

The Berea City Council met in a regular session; Tuesday, September 19, 2017; Mayor Steven Connelly presiding. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Invocation and pledge.

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

ABSENT: J. Davis

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

VISITORS: Kelly McKinney, Ronica Shannon, Mim Pride, Edward Adams, Jacqueline Bowling, Ed Lafontaine, William Old, Mike Hogg, Loyal Jones, Nick Carpenter, Virginia Bland, Billie Buell, Jennifer Napier, Sandy Rowlette, David Rowlette, Steve Wilkins, Tom Howser, Patty Howser, Linda Ross, Bob New, Joe Fryman

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

Little motioned, Fraley seconded to approve the minutes of September 5, 2017; all ayes.

TOM HOWSER; SWING FOR CURE PRESENTATION

Mr. Howser thanked the council, the mayor, and the city staff; especially the Parks and Rec staff, for the support of the "Swing for a Cure Softball Tournament", recently held at the city park. A video was shared about the event; twenty-eight girl's team's competed, and over 2800 people visited, and stayed in Berea. He thanked all the sponsors who helped make the Matt Ross Fund raising event a huge success. He presented the mayor with a framed picture of the ball fields to be placed in the new building.

BEREA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ANNUAL JOHN G. FEE JUSTICE AWARD

Mim Pride announced the list of nominations for this year's recognition. Mae Suremac, owner of Noodle Nervona is this year's recipient. She is an advocate for social justice and donates a portion of her sales to various non-profit organizations, this year she donated to the New Opportunity School for Women. The first annual John G. Fee Youth Leadership Award went to Nick Carpenter; Nick is an advocate for youths with disabilities, and an advocate for Autism Awareness.

MIKE HOGG, SUPERINTENDENT; BEREA COMMUNITY SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT

Superintendent Hogg distributed copies of the 2016-17 school year end report. Much progress has been seen during the past six years; ACT and MAP assessments have all increased with a significant increase in graduating seniors meeting all three college readiness benchmarks. The year ended with a balanced budget due to cut in staffing and expense's in 2013. Mr. Hogg will be retiring from the school, effective December 31st.

OPEN BIDS – FIRE DEPT. – SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS

Two Bids were received and opened by Mayor Connelly.

1. Adam Bales - \$30,510.00
2. Bluegrass Fire Equipment - \$31,062.00

Bids will reviewed by the Fire Department for a recommendation.

BID RECOMMENDATION – UTILITY DEPARTMENT; ROBOTIC TOTAL STATION SYSTEM

Utility Director, Ed Fortner recommended accepting the one bid that was received from James R. Adams and Associates in the amount of \$24,812.98. No objections.

ORDINANCE #11-2017; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR CITY PURPOSES UPON ALL PROPERTY, NOT OTHERWISE EXEMPT, IN THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY – 2ND READING

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

KRS.61.810(f)-EXCEPTIONS TO OPEN MEETINGS – J. LITTLE

Councilman Little requested a legal opinion from the Attorney General's office in reference to KRS.61.810(f).

KYMEA CONTRACTS – J. LITTLE

Councilman Little motioned for the City of Berea Municipal Utilities cancel all membership, resolutions, agreements, and contracts with KYMEA, and to have AMP Ohio, as was in the RFP that we voted to approve on June 7, 2016, to have our power delivered to our power points, and to sign any transmission contracts necessary for AMP Ohio; effective as soon as possible; Schultz seconded. Mayor asked if another transmission study will have to take place and if we have the money to do so. Caudill stated he is not comfortable in voting to immediately end anything without the ten-mega-watts of capacity that is provided through the KYMEA Transmission Agreement. Little stated we could buy ten-mega-watts of capacity through AMP Ohio. Roll call vote; Terrill-yes, Wilson-yes, Caudill-no, Little –yes, Wooten-yes, Schultz-yes, Fraley-yes. The meeting previously scheduled to inform the entire council about the purchase power has been cancelled due to some members not being able to attend. A meeting will be scheduled soon.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Audit & Finance; Caudill

No report.

Economic Development – Fraley

The committee met yesterday; guest speaker was John Brzozowski, owner of the new Wings Restaurant. He reported his business is doing very well and currently employees

46 people. Business Development Director, Danny Isaacs reported that a grocery store feasibility study will be taking place soon. New business opened recently are; Smokin Jax Barbeque and Michael's Marketing Firm. Next meeting, Oct 23rd.

Parks – Schultz

Next meeting; Sept. 28th at 5:30 p.m.

Personnel – Wilson

Ms. Wilson stated she wanted to address a problem in some of our city's departments. Our employees feel they are being treated unfairly, and afraid to come forward or take the necessary steps to resolve the issue. In the past, felt their concerns, when reported, were not being taken seriously. City employees are afraid they will be bullied or retaliated against for speaking out. Our employees are the city's most valuable asset. We need to make sure they are being treated fairly, honestly, and with respect. We need to review how these issues are handled, and make sure we have good communication with our employees. She believes adding an annual supervisor evaluation would be a step in the right direction so that not only the employees be evaluated, but our supervisors as well. She requested the council to consider, and bring forward their ideas and thoughts. She appreciates the employee's work ethic and their dedication to the city, they should have a good work environment.

Public Works – Little

No report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Steve Wilkins expressed his extreme disappointment in the council's decision to forfeit two-million dollars based on information they received from one council member. Mr. Little has done quite a bit to educate himself on electric utilities, however he is not fully informed. There are only a few people in town who are extremely knowledgeable about utility issues, and the council has made a big mistake this evening. He requested a Utility Board be created to look at other municipality's already in place, to see what our next steps might be.

Ed Lafontaine thanked Mr. Howser for his effort in putting together the "Swing for a Cure" event, it was an outstanding success. For the amount of the investment, the assistance that he received from the city that on a dollar to dollar basis, that his event, brought more people to this town on one week-end, than any other event we have seen. He urged the commission (council) members who are going to consult with our Tourism Commission to take that to them, and remind them of that, and to consider upgrading our facilities to allow more teams to come next year, and the event be more successful. With improvement of our facilities we can bring other events like soccer and other teams that come from out of town. He also requested for the city commission (council) to ask Brand Advertising to include record of where the money is spent, a line item of materials, and billable hours.

David Rowlette, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce reported a very successful Spoonbread Festival week-end and the good weather brought large crowds. There were 211 vendors and 50 new sponsors, and we had hundreds of volunteers. We saw growth in many areas, and the lodging and restaurants reported good numbers during the week-end. We were able to pull the event together in six months of work, he thanked the Parks and Rec, Mike Coyle of the county sheriff's department. Many teenagers came to work their community service hours and it was a big help. He recognized the local churches for their prayers and help, moving in the vendors. He asked for everyone to do what they can do, and no more. Plans are already underway for the 2018 event, the Steering Committee will meet soon. The ATM machine was a great addition at this year's event, and plans are underway to have a machine at the Guild Fair.

Sandy Rowlette stated she was the founder of the festival, and one of the director's. She stated God is good and they knew there was an evil presence that tried to force its way in, but God prevailed. They had the best year ever with more vendors, and happy faces than in the past 21 years. She hoped everyone was able to get by and see the giant spoon make by Will Bondurant; pictures are on Facebook. This festival was put together to bring our community together, not separate it and God prevailed. It brought people from all over the country and state to remember the good things about Berea, not the bad. She loves this community and she will continue to fight for the Spoonbread Festival, many people and business reported increased sales during the week-end. She thanked the business and sponsors; she requested to see each of the council members who got elected for bringing it back, be in the park all week-end.

Jennifer Napier announced the 4th annual Berea Chamber of Commerce GEO Caching event will be held on October 20th – 22nd. It is a high-tech scavenger search and people all over the country do it; all you need is the app, or the hand-held GPS. The event is a great way to engage children and families, and get them outside. Approximately two to three hundred people are expected to come into town during the week-end event. Ms. Napier has hid seventeen items that are unique to Berea for Geo Cashier's to find. Once the tour in Berea is complete the participant will receive a handmade craft made by local artist Terry Fields. A second Geo Caching tour is planned that will require casher's to spend the entire week-end in town. Hunts will be held both during the day, and the evening. Contact the Chamber of Commerce for more information.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT; R. STONE

- We have received the final draft of the Strategic Plan from the KLC representatives; a copy will be distributed to the council and a work session will be held with the KLC reps to discuss the final contents of the plan, to determine and maintain continuity of the plan, and the best approach on compliance to the plan.

- The US25 North plan continues to be on track for the October letting. We received contracts today from the State to allow the moving of the water and sewer utilities. The cost of the portion of the movement will cost BMU \$120,400.00. We are working with an attorney from the State to proceed with a condemnation on two parcels of property along US25 North.
- Banks Engineering is working on concepts for the proposed dog park.
- We are continuing work with Toad Vine Industry on the stadium seating at Duerson Stadium; a complete cost package of the seating material's, and press box design will be finalized by the first of October.
- A meeting was held with Bluegrass Recreation to finalize the amenities and cost of the Splash Pad.
- A pre-construction meeting will be held tomorrow with Todd-Johnson Construction to begin work on the Farristown Industrial Sewer line.
- Bids will be opened for the extrication equipment for the Quint Fire Apparatus this Friday. Chief Sandlin and two of his fire fighters will be traveling to Florida later this month to see the final build of the truck.
- Harry Phillips of AMP Ohio will be here to attend the Oct. 17th city council work session; his schedule would not allow him to be here any earlier.
- AMP held a training session at the Folk Center today, the training was on transformer safety.
- A recognition of three of our electric crew members will be held at our next meeting; they along with two pieces of our equipment have been in Florida assisting with the hurricane damage.
- Progress continues on the Operatins Center; the joints on the exterior of the building have been caulked, and the interior steps that did not meet spec, have been removed and re-poured. The Adams Street drainage project has been completed by our Public Works Dept. The Christian Church entrance has been completed, and the work is continuing on the Baptist Church entrance. Basement work is in progress. The fire bay doors are scheduled to be hung this week and landscaping has begun. We have not heard confirmation on the elevator replacement. Wilburn has a person on-site completing the pre-punch list on every room in the building. We will not occupy the building until all punch list items have been completed.
- General Fund monies this week as of Monday were, \$1,623,419; Tourism had \$378,506. These totals each week do not include our CD's.
- The 2017 tax bills will be mailed on Sept. 29th.

Stone requested the council enter into a motion to go into executive session to discuss the sale of property. Little motioned, Schultz seconded; all ayes. Meeting adjourned to executive session at 7:46 p.m., reconvened at 7:57 p.m.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

No additional reports.

Caudill motioned to surplus city property at 202 & 208 South Broadway for \$35,000 with the stipulation that a structure be built on the property within 36 months; Fraley seconded. All ayes.

MAYORS COMMENTS:

Mayor Connelly announced the counties annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection will be held on Sat. Oct. 7th at the county road department location on US25 North, from 9am - 3pm.

He reported many thanks to the Police Dept. from Peanut Johnson and his wife for recovering items that were stolen from them.

CITIZENS COMMENT ON PURCHASE POWER – JACQUELYN BOWLING

Ms. Bowling stated she has done much research, and received a lot of information for the power usage issue. She received a report from Frankfort; they quickly went into the contract with KYMEA to only find out later that it was not the company they thought it was. The commitment to substanceable access to power capacity would cost members four to five million dollars per year if KYMEA was unable to sell the excess capacity to its members. The members who would leave for any reason would put the burden of the money on the other members who were left. She felt the council has the power to do the right thing for the citizens of Berea. She felt there was rudeness and disrespect that people are given when they want to voice their opinion, or have a voice in the people, and the city they believe in, and the people they voted for. It's a disgrace for people to attack people because they have a different opinion than they have; she feels this council has shown they do have power, and they can control this group of people and can make Berea a place to live.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Terrill – he stated that he was really getting tired of the mayor rudely interrupting people when they are up speaking, he wished he would try and do better. Mayor Connelly responded that maybe he could whisper to them when they are up to their five minutes; Ronnie stated that he was the time keeper. Mayor responded that this is when he politely try's to let them know. Terrill stated he should give them notice when they have a minute to go instead for rudely interrupting.

Wilson – she thanked the Chamber for such a great job, outstanding success for the Spoonbread event; she had never seen so many cars and people at the balloon glow. A record number of vendors and so many antique cars came. A special thank you to the Rowlette family for the dedication and hard work and hours they put in. Virginia was taking pictures and helping. She thanked Tom Houser for his work and success for the softball tournament. Both events brought a lot of people into the community.

Caudill – congratulations to Nick Carpenter on the first John G. Fee youth leadership award. It was good of the Human Rights Commission for recognizing the need to acknowledge our young people. Thanks to the Chamber all the volunteers and who helped with Spoonbread Festival; it was a great event!

Little – thanks to the Chamber, and all the people it took to put on this festival; Mr. Rowlette and his family worked hard. He is glad to see people in the audience who comes out and voices their suggestions, concerns, and opinions. He wants everyone to remember he is just one vote.

Wooten – echo what the others had said, and thanks to Mr. Howser for his successful event. Congratulations to Nick Carpenter on his award, and excellent work on Autism Awareness. His favorite event during the Spoonbread Festival was the tractor show; the festival was a huge success and he is looking forward to next year, and he hopes to be able to volunteer more next year. He would like to get the ad-hoc committee to meet with Tourism soon. An awareness campaign has already begun with the Tourism Director, and he has learned a lot. A fact sheet will be delivered to each resident of town to show where the tax dollars are spent. His class is currently working towards a social media campaign, and will work with our local businesses to show how Tourism has helped them over the past few years.

Schultz – he thanked everyone who presented this evening, and thanks to the Chamber, and the Rowlette's for their hard work. He wasn't aware that he could be on a planning committee and help out; he feels that as city leaders they should help the Rowlette's as much as possible to make the next Spoonbread Festival even better.

Fraley – he acknowledged Tom Howser for putting together the softball tournament. He hopes everyone had a chance to participate in the Spoonbread Festival this past weekend; the numbers on all three days was astounding. He complimented everyone involved in bringing the festival back, and in making it happen. The Chamber of Commerce members, the staff, and the volunteers put in countless hours. Everyone talked about how much fun they had, and how nice and organized the festival was. Many business in town reported their numbers were up significantly during the weekend. He looks forward to see the festival grow in 2018, and he proud of our city and especially proud, to be a Berean.

Meeting adjourned: 8:16 p.m.

Mayor Steven Connelly

City Clerk