

The Berea City Council met in a regular session, Tuesday, January 17, 2017; Mayor Steven Connelly presiding. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

VISITORS: Beth Meyers, Carla Gilbert, Gene Stinchcomb, Eef Fontanez, Rebecca Bowling, Jacque Bowling, Charles Arnold, Janice Blythe, Tim Taylor, Shane Morris, Ed LaFontaine, Sandy Rowlette, David Rowlette, Robert New, John Stienmetz

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: DEC. 20TH, 2017 & JAN. 3, 2017

Wooten asked for a clarification to his council comments during the January 3, 2017 minutes. Minutes of Dec. 20th and Jan. 3rd approved with corrections.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT – MIRIAM PRIDE

Ms. Pride distributed copies of the 2016 Annual Report; she reviewed the mission and function of the Human Rights Commission as amended by Ordinance #09-2011. A copy of the report will be included with the minutes of the meeting.

DEPARTMENTAL INTRODUCTIONS:

CODES ENFORCEMENT – ADM. DALE VANWINKLE, - ASST. AMANDA HANEY

(See attached power-point presentation)

PARKS & RECREATION – DIRECTOR - PRICILLA BLOOM

(See attached power-point presentation)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – DIRECTOR DANNY ISAACS

(See attached power-point presentation)

FINANCE DEPARTMENT – DIRECTOR – SUSAN MEEKS

(See attached power-point presentation)

BID RECOMMENDATION & AWARD – SOUTH CUMBERLAND & HUGHES AVENUE DRAINAGE PROJECT

Public Works Chairman, Jerry Little stated the committee met on January 12th to review the bids received for the project. A recommendation was made to accept the bid from Ford Contracting in the amount of \$227,585.00. With no objections, the bid was accepted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Audit & Finance – S. Caudill; the committee will work with the Finance Director to schedule a meeting soon; it will be announced at a later date.

Personnel – C. Wilson; none.

Public Works – J. Little; none.

Parks & Rec. – T. Schultz; the committee will meet Thursday, Jan. 26th and will meet each fourth Thursday thereon, of each month from 5pm – 6pm. He read the mission statement as established on January 10, 2017.

Economic Development - J. Davis; the committee will meet on Feb. 20th at 5:30 p.m.

VISITORS:

Reid Connelly and Kent Gilbert distributed some literature and information about our relationship with our sister-city Hotoko City, Japan. Kent Gilbert presented a gift to the city that the 2015 delegation brought back from the visit this past October, an antique handmade oil cloth umbrella. He thanked the council and city for their continued support of the program.

Ali Blair announced that Berea was one of the recipients of the 2017 Levitt-Amp Music Grant. We received a \$25,000 matching Grant which will enable the organization to hold a 10-week music program which will begin on the first Friday in July. The series will run July 7th through September 8th. July 7th is also the week-end of the Berea Crafts Festival. An Arts Conference will be held on Friday Sept. 8th that will bring approximately 150 out of town visitors to the city.

Shane Morris, Berea resident; this Friday we will have the return of limited government back in the White House, we have super majority of limited government in Frankfort, and now we have it here on the council. He encouraged the council to address three things; first, what started the facade of non-partisan government here in town; the fairness issues. The Human Rights Commission is in complete opposition to our system of limited government; the council has the power to end this. Second, this is the most taxed portion of Madison County, dismantle the restaurant tax. Third, stand with the Chamber of Commerce, the only way it will end the disagreement is with the election of a limited government mayor, he stated he counted seven strong limited votes to stand with the Chamber of Commerce.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – R. STONE

- A listing was distributed to each of you showing all the city owned properties, including the rent we have paid and received.
- The financial transaction has taken place for the Quint Fire Truck.
- The Public Works Department has received two new one-ton trucks, equipped with snow plows, and salt boxes.
- We have a Sargent's position open in the Police Department; we will be holding internal interviews soon.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: Davis – he thanked the department heads for their reports tonight; this is a learning and eye opening experience.

Fraley – he thanked the Human Rights Commission, and the department heads for their presentations. Congratulations to Firefighter Will Rogers and Police Officer Brent Bradley for their departmental recognitions; watch for news of a “First Responders Day” planned for this summer. He requested discussion be placed on future agenda’s for a dog park, and the funding request from the Airport Board for the expansion; funding is requested from the three governments. He has some questions regarding Executive Orders 2016-14 and 2016-15. He quoted KRS.83A.0107 which defines Executive Orders. “An order issued by the Executive Authority of a municipality which is binding upon the officers and employees of the municipality, and any government agency over which the municipality has jurisdiction”. His main concern is more about the procedure/concern of public funds. Fraley requested the executive orders be placed on the cities website.

Mayor Connelly responded by stating the two Executive Orders that he referred to are directed to city staff and to groups over which the city has jurisdiction, and are intended to provide information and guidance in dealing with use of city property, and the distribution of budgeted tax dollars. They are not meant to compel the activity of the general public, but to provide information to appropriate city governmental agency’s such as Tourism. Use of city property and the expenditure of tax money by an individual, or a group, implies support by approval of the city for any related conduct. The city has an obligation to convey the rules that a user/receipts is expected follow in order to meet constitutional and legal requirements; one being Section 171, of the Kentucky Constitution; the distribution of city tax money, and federal and state rules dealing with civil rights/non-discrimination that the city must comply with. An agreement is drawn up to be signed by both, the city and the user group, to provide guidance and information. Fraley requested Executive Orders be discussed with the council and made available for public input.

Schultz - he also thanked the department heads for their presentations, along with the Human Rights Commission presentation. He stated that most of all, he thanked the visitors who attended and voiced their opinions; that’s what the democratic process is all about.

Wooten – after hearing the discussion of the restaurant tax, he would like to schedule a meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee and with the Tourism Commission to discuss allocating funds from their Budget to enhance Tourism as related to recreational programs. He questioned the dates the Executive Orders #15-2016 and #16-2016 were signed and issued; the perception of what the public have about Executive Orders. On a positive note, the orders were meant to provide information to the Chamber when negotiating with their sub-vendors, but the negative perception is when they were signed, the day before the new council were sworn in? He would like more

transparency in city government and would have liked to have known more, before the orders were issued. Lastly, he would like for the council and the city officials to schedule a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce to get the Spoonbread Festival issue resolved and a conclusion reached.

He announced a partnership to work on three projects during the next few months to bring the city, local businesses, some of his public relations students, and a local non-profit group together. One project will be to work with Danny Isaacs on Economic Development. The second project, students will work with Ruth Hawkins and the Court Appointed Special Advocates of Madison County. Another group of students will be researching similar cities to the size of Berea, for the possibility of pursuing a Dog Park for a Berea. He will be looking forward to hearing from someone that the city will meet with the Chamber soon.

Terrill – he encouraged the mayor to reach out to the Chamber to try and resolve the Spoonbread issue. He congratulated Megan Smith on winning the cake wars, she made Berea proud.

Mayor Connelly scheduled an open invitation for anyone that wants to come to discuss the Spoonbread Festival Feb. 8th at 8:30 a.m. at the Utility Building.

Wilson – she thanked all the department head presentations that has taken place last meeting and this one, she really enjoyed the Economic Development information. She also hopes the city can come to a conclusion with the Chamber of Commerce, the loss of the festival cost a lot of lost revenues for many businesses in town, including her business. The festival is a family outing, we need to work hard, and work together for what is best for all of Berea.

Caudill – he would like to have some clarification on our meeting ordinance for future reference of when motions may be made, whether it's a business meeting, or a work session. We do need to work together and do what's best of the city, he thanked the departments for their reports, and he encouraged the new council members to get to know the department heads.

Little – he requested the council meeting ordinance to be placed on the next agenda for discussion and clarification. He thanked the visitors for attending this evening, if everyone would get involved and see how our city is run, then we would be a much better place; we may not agree on everything, but we can come to a good conclusion.

Meeting adjourned: 8:43 p.m.