

The Berea City Council met in a regular session, Tuesday, February 20, 2018; Mayor Steven Connelly presiding. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Wooten

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

*A council work session was held at 5:45 to discuss the Solid Waste Contract, and Building Change Order #8.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Connelly requested removal of the Executive Session; add Board Appointment; consideration of the Waste Connection Bid Award; and discussion of the council vacancy. Fraley motioned, Little seconded to approve the amended agenda; all ayes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES; FEB. 20, 2018

One correction to the Economic Development report; Fraley presented in Davis' absence. Little motioned to approve the correction, Caudill seconded; all ayes.

BEREA HOME VILLAGE – KATIE HECKMAN

Ms. Heckman, Director of Berea Home Village explained the concept of the program. The idea began 15 years ago in Boston, and now over 200 villages are open, or in process of being developed. It is new to Berea; currently there are seven members. The program helps members to be able to stay in their homes, but need some assistance with transportation, household chores, and assistance with errands. Phone check calls, and limited technical assistance with computer, phone, and TV are provided through the program. Social activities are made assessable for members to help keep them engaged in the community. Fees are \$300 (individual), or \$500 (household); membership assistance is available for those who cannot pay the full price. People can volunteer in various ways, and, or donate to the program.

SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE = MARTINA LAFORCE

Ms. LaForce thanked the City of Berea for the support of the Summer Food Program that they received last year. All kids are eligible to receive free food during the summer when school is out, very many children do not have access to food on a daily basis. The food is prepared at Berea College dining services; they are a sponsor through Grow Appalachia, and additional funds are received from the USDA. Lunch includes fresh produce, fruits, and protein, and they are committed to zero waste including composting and recycling. There are various sites located throughout town to allow

more access to the children, including the park, the health department, the library, neighborhoods. And in addition the program helps provide food to some of the summer camps. The program is expected to grow even more this coming year including more mobile activity in the neighborhoods. Berea College student interns help with the food distribution, which in turn gets them more involved in the community. Field trips and activities to involve the children also take place during the summer school break as part of the program, many of the churches and the library has partnered to help to get the word out. Over 17,000 meals were served last year, a 25% increase from 2016. The name will change for 2018 to Berea Kids Eat. New locations and programs are expected to take place in working with many of the churches and local resources around Berea in the coming summer.

ORDINANCE #01-2018; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, PROVIDING THAT THE LAND MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, ORDINANCE NO. 18-2004, AS AMENDED BY ADOPTING A REVISED COMPREHENSIVE LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE TO INCLUDE LAND USE REGULATIONS, DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, AND SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS – 2ND READING.

Corporate Counsel read the ordinance by title and summary. Little motioned, Terrill seconded to approve the ordinance. Roll call vote; all ayes.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT APPOINTMENT – MAYOR CONNELLY

Mayor Connelly informed the council that Joshua Bills has agreed to serve another term on the Board of Adjustments, and is up for re-appointment. Fraley motioned, Davis seconded to approve the re-appointment of Mr. Bills; all ayes.

WASTE CONNECTIONS OF KY – APPROVAL OF BID

Schultz motioned to approve and accept the bid from Waste Connections, Little seconded; all ayes.

CHANGE ORDER #8 – BEREA POLICE & FIRE SAFETY/CITY HALL BLDG.

Caudill motioned, Little seconded to approve the change order as previously discussed during the work session; all ayes.

COUNCIL VACANCY – BILLY WOOTEN RESIGNATION

Mayor Connelly read the notice of resignation received from Dr. Billy Wooten dated February 15, 2018. A family illness has called him to move out of state, and therefore has caused his resignation. Discussion was held among the council regarding the legal requirements to fill a vacancy; the legislative board has 30 days to make an appointment. Council person Wilson read a letter she had received from Mr. Wooten; all the council members expressed their thoughts and prayers will be with him.

DUE DILIGENCE REPORT – MAYOR CONNELLY

Mayor Connelly stated his report is not complete, he is still waiting on for Mr. Hensley's response to the council's questions. He has received the assessment from Goss and Associates and will distribute a copy to each council members for their review. Little asked if a time table has been established for all reports, Mayor Connelly asked for patience in getting the information to help make the best decision for our city. Fraley thanked the Mayor for releasing the Goss Report to the council this evening.

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

A March 7th date was tentatively set for a committee meeting. Little requested to schedule a meeting with our auditor to explain the budget process; the legal side of line items. If Mr. Hensley is available we could hold a work session with the entire council.

Economic Development – J. Davis

The committee met yesterday; they reviewed the first part of the grocery feasibility study, part two will ready soon; the sewer project in the Industrial Park is complete; the Fast Track classes will begin in March, April will be the job fair, May will be the Small Business Appreciation event, and June will be the 2018 Tax Plan changes. Next meeting will be March 19th in the city hall conference room.

Parks & Rec – T. Schultz

The Public Hearing for the Dog Park Proposal scheduled for Thurs., Feb. 22nd has been cancelled, we will reschedule at a later date. Next meeting will be Mar. 22nd, at 5:30 p.m.

Personnel – C. Wilson

The committee has finished the Department Head evaluation survey, it will be emailed to Mr. Stone and the council tomorrow. A meeting will be scheduled at a later date.

Public Works – J. Little

Next meeting will be March 5th at 5:30 p.m.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Fire Chief, Shawn Sandlin recommended to award the bid for the new cascade system to Pro Air Midwest. This company also services the compressor as Station II, and this can be added to their yearly contract. Bid amount was \$38,600 and well within the budget. No objections.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT; R. STONE

- Departments are starting the process of moving into the new building; March 5th will be our first day of operations. The Administrative, Codes, and Economic Development hours of operations will be 8am-5pm. The Finance Department, including the tax, and Utility Payments, will be open from 7:30am-4pm, the drive-

thru window can also be accessed during these hours. The police department records clerk office hours are 8am-5pm. We will plan a grand opening and ribbon cutting soon.

- The Fire Department moved in on February 16th.
- The bid is out for the Splash Pad for the pool, we expect to make a recommendation at the March 6th council meeting.
- The Filtration System and tanks are ready to be installed in the pump house.
- We have received a lot of ideas for the renovation of the park, many of them large projects and will be very expensive, we will need to place them in our 5-year plan.
- The awning was replaced over the entrance to the Intergenerational Building.
- Baseball and Softball will begin the first week of March, weather permitting.
- We received a lot of interest in our RFP for Auditing Services; Ms. Meeks is reviewing them now, a meeting will be scheduled with the Audit & Finance Committee.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

As part of the mayor's obligation to report on the conditions and needs of city government; he presented a report on the financial, operational, and political state of local government at the end of 2017. Our finances are sound, and our last three audits show a steady increase in our net financial position; assets reduced by liability's. This past physical year General Fund Revenues increased by a million dollars, and our expenses were reduced. As of Jan. 31, 2018, the city had over \$22 million on deposit with local banks, the general fund had over \$7 million in checking, over \$4.7 million in C.D.'s., plus over \$2.1 million in capital sinking funds. Utilities has over \$7 million in C. D.'s, Tourism had \$874,000 in C.D.'s. He reviewed the many services each city department is in charge of, and projects and events that took place in the past few years. The General Fund revenue could drop as much as \$896,000 during the 2017-2018 budget year, and expenses could rise by 1.3 million dollars, including \$519,000 in expected CERS Retirement payments and \$104,000 in new health insurance cost, and \$265,000 in salary increases. BMU utilities will need access to more raw water; we have worked with the Core of Engineers to raise the Owsley Fork Dam, and to obtain a permit to re-use our treated discharged water. The pending debate of the city providing special retirement benefits to its police and fire who occupy jobs classified as hazardous, could become an existential challenge. If council votes to enter the program the city will have limited flexibility to manage an unknown, but like exponentially expanding financial burden; remarkably similar to that which the jails have placed on county governments across the Commonwealth. Voluntarily embracing that virtually unmanageable obligation could lead to merging our fire department with the county like we did with our 911 dispatch service, and ultimately to merged government.

*A complete copy of his report will be provided in the minute book.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Terrill – we will miss Billy Wooten, he has been a good college inter-face.

Wilson – she thanked the presenters this evening; Billy will be missed, he was a good council person. We all worked together for what we felt was the betterment of Berea.

Caudill – echo the comments about Billy, we thank him for his service to Berea, thoughts, and prayers are with him. Thanks to the presenters this evening, the food program for the children is a much needed program, we appreciate their efforts. Thanks to the Berea Police for their help with my family this past week. On the hazardous duty retirement, he feels that the assumption that it could grow exemplify maybe is misunderstanding it, and a fear of what could happen in the future. There's nothing indicative showing that hazardous duty retirement would grow any faster than non-hazardous retirement. There is a hurdle we have to get over if we choose to go there, but once your there, a 5% increase is the same whether it's going from 10% to 15%, or 40%-45%, it's still a 5% increase of duplicable gross. He encouraged the council to keep looking in to it. He thanked all the city employees for what they do.

Little - he's proud to be a business man, he cited an article in the newspaper that incorrectly stated our current financial situation in the city.

Schultz - thanks to the presenters this evening and their presentations, the work they do in the community is greatly appreciated. He also thanked all the city employees for what they do, and thanks to the council for their support. He too, will miss Billy and all his help on the Parks Board, and his help in working with the college.

Fraley - thanks to the presenters, their work, and the help they receive for their programs, they are very important. We hope everyone will support them. Thanks to Billy for his service to the city, he put the needs of the city first, we wish him well.

Davis – thanks to the mayor for report this evening, and thanks to the presenters, and thanks to Billy Wooten for his service and friendship, God Speed in his future endeavors!

Meeting Adjourned: 8:21 p.m.