**BEREA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING JULY 17, 2018**

The Berea City Council met in a regular session, Tuesday, July 17, 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, D. Rowlette, J. Little, R. Terrill

**ABSENT:** S. Caudill, Cora Wilson

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

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Fraley motioned to amend the agenda by added a report about the First Responders Camp, Little seconded; all ayes. Little motioned to amend the agenda by adding Tourism Spending, Terrill seconded; all ayes. Fraley motioned to approve the amendments to the agenda, Little seconded; all ayes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JULY 3, 2018 & JULY 12, 2018**

Fraley motioned, Little seconded to approve the minutes of July 3, 2018; all ayes. Davis motioned, Little seconded to approve the minutes of July 12, 2018; all ayes.

**FIRST RESPONDERS CAMP REPORT**

Police Chief, David Gregory, and Fire Chief Shawn Sandlin, introduced camp organizers Officer Brent Bradley of the police department, and Will Rogers and Robbie Johnson of the fire department. This was the 2nd year of the camp and it was a huge success, 50 campers attended the week-long camp; 48 being students, and 2 returning students as junior counselors. A video was displayed highlighting many of the week’s activities. He introduced Alex Sallee and Abbygayle King; they both expressed the many things they learned from the camp, the positive impact it had on them, and the appreciation for being able to attend. Abby stated she has plans to be a firefighter when she grows up. Both departments thanked the mayor and council, for their support in being able to continue this camp for the kids in our community.

**US25 YARD SALE UPDATE – RANDY COFFEY**

This year’s yeard-sale was the most successful since it began; there was more promotion this year, with more vendors and towns participating throughout the area. He estimated 5,000 people came through Berea. Thanks to Jeff Carpenter for allowing vendors set-up in the parking lot by the 123 Gallery. The event will be held on June 6, 7, & 8 of 2019. He thanked the city departments for their help and promotions during the event.

**ELECTION INSIGHT – JACQUELINE BOWLING**

Ms. Bowling read an extended list of her displeasures with Mayor Connelly, the past Utility Director, the City Administrator, and the city as a whole. A copy of her list will be attached to the official record.

**ORDINANCE #11-2018; AMENDING ARTICLE X1X, SALARY RANGES**

Corporate Counsel read the ordinance in its entirety; first reading.

**ORDINANCE #12-2018; AMENDING ARTICLE X1X, COMPENSATION RANGES**

Corporate Counsel read the ordinance in its entirety; first reading.

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**P & Z APPOINTMENT OF BEN ROBINSON III TO FINISH TERM**

Mayor Connelly informed the council of Don Buchanan’s resignation on the P & Z Board; Ben Robinson III has agreed to serve the remainder of his term. Fraley motioned the appointment of Mr. Robinson to the P & Z Board, Little seconded; all ayes.

**TOURISM SPENDING – J. LITTLE**

Councilman Little recently asked the Finance Director for non-art related activities that our Tourism Department has contributed to towards our community. The past 6-years records indicate the Tourism department received seven million dollars, and $85,457.50 went back out on non-related art projects. Much of their funds have went to benefit our community; Mr. Little previously forwarded a copy of the findings to the council; he highlighted many of projects. Way-Finding signs, Age-Friendly Benches, a Baseball Tournament, Area Theater, Berea Festival of Dancers, the Urban Farm, a car-show, the garden at the Welcome Center, Bike-Repair station, the Christmas Parade, the Concert Series, the 1st Friday event, Halloween in the Park, L&N Day, the Levitt Amp Series, Log Cabin Improvements, Lunch on the Lawn, the Shared use Paths and Trails, Upgrade to the electric at Memorial Park, the Spoonbread Festival, the Swing for a Cure event, the Splash & Dash event, Trans-American Bike tour, Splash Pad for the pool. Next year when we start talking about the budget, maybe 20% of the Tourism funds could go to other community events but the council does not have any say how they spend their money, we all need to work together for our community.

**LINE ITEM RECONCILIATION – R. STONE**

Our General Liability insurance was budgeted at $87,000; the 2018 insurance is $98,787, this is based on reevaluating our properties, and the increased cost of insurance. Our workers comp was significantly up due to numerous claims we received last year, and we raised compensation for our police, fire, and public works departments. This doesn’t require a budget amendment, because it doesn’t go over the General Liability Fund, but does require approval of the line item; Fraley motioned to approve the change, Little seconded, all ayes, with Terrill voting no.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Economic Development – J. Davis**

New business in town is White Stitch located on Short Street; next meeting will be Aug. 13th at 5:30 p.m.

**Parks – T. Schultz**

Next meeting will be July 26th; the 2nd Annual Swing for a Cure ball tournament will begin Friday, July 27th with the championship being played on Sunday the 29th, he invited everyone to come support this good cause.

**Public Works – J. Little**

Next meeting; Aug. 6th at 5:30 p.m.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

Public Works Director, Dwayne Brumley informed the council of the recent road salt bid; this year’s low bid came in from Detroit Salt at $111.00 a ton; this is the market rate. We can order the salt as needed, and we do have some left over from last year.

Fire Chief, Shawn Sandlin announced the recent internal promotions; Robbie Johnson, Will Rogers, and John Kerns are now Lieutenants.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Tom Houser, representing the “Swing for a Cure” updated the council about the upcoming ball tournament. Currently 39 teams have signed up to play, many coming from out of town and they are booking up the motels. There will be vendors coming in from out of state and staying the week-end in Berea. The event generated $9,000 last year, and we expect this year to be bigger and better with all the support from our community;

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Berea is the best, it is a notch above many others. He hopes this event will continue for many years to come.

Sandy Rowlette announced the dates of this year’s Spoonbread Festival; it will be the week-end of Sept. 21st, 22nd, and 23rd. There is vendor space available, the applications are on-line at the web-site. Sponsorship and volunteers are needed; the bulk mailing will be going out soon.

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

* The US25 North project is going well, the Allen Company is also making progress on the Indian Fort Trail.
* The RFQ is out for the Scaffold Cane Trail.
* Monies in General Fund this week was $999,895; Tourism has $485.320.
* There were questions recently regarding our investment policies, one of the most substantial things a city can do is to try and make sure they can take care of what might happen in the future. We have two funds; one is our Capital Improvement Fund that has approximately 2.7 million dollars, and our Rainy-Day Fund that has 2.2 million dollars; there is a little over 5 million dollars that the city has in CD’s that is not budgeted, it cannot be used unless we have council’s approval. The other CD’s are budgeted and are in the present budget. The only way we can work on projects, and work on our infrastructure in the city is make sure we save money; and put back money. We operate on a cash flow basis, we keep enough money in our general fund account to keep us going, the rest we place in CD’s, our CD accounts becomes a revenue source for the city. Last year we accumulated $50,873 in interest alone, we now reinvest these funds. Tourism accumulated $5,600 in interest, this along with the Utilities, the city had a revenue source of $103,164 from the interest received in CD’s. We place a bid out each time a CD is up for renewal with our local banks to get the best interest on the CD’s. We are not hoarding money, there is a reason for the investment policy, to make sure the city is financially strong.
* Each July all of employees are required to fill an “Outside Employment” form, we have one employee who works for North Wind Safety Corp, this is the company that supplies our first aid supplies, he does not benefit directly from North Wind. Another employee works for JADE Enterprises, they do the mowing of City Hall, and another employee owns Platinum Audio Visual, the city has not done business with his company. We have an employee who is seeking to rent an office for a photography shop on Broadway, there will not be a direct relationship with the city.
* Approximately four or five years ago, Mr. Little ask that Cheryl Stone be appointed to serve on the Tourism Commission, she does not receive any compensation for serving, and she serves very diligently.
* We have two employees who will be retiring at the end of July; Capt. Ken Clark will be leaving the police department, and Dale VanWinkle will be leaving the Codes Enforcement office, it has been a pleasure working with both these individuals, and we appreciate their service to the city.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**Davis –** he attended the crafts fair this past week-end and talked to one of the out of town vendors, they expressed their pleasure in coming to Berea and selling at the fair, they said it is one of the best shows they attend all year long, it is very well run and organized.

**Fraley** – he expressed his appreciation to Don Buchanon for his years of service on the Planning & Zoning Board. Officer Jake Reed ask him to announce the up-coming citizens police academy, applications can be picked up at the Berea and Richmond Police Depts, KSP Post 7, and at the Madison County Sheriff’s Office. There is no cost to attend, for more info; contact Officer Reed. Compliments to Officer Brent Bradley of the Police Dept., and Lieutenant Will Rodgers of the Fire Dept for putting on the “First Responders Camp”, it is great thing for the youth in our community. He encouraged everyone to come out and support the “Swing for a Cure” event, and thanks to Tom Houser for his work in putting this event together. He is interested in to looking for ways to reduce the increased cost in our workers compensation, either with training or mitigation.

**Rowlette –** he feels that it would be appropriate to hear recommendations from the Personnel Committee regarding the two ordinances that were read this evening. Thanks to Dale VanWinkle and Ken Clark for their years of service, he hopes Dale can have more time to help continue to grow the Spoonbread Festival, he has always been a big help in it over the years.

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**Schultz** – thanks the presenters this evening, a special thanks to Dale VanWinkle, he has known him for 34 years, we are going to miss him! Dale stated he has 14 days, 7 hours and 3 minutes until his retirement. When he stated with the city in 1989, the council had to borrow money to pay the bills, we have come a long way in the 29 years. Berea is the envy to many other cities, each time his meets with other inspectors across the state, they always want to come to Berea. He has enjoyed his job with the city throughout the years, he thanked the mayor and Randy for the opportunity he had with the city, he has seen a lot of growth over the years.

**Little** – we’ve been getting a lot of rain and he has seen lots of pictures people have posted on Facebook about standing water, if it rains a lot we have no control over heavy rains; we have a good Public Works Department and if things are brought to their attention, they will try to fix it, and/or address the issue. People can take a camera and go around town and find things that are wrong, but why don’t they take pictures of things that are right. We do the best we can what we got, we’ve got a good city with good employees.

Meeting adjourned: 8:11 p.m.