**BEREA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AUGUST 07, 2018**

The Berea City Council met in a regular session, Tuesday, August 7, 2018; Mayor Steven Connelly presiding. A quorum being present the meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

**ABSENT:** J. Davis

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

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Caudill motioned to amend the agenda by added an amendment to minutes of the July 12th Special Called Meeting, Little seconded; all ayes. Caudill motioned to approve the agenda, Little seconded; all ayes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JULY 17, 2018**

Caudill motioned, Little seconded to approve the minutes of July 17, 2018; all ayes.

**AMENDMENT TO THE MINUTES OF SPECIAL CALLED MEETING JULY 12, 2018**

Caudill motioned to amend the minutes by adding “The council finds that the contract with Mr. Terrill is in the best interest of the public and the city, because it is on the only property reasonably suitable for safe overflow parking for the crafts fair”. Little seconded, roll call vote; all ayes with Terrill abstaining from the vote.

**THE KINDNESS INITIATIVE – PASTOR MARK CONDREY**

Pastor Condrey of the First Christian Church in Richmond distributed a Kindness Initiative Pamphlet and he urged each council member to sign it and to pass on act of kindness, to another person. The First Christian Church in Richmond will begin a 40-day Kindness Initiative on Sunday, August 19th.

**ORDINANCE #11-2018; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, AMENDING THE PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, ORDINANCE #6-02, BY AMENDING ARTICLE X1X, SALARY RANGES – 2ND READING**

Corporate Counsel read the ordinance in its entirety. Little motioned, Caudill seconded to approve and adopt the ordinance. Roll call vote, all ayes.

**ORDINANCE #12-2018; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, AMENDING THE PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, ORDINANCE #2-06, BY AMENDING ARTICLE X1X, COMPENSATION RANGES FOR PART TIME TOURISM AND PARKS, AND POLICE AND FIRE UNIFORM ALLOWANCES – 2ND READING**

Corporate Counsel read the ordinance in its entirety. Fraley motioned, Caudill seconded to approve and adopt the ordinance. Roll call vote; all ayes.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Audit & Finance – S. Caudill**

Baldwin & Associates have begun working on the city’s annual audit. The fraud forms have been emailed out.

**Parks – T. Schultz**

The committee met on July 26th; Steve Singleton of Banks Engineering gave an update on the propose “Dog Park”. The Duerson Stadium project is now complete; we will work on the football field next year. Pool attendance has been very well this season with over 18,000 attending, the pool will be

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closing Aug. 12th. The Splash Pad will be open for the 2019 season. Tom Howser gave a follow-up report from the 3-day “Swing for a Cure” event, thirty-seven teams played and many of the hotels were booked for the entire week-end. Discussion was held for the need of more shading at the Chestnut Street Park.

**Public Works – J. Little**

The committee met last evening to discuss several issues; tree removal, drainage, retention ponds, and parking. The committee tries to address each concern that is brought to us, but residents need to know we cannot work on private property, we often get blamed for things that are beyond our control. We’ve had a lot of rain this year and we must take care of the most needed locations, we don’t have the man-power, or funds for all complaints. ADA complaints will be addressed as soon as possible. Records will be kept of each complaint; our Public Works Department takes care of many issues all over town. The next meeting will be Oct. 1st, due to the September holiday.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Sandy Rowlette presented updates on the up-coming Spoon Bread Festival, the festival wouldn’t happen if it wasn’t for the numerous businesses that sponsors the event. Live entailment is a huge draw, as well as is the Balloon Glow, these are all free events in part, due to the sponsors. There are different levels of sponsorships, contact the Chamber Office for more information. The bulk mailing will be going out next week, volunteers are needed. Scheduling in being finalized with many of the favorite events returning this year. To date, there are 208 vendors signed up which equals 256 booth spaces, representing five states, and thirty-seven counties. Ms. Rowlette distributed an information sheet to each of the council members, and she encouraged everyone to get involved.

Shane Morris, resident; stated that recently there have been some troubling events that have occurred in Berea, that reminded him of some other troubling events from our recent past. He is given to believe that we could see active again, roving bands of reactionary’s stealing “Black Lives Matter” signs. It reminded him of roving bands that were spray painting cars, and garage doors, that were outside the city limits. This gave him concerns that there also could be at play again, shadowy activity within the city government. In 2017 he placed into the public record some of these activities that have gone on through the John G. Fee award process. An investigation revealed this week that the letter has been removed from that city department. He presented a copy of the letter he submitted to the Berea Human Rights Commission on Sept. 1, 2017. He trusts this is simply a clerical mistake and it will be placed back in the record.

Ed LaFontaine, resident; he repeated comments he previously submitted concerning the Goss Report; the need for capacity, and the mayor’s due diligence investigation. He had previously submitted an “Open Records Request” and he quoted from the Goss Report; an analysis from Mr. Fortner on the steps necessary to void Berea’s transmission contract with KYMEA, and to obtain a replacement transmission contract with AMP. He reported the response from the request provided nothing, so he concludes it does not exist, the analysis has not been done. Mr. Goss told Berea that we needed to get it done, it was a simple business decision. Our mayor has not done that thing, that he said he would do. The base rate for our electric will be $1.50, not $3.00. Approximately two years ago he appealed for the mayor to increase his oversight of the Berea Human Rights Commission, we now have a Department of Justice monitoring mediation underway, because the Berea Human Rights Commission didn’t do what they said they would do. This points us to the fact that the mayor didn’t do what he said he would do. It gives us insight as to why the past videos of these meeting have become so limited in spite public appeal that they be restored. He urged all citizens of Berea to become involved in their city government, and to speak with the elected officials to voice their concerns. He would be glad to make the Goss Report available to anyone who asked for it.

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Ray Decker, resident; he is very disturbed by the US25 North Project. School is getting ready to start up again, and with all the parents who bring their kids to school and only two lanes open, it will be a real rat race. At 5 till 8 you can’t get through there! The police need to be out there doing something, because someone will get hurt this year. In his neighborhood, speeding is becoming a problem, neighbors have called the police, but no one ever sees the police there. Pinnace Street is the worst, people are running 40 mph and running right into the highway. It’s dangerous and he doesn’t see the local police force on the North end of town. He and his neighbors wish the police would get active on that end.

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

* There is a lot of work taking place at the park in preparation for the fall ball season, seeding is taking place around the stadium, and we are waiting on the State Plumbing Inspection for the Splash Pad.
* Work is progressing on the Short Line/Indian Fort Trail, we hope to see pavement within the next few days. We will be requesting a change order of $65,000 on the trail due to soil stabilization, approximately half of the trail required soil preservation, to ensure we have a solid foundation under the trail.
* Allen Company have completed the paving on the streets, along with the Berea Community School parking lot, and at Station II. We plan to re-pave and strip Short Line Pike, it was included in the budget, but not part of the trail project bid. We will ask for a change order to do the paving and add fog lines at a cost of $74,000.
* We will be selecting a ADA Coordinator from the staff and will be making an announcement at the next council meeting.
* Mr. Danny Isaacs, our Economic Director has submitted his resignation. His last day will be Sept. 14th. We wish him well in his future endeavors. We will hold two interviews this Thursday, one will be for the Economic Development position, and the other for the Utility Director’s position.
* City Hall was able to host the “Thrive Conference” due to the A/C unit being out at the Artist Center.
* We have received two sets of qualifications for the design service of the Logston Lane Path Project, we will be reviewing these, and will be bringing further information to the council.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**Terrill** – we have speeders all over town, he sees more people running stop signs and stop lights, people need to look both ways before they pull out. He feels the police chief will take care of the situation.

**Caudill** – he encouraged everyone to volunteer at the Spoon Bread Festival, it is a lot of fun. He highly recommends serving, a lot of people have never had it. Go to their web-site for more info.

**Rowlette** – as a follow-up to the interview process, he is a new member to the Personnel Committee but if the Administration wants to be transparent, we need to make sure we advertise properly even it is internal; there are folks out there who deserve the opportunity. He also serves on the Parks and Rec Committee and has tried to reach out to the other committees; he is challenging the council members, and especially the Finance Committee to go back and look at the million dollars that was socked away in June; let’s looks at some of the opportunities that are on the table, the dog park, parks improvements, and the infrastructure to include the ADA stuff that we talked about last night. There is a lot of opportunity there, that is the tax payer’s money, we can give back and have immediate results, let’s fast track some of these projects. We’ve got money in the budget to give lip service to it and do some planning. For example, go out into the community and find places in the

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road that you can stick your fingers down into, if we don’t fix those, we will have to pay double for it next year. He urged the council to take a serious look at this, some projects are very expensive, but we can fast-track these projects.

**Schultz -** thanks to the presenters this evening especially Mrs. Rowlette, he urged everyone to help during the Spoonbread Festival. He agrees with Mr. Rowlette, we are socking money away for a rainy day, this may be the rainy day, we have to take care of our citizens, our infrastructure, and give families recreational activities. He announced that he would not be seeking re-election on the city council, he thanked everyone. He wishes to spend his time doing other issues closer to home and will be working on things to make a better Berea. He urged Bereans to vote this fall, it is worth the effort.

**Fraley -** he announced the 2nd annual Business Fest will be held on Sept. 13th from 11am -2pm at Berea College; this is joint effort with our Economic Development Department, Berea College and the Chamber of Commerce to bring representatives of local businesses to campus. Last year’s event was very successful and had a favorable response from all who were involved. The “Air-Shift Workshop” will be on August the 17th – 19th, for more information, contact our Economic Development Office. The next Economic Development meeting will be held on Monday, Aug. 13th at 5:30 p.m. The “Swing for a Cure” event was very well attended, and they had the perfect weather, many city officials, council and staff were there for the opening ceremony. Compliments to everyone that was involved with this successful event. Last Thursday, we held a very productive citizens-initiated meeting, approximately 40 people attended and talked about a variety of topics, with a focus on a city-wide clean-up day. Good things happen when our citizens, city staff, and city officials work together to move Berea forward.

**Little** – He reiterated the US25 construction project; when school starts it will be even a bigger problem, it will be good when it’s done, but people need to take extra time through the intersections. It will be worth it when it’s done. David Rowlette is right about repairing our streets, but we have to have a rainy-day fund, it’s not good business to put our city in jeopardy, we never know if we might lose a factory. We have to protect our employees that works for the city, how would be operate if something happens. He understands, we have money put back and we do need to put more money in our streets and infrastructure, but we need to start thinking about our budget right now, and not wait until two months before to start talking about it. He asked if the city administrator, (at the next council meeting), could explain how money is allocated, through all the city departments. We have to have communication, and help people understand the procedures.

**Wilson -** she thanked everybody for coming, she challenged everyone to sign the “Kindness Initiative” and to volunteer at the Spoonbread Festival. We do need to invest in our city, and our people, say a prayer for us that we do the right thing.

Meeting adjourned: 7:40 p.m.