which were currently being remodeled. Centralized Security Monitoring involved working with drones, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and monitoring other military installations, enabling the depot to monitor hundreds and/or thousands of locations from its centralized control center.

ORDINANCE #11-2026 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BERE, KENTUCKY, DECLARING CERTAIN PROPERTY TO BE SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZING IT TO BE SOLD. - 2ND READING

Mayor Fraley read Ordinance #11-2026 by title summary.

Caudill motioned; Little seconded motion to approve and adopt Ordinance #11-2026.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Scenters, Startzman, Payne, Barnett, Poynter, Caudill, Little

Nays - None

Motion carried.

VACANT COUNCIL POSITION

As Council Member, Ronnie Terrill had resigned, Mayor Fraley referenced KRS 83A.040, Sections (5) through (8). In the Mayor-Council form of government, the City Council chooses and appoints a replacement filling the vacant position within thirty days. This occurs when a written resignation had been submitted, specifying a resignation date, and rendered to the legislative body.

Little motioned; Payne seconded motion to nominate Virgil Burnside to fill a vacant position on the City Council for the remainder of term of Ronnie Terrill.

Voice Vote: All ayes Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

None

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Department Written Reports were e-mailed out today.
- Thanked Terrill for his commitment to City Council for numerous years and the work he had done for the citizens. Although this was his decision, hated to see him go.

MAYOR'S REPORT / COMMENTS

- Recognized service of Terrill. He had grown up with Terrill and known him since he was a young man. Watching Terrill and working alongside him, he was always committed to serving the citizens and businesses in Berea. Terrill was well known for being an advocate for youth sports, activities for young people, and doing everything he could to keep our City looking nice. Grateful for his service and sad to see him resign.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Little Thanked Terrill for his service and dedication. Terrill was a personal friend, had started with the City in the Volunteer Fire Department, served on the Planning & Zoning Commission, and served seventeen plus years as a City Councilman. Hated to see him go. Little also expressed his concern regarding a Facebook article regarding Terrill's resignation as there was a misquote that needed to be corrected, which alleged Mayor Fraley had told City workers to not talk to Terrill. Little had spoken with Terrill and Terrill stated, "Jerry, I did not say that." Felt misquote should be corrected.

Caudill Shocked to see Terrill resign. Thanked Terrill for his seventeen years of service and his willingness to put himself in the middle, dealing with criticism and things that go along with being in public office. Thought Terrill had good intentions any time he was working for the City. Although they had disagreed and argued at times, always appreciated the work he did. Thought Virgil Burnside, as a transition until the election, was a good decision on the part of the Council.

Poynter Just getting to know Terrill and he is gone. Appreciated Terrill and getting to know him during the past few months. Could tell he was genuine, enjoyed working with him, knew he had done a good job while at the City, going to miss him. Appreciated Craig Williams over the years and the value of work by being a constant presence throughout the Chemical Dematerialization project. We would never know what might have been averted or avoided by knowing that he was there looking at things, being in the audience, being in the crowd, wherever it was. His presence had mattered all this time; he had done a lot of good work we would never know about. Appreciated Williams and his update.

Scenters Thanked Williams for his hard work. Thanked those in the audience for coming. Thanked Shaffer and Morris for their comments. Terrill had always been a good neighbor, he and his family had been involved and good people in the community. She and the citizens would miss him.

Startzman Echoed thank you to Williams and Ritter. Welcome any time they would like to share an update. Thought the work happening at the Depot was critically important and grateful. Thanked citizens for their comments and sharing their viewpoints. Although she and Terrill did not always agree, she felt being able to see one another as human beings, along with other Council Members, in which she did not share common values when she first came to Council, was one of the biggest challenges she had put before herself. Sometimes she and Terrill were successful, other times they were not. Appreciated and enjoyed working with Terrill on the Parks Committee as these were the times they were able to share common viewpoints. Echoed Mayor Fraley's comments regarding Terrill's concerns for the kids in our community, sports, and beyond. Acknowledged the loss, whether they agreed or not on everything or anything. Appreciated Terrill's service to the City.

Payne Thanked Shaffer and Morris for coming out to speak to them. Williams had made our community safer and everyone who had paid attention could not doubt that. Thanked Williams. Terrill, seventeen years was a legacy that few Council Members would achieve. Knew there were projects Terrill had been passionate about and still in discussion/ongoing and he would happily carry on those discussions. Looked forward to having an opportunity to work with Burnside as he had been a Council Member in the past.

Barnett Had known Terrill for a long time and his passion for the City and care for the Park System. Knew he had picked up trash on the side of the road, the same for Little. Fortunate to have had that. To Williams, could not believe it had been forty-two years he had been working on the Chemical Dematerialization project. As a child, remembered seeing the train pass by hauling out nerve gas. In high school, remembered touring the depot igloos, etc. Appreciated his work and bringing in people for employment.

ADJOURNMENT

Caudill motioned; Little seconded motion to adjourn at 7:18 p.m.

Voice Vote: All ayes Motion carried.

Mayor Bruce Fraley

City Clerk