

The Berea City Council met in a regular session, Tuesday, May 2, 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, B. Fraley, T. Schultz, B. Wooten, J. Little, S. Caudill, C. Wilson, R. Terrill

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

VISITORS: Father Michal Flanagan, Tim Taylor, Cheyenne Olson, Jacqueline Bowling, Rebecca Bowling, Ken Berry, Jeanette Rowlette, Charles Arnold, David Rowlette, Reid Connelly

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Caudill motioned, Little seconded to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES; APRIL 18, 2017:

Minutes approved as distributed.

ORDINANCE #08-2017; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, DECLARING CERTAIN PROPERTY TO BE SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZING IT TO BE SOLD – 2ND READING

Corporate Counsel read the ordinance in its entirety. Caudill motioned, Little seconded to approve Ordinance #08-2017; roll call vote, all ayes. Ordinance adopted.

MAY 16, 2017 CITY COUNCIL MEETING/JAPANESE SISTER CITY DELEGATION GROUP WELCOMING

Mayor Connelly informed the city council that this year's delegation will be arriving in Berea on Tuesday, May 16th, which also falls on our next council meeting date. Glenn Jennings, and Delta Natural Gas normally have hosted the welcoming event, but will not be able to do so this year; the city will host the welcoming reception at Boone Tavern at 6:30, and the council is invited. Mayor Connelly read a letter he had received from Mayor Eiko Watanabe, who will be part of this year's group. Her father was part of the first delegation that visited Madison County many years ago. Mayor Connelly requested feedback from the city council regarding rescheduling, or changing the time of the next meeting. Caudill suggested to move the council meeting to 5:30, so that the council can attend the welcoming reception; no objections.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Audit & Finance – Caudill; the committee will be scheduling a review of the budget very soon.

Economic Development – Davis;

- Beth Flowers was the guest speaker at the meeting last week; she is the director of AIR Institute of Berea College which focuses on Appalachia Arts, and Business management of the Arts.
- The Industrial Park sewer project is moving forward; a Geo Tech study is currently taking place on the Menelaus Industrial Property; Bluegrass Energy and East Kentucky Power will be in town on Thursday to view the area.
- Mr. Isaacs will be attending an International Commercial Shopping Center event in Atlanta in November; anyone who has an interest in development in the South Eastern, U.S. can attend.
- Mr. Danny Isaacs recently attended the KY Associates of Economic Development Conference in Owensboro.
- On April 25th, Mr. Isaacs and Mr. Stone met with the KY Economic Development Cabinet.

Mr. Isaacs added the 10-week Entrepreneurial classes concluded this past Monday; participants will be receiving their certificates of completions this Thursday evening at the Folk Center at 6pm, everyone is invited to attend.

Parks – Schultz;

- Discussion is still on-going about the bleachers and field expansion, at Berea Community/Duerson Football field.
- Mr. Wooten will be presenting an ordinance concerning dog waste; revising the city code.
- The committee discussed three field expansion options; further research is needed.
- This Friday evening at 8pm, there will be a movie in the Park event; food trucks will be on hand, and the Youth League will be selling candy, and Park Community Credit Union will provide free popcorn. In case of rain, the event will be moved to the Folk Center.

Personnel – Wilson; nothing to report.

Public Works – Little; the South Cumberland/Hughes Street drainage project has started. The committee is working on identifying/updating “No Parking” areas.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Reid Connelly; executive board member of the Madison County International Committee thanked the council for accommodating our Japanese guests. He encouraged the council to attend any of the events while they are in town and learn about the program, and experience the hospitality.

Cheyenne Olson of Sustainable Berea, distributed information about the “Victory Garden Blitz” that was held recently at the Utility Building parking lot. She thanked the mayor, the council, and the Public Works Department, for their continued support of this event. There were 158 volunteers at this year’s event with 109

raised beds installed. A calendar of events and educational opportunities will be available to the community for anyone interested.

Tim Taylor stated that he is sad that the council had to pass a resolution that they were denouncing hatred and harassment? It should be obvious that they are good and decent people!

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: R. STONE

- Progress is being made towards preparing the 2017-2018 Budget. The employee health insurance will increase 8.01 percent, with Baptist Health remaining as our carrier. The employees will receive a 2% across the board cost of living raise, with some positions being reevaluated. The budget will be ready for the council's review at a special called meeting.
- Monies in General Fund this week was, \$1,633,142, with net profits coming in higher than in the past.
- The US25 change order was approved by District 7, it will now go to the State for their approval.
- We are continuing the signing and purchasing of the agreements on Short Line Pike for the Indian Fort Trail connector.
- Fire Station II employees on each of the shifts have removed, and restored a drainage line that went across the parking lot; they did an excellent job.
- Bids were opened at last council meeting for General Contractor, Electrical, HVAC and Plumbing; we would like for the Public Works Committee to place this on their meeting agenda for review and recommendations.

QUESTIONS:

Schultz asked if we currently have anyone on the Police Department Staff that are fluent in speaking Spanish. Chief Gregory stated we have two officers that are trained, and we have a language line we can access at any time for any language.

Caudill; is there an expected completion date of the trail connector. Stone stated once the deeds are prepared and purchased, we will then be able to bid out the project, hopefully in the very near future. Estimated cost of the project is \$437,000.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

He attended the open house at the Madison County Airport held this past Saturday; the City of Berea was presented with a "Silver Wings" award due to the council's continued support over the years.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Little – he thanked Ms. Meek’s and her staff in helping in collecting the net profits. Today, he met with Mr. Stone and Mr. Fortner to discuss the new electric/transmission contract for 2019. Mr. Stone will hold a presentation in August to bring everyone up to date.

Wooten – the CASA Basketball Tournament fund raising event last week was very well attended, we raised \$500 to donate to the cause.

His Organizational Communication class students recently held a survey among Berea College Students; of the 420 respondents a lot of good recommendations were received to pass on to the Economic Development. Another survey was taken in the community (850), (non-students); good feedback was received from this as well.

Fraley – The “First Responders Day” has turned into a “First Responders Camp”. Our Police and Fire Departments are holding the camp for children ages 10-13; the camp is free and will be held July 24-28 with many fun things for the kids to do. The camp begins at 8am each day with free breakfast and lunch provided for the kids. There are still some spots open; applications can be picked up at the Police or Fire Departments.

- There is a new program called the Eastern Scholar House; this is a great opportunity for single parents who wish to pursue a college degree. This program is provided through the Kentucky River Foothills Development Council and is eligible to full time students who are enrolled in an approved post-secondary institution. It will open mid-summer 2017.
- He and Jim Davis attended the April 24th meeting for the proposed “Healing Center”, it was well attended. There is a power-point presentation on the Madison Counties web-site for viewing.
- There was a large delegation from Berea who attended the “Boone Trace Workshop”, held last night in Richmond. The National Park Service is supporting this effort; this was the first of five workshops designed in preserving Boone’s Trace. This will increase Tourism revenue; promotion of healthy lifestyles; and a connection will all the participating community’s, along with an increase in historical education.
- The annual National Day of Prayer will be held next Thursday, May 4th at noon – 1pm at the Madison Country Court House, he encouraged everyone to participate.
- **Davis** – He is noticing the same cars, likely college students, being parked in the area of the Log House, College Square, Main, and Prospect Street. The prime parking spots are being taken up in many of the business areas; would like for this to be addressed before the next upcoming school year.

Meeting adjourned: 7:04 p.m.

Mayor Steven Connelly

City Clerk

