**BEREA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MARCH 20, 2018**

The Berea City Council met in a regular session, Tuesday, March 20, 2018; Mayor Steven Connelly presiding. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m.

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

**OFFICIALS:** J. Gilbert, R. Stone, C. Chasteen, D. Gregory, S. Sandlin, S. Meeks, D. Brumley, A. Haney, K. Hensley, D. Isaacs, P. Bloom, L.

**VISITORS:** Over twenty-five visitors were present.

\*A council work session was held at 5:30 to review wording to amend the Human Rights Ordinance; possible raises for the compensation of the both the mayor’s and council pay; the next phase of the Indian Fort Shared Use Path, the Cherry Road drainage project, the Brushy Fork Trail project, Park projects, and the Tolle Building renovation.

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Davis moved, Caudill seconded to approve the agenda; all ayes. Little moved to amend the agenda by adding P & Z appointment, and Purchase Power; Terrill seconded, all ayes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: FEB. 20, 2018**

Caudill moved, Little seconded to approve the minutes of Feb. 20, 2018; all ayes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: FEB. 26, 2018; SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

Caudill moved, Fraley seconded to approve the minutes of the special called meeting of Feb. 26, 2018; all ayes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MAR. 6, 2018**

Caudill moved, Little seconded to approve the minutes of Mar. 6, 2018; all ayes.

**BEREA FARMER’S MARKET UPDATE/REPORT; LAURIE WHITE**

Ms. White introduced Mr. Bill Best, one of the original farmers who started the market in 1973. Mr. Best stated our market is the oldest Farmer’s Market in the state, approaching its 50th year in business. She also introduced, Fay Adams Eaton, “the new manage”, and Martin Richards, from the Community Farm Alliance. Ms. Eaton reported last year’s marker had 27 vendors; some the vendors who began selling their products at the market, now have their own store front businesses. Over the years the market has been in various locations, and they are now open year round. The marker is moved indoors during the winter, this has caused them to face various challenges. Hiring a manager has helped with programing, and there are many more opportunities they would like to offer the community, but the funding in limited. They are very motivated to seek new funding through creative partnerships in the community, including a permanent location for the market. The market has shown an approximately 30% increase in vendors selling items at the market, which also has increased the number of customers. Martin Richards stressed that farmers markets are economic development drivers for the community, the money recirculates, and stays in the community. The market is a business, and there are many located across KY, many local governments’ supports, and sponsors their local markets; many of which provide a location, a structure, or a pavilion. Councilman Caudill invited the group to attend the next Economic Development Committee meeting for further discussions.

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**BEREA HUMAN RIGHTS ANNUAL REPORT – MIRIAM PRIDE**

Ms. Pride read the functions of the Human Rights Commission as worded in the ordinance. The main goals have focused on education and outreach to all. She introduced the members of the board who were present. The Berea Human Rights Commission advises, and cooperates with the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, whenever possible to effectuate compliance with state laws. Three complaints were received last year, but two did not fall into their jurisdiction and was referred to the appropriate entities, one was referred to the KHRC. The Berea Human Rights Commission are unpaid volunteers, appointed by the local governing body, which then provides funding for activities, and educational opportunities. Proposed changes to amending the ordinance are currently pending, and will be ready to present to the council soon. Their office is located in the Broadway Building and is staffed by a part-time office person. Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m., and are open to the public

**SWING FOR A CURE – TOM HOWSER**

Mr. Howser presented a proposal to the city council for the upcoming season concerning hosting the “Swing for a Cure Ball Tournament”. Our park is one of the best, but does needs some upgrades; he requested lighting be placed on Field 5, (the T-Ball field); and a new, or bigger dug-out(s); a trophy area; and another field be added. These updates not only will help the tournament to bring more people to our park, but it will also help fund the Matt Ross event, and the Berea Youth League. He requested conversations be started to get these ideas going. Linda Ross proposed a possible fund raiser to go along with Mr. Howser’s proposal. There is a spot inside the park that could become a patio/remembrance area; people could purchase bricks as part of the fund raising event, naming teams, etc. She distributed information to the council for their review.

**ORDINANCE #02-2018; SOLID WASTE FRANCHISE ORDINANCE – 1ST READING**

Mayor Connelly read the ordinance in its entirety.

**PLANNING & ZONING VACANCY – J. LITTLE**

Councilman Little stressed the importance of the P & Z Commission; they are the first step to Economic Development for Berea. He feels the legislative body should have a voice in selecting and approving the members. Councilman Caudill would like to see a counter-appointment to the person the council suggested, but was not approved by the mayor; the council should be able to have a mutual involvement to the process. He would like to see another nomination. Councilman Fraley quoted KRS.100.147 citing the requirements for appointments, and the time allotted to do so. Mayor Connelly explained the reason he nominated the re-appointment of Richard Olson. Additional council comments were directed towards our industrial development, and the needs for the future of Berea. Our Economic Development Director, Danny Isaacs was recognized for his hard work every day to recruit new industry and businesses for Berea; he has been very instrumental in his position with the city.

**PURCHASE POWER – J. LITTLE**

Councilman Little thanked the mayor for his due diligence report; one good thing the council discovered from the report is we need a budget policy, and another is that we have two contracts, one with AMP, and one with KYMEA, both of which have problems. We need our city attorney to review the contracts to make sure they are corrected, and any money to be refunded, if due. The attorney needs to make sure all legal documents are up held.

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Audit & Finance – S. Caudill**

The committee met on the 8th, and discussed the following; they will continue to look at the state pension issue, and will follow-up on the budgetary process for the future, concerning line items. The next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Tourism Committee and the Finance Committee at 5:30, April 17th.

**Economic Development – J. Davis**

Sixteen years ago when he purchased an existing business, he personally experienced difficulties with Planning & Zoning. The Economic Development Committee, along with the Director, Danny Isaacs works hard to bring new business and industry to Berea, if we have someone who wants to come to Berea, we need to do everything possible to encourage them to locate here; whether it be Planning & Zoning, or Codes, or whoever, we need to be welcoming, instead of forcing people to jump through hurdles and be treated like second-class citizens. The committee met last night; the first draft of the grocery feasibility study has been received; the Central KY Job Fair will be April 10th at the Berea Church of God; the Fast Track Business Workshop will be March 26th; the Small Business Appreciation event will be held May 3rd. Next meeting will be April 16th at 5:30 p.m.

**Parks – T. Schultz**

The next Parks & Rec meeting will be Thursday, Mar 22nd at 5:30 p.m.

**Personnel – C. Wilson**

The committee will meet Mar. 27th at 6 p.m.

**Public Works – J. Little**

The next meeting of the committee will be April 2nd at 5:30 p.m.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

No additional reports.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Ed Lafontaine commented on all the good events that take place in town, a multi-purpose facility could serve the needs of all the groups. Back in November he asked the council and mayor to consider two things; capacity as it relates to KYMEA, and due diligence. In the last 36 hours he has seen the power provided by AMP be referred to as capacity, he feels this is an unnecessary blurring of the term, he cautioned the mayor to keep those two issues separate as to not confuse the public. Mayor Connelly stated the 25 mega-watts of capacity is being provided by AMP. Fontaine stated until yesterday, he had never seen it referred to as capacity, he had always seen it as the emergency needs power, provided by KYMEA. Little stated capacity and planning reserves are the same thing. In the November meeting he asked the public be kept better informed with videos from the meetings, that situation has not improved. There are currently only two video’s available on the cities web-site, he requested past meetings remain for the public to see, since that time there have been no meeting minutes posted, he ask a member of the council to champion that purpose and get that taken care of. Firmness of power in AMP’s contract removes the need for capacity, he asks the mayor, and council to consider why we need capacity, the mayor’s due diligence doesn’t tell us why we need capacity. It is something that should have been explained before the contracts were signed. It needs to be boiled down, and the city deserves to know why we need capacity.

Shane Morris spoke about the POST Program which stands for Protect our Students and Teachers; the program has been devised by law enforcements officers in Northern, KY. A study out of Maryland was presented today on mass murders in America; it found that when an armed individual is on site, and average casualty number is 2.5, when you wait for law enforcement to arrive, the average casualty number is 14. This program can be implemented in the public schools, in Berea, we have six schools with thousands of students. He urged the council to join with the Boone County Fiscal

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Court to pass a resolution that would make it public, so that the school boards can implement this program, and have trained personnel in the schools by the beginning the school year, 2018-2019. On a different note he added that if Mr. Fraley, or Mr. Arnold find themselves in that seat come January, he urged them to clean house, and get a team that is focused, he disagreed with the narrative presented by the mayor that this country is are headed toward a decline. We are now witnessing a tremendous economic boom in this country, and Berea could do the same with the right leadership.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT: R. STONE**

No additional report.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**Davis** – he is disappointed that the mayor choose to not take the recommendation that the council gave and to follow the ordinance, and get this behind us, and over with.

**Terrill -** he really thinks the due diligence has wasted the city’s money, you (the mayor) took the challenge personal about the electric is the reason you are fighting it; all the city council agreed that AMP needed to do all of it. He is disappointed with him, but this is nothing new.

**Fraley** – last week our city had an emergency situation with 10 inches of heavy snow and numerous power outages, we had a difficult situation to deal with, however, out city employees rose to the occasion. Thanks to all the employees, department heads, and out city administrator for a job well done. The Public Works Department will be picking up tree limbs and debris, for the several weeks. The magazine named “Site Selection Magazine” which is a primary industrial development magazine, recently rated Berea and Richmond combined, as the 5th best micro-Politian location in the nation, and number one in KY for industrial Development projects in 2017. We saw expansions in Berea at Novelis, and Middletown Metal works, which contributed to the high ranking. Our existing industrial partners are investing in their facilities, and they are creating jobs.

**Wilson** – thanked everyone who came tonight; and thanks to all the departments who helped out during the snow event. She would like for the mayor to start considering what the council recommends, they are an elected body, she may not agree with everyone all the time, but sometimes we have to work through that.

**Schultz** – thanked the presenters, and all the city employees for all their hard work, its looks like more snow is coming.

**Rowlette -** the mayor has completed his due diligence process over the last 6 months in which he recommended the city of Berea needs to honor the contract with KYMEA; he plans to stand with his fellow council members who voted to sever all ties with KYMEA. He feels very strongly about this after reading the reports he has read, the mayor has his opinions, the council has their opinions, and he thinks the tax payers should see the reports, they need to see them to formulate their own opinions. This electrical issue needs to be resolved immediately, we can’t wait a year; we have already wasted six months. He respectfully request Mayor Connelly honor the decision of the council when they voted to server all ties, otherwise this is going to become an election issue, and the voters will decide where to place the blame.

**Caudill** – he thanked all the city departments for clearing up the roads and debris after the snow. Our Economic Development Director, Danny Isaacs is great, but he has a good support system in the rest of the city employees, they are behind him 110%, all he has to do is call upon any other city department and they will help him out, but all departments and employees help each other out. Our employees is what makes our city the strongest, people want to live here because of the great services we have.

**Little** – he apologized to the mayor, the council, and the people out there; he is compassionate about certain things; he respects the mayor’s position and the council. We are all trying to do is what is right, some of us have different opinions; he and the mayor are alright.

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Meeting adjourned: 9:01 p.m.