**BEREA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MARCH 19, 2019**

The Berea City Council met in a regular session, Tuesday, March 19, 2019; Mayor Bruce Fraley presiding. A quorum being present the meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**COUNCIL PRESENT**: J. Davis, D. Rowlette, J. Payne, E. LaDouceur, J. Little, S. Caudill, C. Wilson, R. Terrill

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

Mayor Fraley asked for everyone’s thoughts and thanks in honor of Dr. Janice Blythe’s who passed away un expectantly March 5th. Dr. Blythe served for over 5 years on our Human Rights Commission, her service is greatly appreciated and she will be greatly missed.

**INVOCATION:** Ali Blair

**PLEDGE:** Jim Davis

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Caudill motioned, Payne seconded to approve the agenda. Little motioned to add discussion of City accomplishments; Terrill seconded. All ayes to approve the agenda as amended.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: FEB. 19, 19; MAR. 5, 19. MAR. 7, 19** Caudill motioned, Little seconded to approve the minutes of Feb. 19, 2019; all ayes. Caudill motioned, LaDouceur seconded to approve the minutes of March 5, 2019; all ayes. Caudill motioned, LaDoucer second to approve the minutes of Mar. 7, 19; Rowlette noted a correction of Little being absent, and he, being present at Strategic Planning meeting; all ayes.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:**

Jacqulyn Bowling asked if Atheism is a religion? An atheist is a person who disbelieves or lacks belief in the existence of God. She quoted Psalms 53.1 and directed her comments towards the invocation speaker. The person giving the invocation has not met any of the criteria as mentioned in the Municipal Order 2-17; which is in violation of the order. Why make or vote on an order or an ordinance if they hold no value or purpose.

Peggy Coyne; she was inspired by the invocation that was offered. National Atheist Day is this Saturday, March 23rd. Atheist deserves the freedom to openly identify, profess, and promote their views. Atheism is a position on one narrow question, the evidence for God or Gods. The central component of Atheist Day is to raise awareness of discrimination and stigma faced by Atheist around the world. She encouraged all to learn more about Atheism and its humanistic values; tolerance and acceptance is a value to be honored in this county as it was founded on freedom of thought and expression.

Patricia Galley; she shared some exerts of a letter she had wrote to the newspaper a few years ago regarding prayer in government functions. If one religion is inserted in government activity, then people of other faiths are forced to either participate or must remove themselves, from that government activity, which leaves them disenfranchised. Following spiritual values is not limited to specific faith practices. Many religions use different kinds of practice but are all based on similar morals and values; being respectful to others; be helpful rather than harmful; and to be compassionate rather than judgmental. She asks the council to re-visit the policy of including prayer in government functions.

Jim Shelf; he was raised as a Jew; religion is complicated. After moving to Berea, he learned that there is a certain line of belief that does not respect beliefs outside the narrow wedge of Christianity. The sheer hatred and venom displayed on Facebook and even in our town paper against people who are atheist or who are not Christian, has been sad and frightened. He has experienced times in our town, if you are not Christian or Baptist, then you are doing the devils work. Maybe there is a minority of angry people who have elevated the issue on Facebook. He doesn’t like prayer mixed with government, and he hopes the ordinance be reviewed and more inclusive.

Anis Asher, he is a veteran, he doesn’t mind prayer, but he served so that people can be individuals, so that people can sit down during the pledge if they choose, so that people can make their feelings about the government be known. When he sees groups oppressing actively, or covertly other groups of people, he gets angry. Atheist don’t want to change things or peoples beliefs. But when you look at people and you find out that they are atheist, then say they should not exist, that’s a brass statement, and he has heard that. He stands in support of people who will stand up in the face of opposition and state their beliefs.

Hank Faye, he has lived in Berea for 16 years and loves it here.

Shane Morris

Virginia Carroll, everybody has referred to Berea as the bible belt and believes

Andrew Secore

Ali Blair

Kent Gilbert

Alaina Pattersopn

Kathleen Fathergill, resident of Silver Creek Drive requested “Neighborhood Watch Signs” be placed near Miracle Street and Crawford Street. There is too much traffic from non-residents in the area.

Hubert Chasteen, agrees, this is not church. He requested the council to take care of the on-going water problem he has experienced over the years.

Elizabeth Earlington, she is seeing a division in our city and a lot of people are being hurt.

Gracie Patterson; she thinks it is wrong for people to think there is not a God, God made everyone We have to trust in God

**CHEYENNE OLSON – BEREA VICTORY GARDEN BLITZ**

Ms. Olson was unable to attend. Julie Roberts and

**OPEN BIDS – KY 1016 SANITARY SEWER EXTENSIONS – UTILITY DEPT.**

Five bids were received:

1. Sturgeon Creek Construction - $316. 507. 27
2. Grants Excavating - $265.560
3. ConnHurst, LLC - $267, 706
4. Flo-Line Contracting - $253, 645
5. Clay Pipeline - $174, 680

Bids will be referred to the Utility Department for review and recommendation.

**ORDINANCE #03-2019; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, REPEALING SECTION 53.001 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, RELATING TO SUNDAY ACTIVITIES – 2ND READING**

Corporate Counsel read the ordinance in its entirety. Little motioned, Terrill seconded to approve Ordinance #03-2019. Roll call vote; all ayes. Ordinance adopted.

**ORDINANCE #04-2019; ZONING CLASSIFICATION: B. DAVIS; FROM R-1/B-2 (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL/MAJOR BUSINESS) TO B-2 (MAJOR BUSINESS) – 1ST READNG**

Corporate Counsel read the ordinance in its entirety.

**ORDINANCE #05-2019; SURPLUS ORDINANCE – 1ST READING**

Corporate Counsel read the ordinance in its entirety.

**CITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS: J. LITTLE**

Councilman Little highlighted the many city projects and accomplishments completed or that are currently underway. He mentioned the city departments, and thanked the employees for the work they do

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Ad Hoc – S. Caudill**

**Audit & Finance – S. Caudill**

**Economic Development – J. Davis**

**Parks – J. Payne**

**Personnel – C. Wilson**

**Public Works – J. Little**

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

Police Chief Gregory announced the next “Coffee with a Cop” event will take place at McDonalds on Glades Rd., this Saturday, the 23rd from 9am – 10am.

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

**MAYORS COMMENTS**

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**ADJOURN:**