

The Berea City Council met in a regular session, Tuesday, August 15, 2017; Mayor Steven Connelly presiding. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Invocation and prayer

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: J. Davis, B. Fraley, T. Schultz, B. Wooten, J. Little, S. Caudill, C. Wilson, R. Terrill

OFFICIALS: J. Gilbert, R. Stone, C. Chasteen, D. Gregory, E. Fortner, D. Isaacs, S. Sandlin, D. Brumley, S. Meeks, D. Brindley, K. Hensley, D. VanWinkle, Daniel Brindley

VISITORS: Teresa Scenters, Kelly McKinney, John Payne, Richard and Cheyenne Olson, Jacqueline Bowling, Rebecca Bowling, Ed LaFontaine, Ali Blair, Peter Hille, Gene Stichcomb, Miriam Pride, Emogene Hogg Hartman, Martina LaForce, Linda LaForce, Daiv Rowlette, Virginia Bland

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Wooten motioned to amend the agenda by adding review of a future ordinance addressing "Meeting Transparency"; Fraley seconded. All ayes. Schultz motioned to approve the amended agenda; Davis seconded, all ayes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: AUGUST 1, 2017

Caudill motioned, Fraley seconded to approve the minutes of August 1, 2017; all ayes.

BEREA POLICE DEPARTMENT – RECOGNITION OF NEW OFFICERS

Chief David Gregory introduced the two new hires in the PD; both will work as school resource officers. Bryon Smoot will be at Madison Southern, and returning officer, Cody Shepherd will be at Berea Community School.

OPEN BIDS – BEREA MUNICIPAL UTILITIES – WATER VALVE MAINTENANCE TRAILER

One (1) bid was received from E. H, Wachs in the amount of \$64,375.00. The bid will be referred to the Utility Dept. for review and recommendation.

OPEN BIDS – BEREA MUNICIPAL UTILITIES – FARRISTOWN INDUSTRIAL DRIVE SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION, LINE A

Four (4) bids were received as follows:

1. Grant's Excavating - \$254,040.00
2. Twin States Utilities & Excavating's - \$290,000.00
3. Todd Johnson Contracting, Inc. - \$301,865.20
4. Norris Brothers Excavating - \$476,968.40

Bids will be referred to the Utility Dept. for review and recommendation.

RICHARD & CHEYENNE OLSON – SUSTAINABLE BEREA; URBAN FARM, VICTORY GARDEN BLITZ PRESENTATION

Richard and Cheyenne Olson gave a presentation-update of the events and activities that have taken place during the past year. Many people in and around town have opportunities to learn about, and grow their own vegetable gardens. Plans are underway for next year's events, and the Garden Blitz to be even bigger and better. More people took part in this year's event than ever before. Breakfast is served every Saturday morning at the Adams St. locations, April through October, everyone is invited. They thanked the mayor and city council for their continued support.

COUNCILMAN BILLY WOOTEN – MEETING TRANSPARENCY ORDINANCE

Mr. Wooten asked his fellow council members to consider the "Draft" ordinance he prepared and distributed. He requested it be placed on September 5th council agenda.

LINDA LAFORCE – BEREA HOUSING AUTHORITY

Martina LaForce and Linda LaForce distributed information concerning the Berea Housing Authority Morgan Street location. They expressed many concerns the residents would like to have addressed. Other surrounding housing authorities have many more opportunities for their residents than the Berea locations offer; many of their requests have been met with resistance from the director, and the board. The residents have expressed their interest in being able to grow their own vegetable garden, and to be involved in a work exchange for free local food. The residents would like to have access to the on-site community room, to have classes and things for the children to do, but the community room is used as storage for old refrigerators and stoves. They request to have the same opportunities as the housing authorities in Somerset, London, and Richmond. The Housing Authority is a Federal Funded Program. Emogene Hogg-Hartman stated there are many restrictions and limitations that the housing authority must follow, they often cannot afford to do many things for the residents. She invited anyone to attend their board meetings.

PETER HILLE – BEREA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. Hille stated all the commission meetings are open to the public and held the first Monday of each month in the council chambers. The commission addresses all issues/complaints that are brought before them, and they want to make our community welcoming and accessible to all. The BHR is planning on offering a training session for anyone who would like to attend, including the council members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:**Audit & Finance – S. Caudill**

No report.

Economic Development – J. Davis

The committee met last evening; this coming Thursday Terry Gill, the Kentucky Economic Development Secretary will be in Berea and Madison Co. to look at what we have to offer for development. Last week a company from Louisville flew a drone over

the Industrial Park, this will allow us an opportunity to better market our sites for future development. Director, Danny Isaacs will be attending site selectors meeting next month in Atlanta. There is an interest in possibly locating another grocery store chain here, and Station 211 group will be in Berea Sept. 7th. Fraley announced a Business Resource Exchange program will be held August 24th from 2pm-6pm at the Berea Church of God, the event is open to the public. Next meeting Sept. 18th.

Parks – T. Schultz

The next board meeting will be the 24th at 5:30p.m.

Personnel – C. Wilson

No report.

Public Works – J. Little

Glades Road resurfacing project has been completed and lined. Next meeting falls on the holiday, the committee will consider rescheduling.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ed LaFontaine; stated that he feels there is a pattern of things occurring in Berea that doesn't get proper attention until there is a concern or complaint. He urged the council members to ask the mayor how many times he's attended a housing authority meeting. Also, it's been brought before the council that things are occurring in Tourism; per KRS, things with Tourism are not occurring properly; residency of the appointed members of the board, and annual audits of the budget. There are currently two people on the board who do not live here, residency is required. The Tourism Audit; KRS requires it to occur annually and be made available to the public, a request was made as to the status of those audits, none currently exist. He suggested for the council to ask for an truly independent audit going back to the formation of the Tourism, we don't know where our money is now, we don't know when that money is going to be faithfully reported. Mayor Connelly stated that there are nine (9) years of Tourism's audits on the web-site for anyone who wants to look it up. Tourism is audited each year along with the city's annual audit, and has been audited since their existence. Mr. LaFontaine thanked the mayor for the transparency.

Darlene Snyder, Circuit Court Clerk informed the mayor and council that she received information that the driver's license testing in Berea is scheduled to be stopped the first of Oct. The State Police doesn't feel that they are inconveniencing the people of Berea and Southern Madison Co., they have installed a Kiosk Machine in Richmond. She urged the council to contact Captain Stewart. Bell Co. is the only other county that offers a second location for testing.

Ali Blair reported the representatives of the Levitt Amp Foundation Music Series came for a site visit last Friday. They visited many areas throughout town and the Arts Council held a reception for them prior to the concert event that evening. She was very proud of the way Berea folks welcomed them to our community; hopefully we will be able to get the grant again next year, and to continue the music series.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – R. STONE

- School starts tomorrow, everyone please be mindful of the additional school traffic and bus traffic. Due to the paving project on the Glades Road, the traffic signals timing has not been re-set, Arrow Electric will get them adjusted.
- The last day of our pool season was Sunday, we had a very successful year.
- Monies in General Fund this week; \$1,965,000; Tourism was \$476,789.
- I sign and approve every purchase order for both the General Fund and Tourism, and the Finance Director also reviews all spending. A statement of funds is distributed to all council member each month, a list of all the checks along with the balances is shown, if there is ever a question, please direct it to us.
- The building project is moving right along, site work is in process, and the painting has begun; the flooring will be going down soon. There will be a few more change orders that will be brought before the council. The departments are ordering their furniture and fixtures; the budget is looking good during our process. We appreciate the bordering churches for their help during the construction project.
- We received word from District 7 Highway Department about the US25 North Project, we are back to getting approval to take the project from Ellipse Street to the By-Pass.
- The checks for Rights-of-Way purchases on Short Line will be going to District 7 then to us to distribute.
- We are working with David Rowlette to get everything ready for the Spoon Bread Festival, the staff will meet next week to review the schedule. The city helps with approximately twelve other events throughout the year, in addition to our daily activities.
- Reminder of the Purchase Power meeting at 5:30 p.m., the meeting will be held in the council chambers.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Mayor Connelly announced the Kentucky League of Cities will be holding the Master Municipal Clerk's Association annual training conference at Boone Tavern next week; approximately 70 clerks from across the state will be in Berea.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Terrill – thanked the LaForce's for information they distributed about the Housing Authority, hope we will be able to help.

Wilson – thanks to everyone who came this evening.

Caudill – thanks to the LaForce's for bringing the Housing Authority to our attention. As chair of the Audit and Finance Committee and for the record, Tourism is audited annually at the same time with the city's audit. He feels there could have been a misunderstanding from a commission member who thought the Tourism was audited separately. Tourism funds are separate but audited with the city.

Little – thanks to David Rowlette for the job he does putting on the Spoon Bread Festival, the city does a lot with the event also, we all need to work together and help to make this a good event.

Wooten – his deepest sympathy to the people of Charlottesville, Va., he appreciates the council for passing Resolution 04 earlier this year denouncing all acts of violence and harassment committed within the City of Berea. In light of recent events he urged everyone to honor free speech and assembly but when, or if, an assembly turns violent, we have to protect the rights of our citizens when it happens. He thanked the LaForce's for bringing concerns from the residents of the Berea Housing Authority; he wonders why many of these concerns had not been previously addressed, but now that they have been brought forth, maybe more transparency will take place. He hopes the Housing Authority and the city can work together moving forward. He recently met with several residents of the Morgan Street location and drafted a report (based on the concerns) that he sent to Mr. Stone and to Ms. Doris Wyatt, she then sent it to the board members. Mr. Stone has been the only person who responded to the report. We must stop treating poverty as a crime within the City of Berea. He grew up in public housing and can sympathize with the less fortunate. He encouraged the other council members to look at his proposed ordinance to make all meetings be recorded. "Let's put the past and our ego's behind us, and work together to help the lives of Berean's that need it the most". He will share the report he prepared with the other members.

Schultz – echo what Billy said.

Fraley – thanked each of the presenters this evening, and thanks to Ms. Snyder for going to bat for the citizens of Berea. Tomorrow is the new school year, he wished all students, staff, and faculty a successful and safe school year.

Davis – thanked Mr. Wooten for his work addressing the Housing Authority issue and LaForces for speaking, and to thanks to Ms. Hogg-Hartman for addressing some of the issues. Recently the word was put out for volunteers to help with SpoonBread work, about 20 showed up and helped get the job done quickly. More volunteers will be needed for, and during the Festival, hope people can respond and help out.

Meeting adjourned; 8:34 p.m.