**BEREA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MAY 21, 2019**

The Berea City Council met in a regular session, Tuesday, May 21, 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

**ABSENT:** R. Terrill

**OFFICIALS:** J. Gilbert, R. Stone, C. Chasteen, D. Gregory, S. Sandlin, S. Meeks, D. Brumley, A. Haney, E. Taylor

**INVOCATION:** Rev. Jeff Osborne

**PLEDGE:** Dwayne Brumley

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Caudill motioned, Little seconded to approve the agenda; all ayes, with LaDouceur voting no. Motion carries.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MAY 7, 2019:** Caudill motioned, Little seconded to approve the minutes of May 7th, 2019; all ayes.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:**

Laurie White and Renee Riley, President of the Farmers Market; invited everyone to the market each Saturday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Chestnut Street location and each Tuesday, at Memorial Park from 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. The summer feeding program begins June 1st at both locations. The board is in place and ready to start moving forward with discussion on a possible pavilion; they have received two grants that will help provide the market with entertainment.

Sune Frederikesen, President of the Folk Circle Association, announced the annual Spring Dance event was a huge success with people from 16 different states attending; these people stayed in our motels, purchased food, and visited many of the shops in town. The 10th annual Celtic Festival will be the 3rd week of August; in September the annual Folk Mountain Festival will be held, and in October he is expecting large numbers of visitors to our town for the waltz dances; these events are already sold out.

Mike VanWinkle thanked Public Works Director Dwayne Brumley, and GIS Director, Tom Moreland for their assistance with his grandparent’s water issue on Short Line Pike.

Ali Blair announced the “Singing Bird” performances will be taking place on June 1st and June 22nd at the historic Tate Building on Chestnut St. As part of the summer Learn-Shops, the Singing Birds Music School will take place on July 31st through Aug. 2nd. Music starts at 7 p.m. and tickers can be purchased at the Arts Council location on Chestnut St.

**PROCLAMATION – EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE**

Mayor Fraley read the proclamation declaring the week of May 19-25 and EMS Week. Carlos Coyle, Ron Jackson, and Mark Campbell from the Madison County EMS accepted the proclamation.

**TOM HOWSER – SWING FOR CURE EVENT**

Mr. Howser announced the annual event will be held July 26th, 27th, & 28th at the Berea City Park ball fields. Many ball teams from across the state will be attending, he invited everyone to come out and support this cause, they raise money for the Matt Ross Fund, and the U.K. Markey Cancer Center. Linda Ross added that some of the funding helps cancer patients get to the cancer center for their treatments, stays, food, gas, or whatever their needs might be. The Matt Ross funds help under-privileged children be able to play ball, with the scholarships funds that are raised each year.

**LAURA WICK – MAKERS MARKET UPDATE**

The makers Market was founded in 2016, with the first market being held in the Spring of 2017. In the first five markets, it is estimated that approximately 3,000 attended, and over 90 vendors participated. The last event

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was held at Churchill’s, and it was a huge success. Many of the artists have received a lot of good publicity, and have returned from previous markets, social media is helping to get the word out about the market to many

surrounding areas. Food vendors have also set-up during the market. The first “Moonlight Market” will be held on June 8th on the college square, this will be a night market from 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. A local musician will be preforming during the event.

**VICKIE ANSERMET- BOONE STREET CONCERNS**

Ms. Ansermet presented a petition signed by 70 residents of the Boone Street neighborhood sighting concerns of safety for their neighborhood. She prepared a letter to express many of their concerns. Parking at the top of Boone Street has created a blind spot, but the primary issues are the speeders that could cause harm to families and children, and to the stray and pet animals being hit from the speeders. The three-parking spots at the top of the hill have created a dangerous issue, which forces people turning on to Boone to turn in the middle of the street with little visibility of the vehicles coming up Boone St. The residents do not wish to do any harm to the businesses in the area, but additional safety measures need to be taken. The residents ask for the city to take in consideration their request listed on the petition. Councilman Caudill invited Ms. Ansermet to attend the next Public Works meeting on Monday, June 3rd.

**OPEN BIDS – BRICK RESTORATION PROJECT**

No bids were received.

**ORDINANCE #08-2019; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, ADOPTING A SUPPLEMENT TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY. – 2ND READING**

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

**RESOLUTION #08-2019; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, APPROVING MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING WITH HOPE’S WINGS, AMPERSAND SEXUAL VIOLENCE RESOURCE CENTER, AND BEREA FAITH COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOR PROVISION OF SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AND CHILD ABUSE, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS.**

Corporate Counsel read the resolution in its entirety. LaDouceur motioned, Caudill seconded; all ayes. Resolution approved.

**ETHICS BOARD APPOINTMENTS – MAYOR FRALEY**

Mayor Fraley stated the Ethics Board allows for an alternate person; he requested approval of Diane Kerby to serve as an alternate member for a one-year term. Payne motioned, Little seconded the appointment; all ayes. Mayor Fraley asked for approval of Ernestine Brashear to complete the un-expired term of Ben Robinson III; expiring April 15, 2020. Davis motioned, Little seconded the appointment; all ayes, with LaDouceur voting no; motion carries.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Ad Hoc - Caudill**; the committee will meet May 23rd at 6 p.m. to further discuss the Ethics ordinance and review KLC process.

**Audit & Finance – Caudill**; the committee will meet May 28th at 5:30 p.m. to review the 19-20 budget.

**Economic Development- Davis**; he, and the mayor attended a meeting with Commerce Lexington last week; it was a very productive meeting.

**Parks – Payne;** the committee will meet May 30th at 5:30 p.m., the pool will be opening on Sat. May 25th, and a movie will be shown at the pool on June 1st.

**Personnel – Wilson**; no report.

**Public Works – Little**; next committee meeting will be June 3rd at 5:30 p.m.

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**DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

Public Works Director, Dwayne Brumley announced that paving work will begin in the Dixie Park area once the US25 Project is completed.

One bid was received from The Allen Company in the amount of $123,782.40 for the street re-paving projects. There were no objections to award the bid.

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

* The new budget will be ready for review soon; the paving projects are up 20% from last year, as Municipal Road Aid funds decrease, the city will have to look to raise money for projects, keep this in mind while determining the new budget.
* The Lexington-Fayette Recycling Center announced they are suspending paper recycling. This will be the last week that our carriers will accept paper. Poff Carting has been sold to Waste Connections, no changes in service, trucks or contact information.
* The utility staff held two meetings with Bell Engineering concerning the Owsley Fork Dam Project, when the project begins we will start drawing water from our other water sources, residents will be asked to conserve water. Announcements will be sent out to all our customers when this will begin.
* The HWY 1016 Sewer Project began this week.
* The pool will be opening this week-end.
* City Hall will be closed for Memorial Day.

**MAYOR’S COMMENTS:**

Mayor Fraley presented Raymond David McKinney, Berea resident, with a “Certificate of Recognition” for his participation in the 123rd Boston Marathon. Raymond finished in 3 hours, 3 minutes and 17 seconds.

Mayor Fraley announced his appointment of Virginia Bland to finish the term of Allen Livingood on the Human Rights commission.

Mayor Fraley received a letter from the “Kentucky Retail Federation” announcing that Berea was selected to be featured on their “Shop our Town” series of video’s.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**Davis** – encouraged residents to remember the businesses on US25 during the final weeks of the construction project. Congratulations to the board appointments this evening. Mr. McKinney is an inspiration!

**Rowlette** - he hopes everyone voted today, its very important that people get out and vote. Congratulations to all the graduates and parents and grandparents who helped them get there.

**Payne –** he wished everyone safe travels during the Memorial Week-end. Thanks to Ray for being the role model that he is.

**LaDouceur**- thanks to all the presenters this evening, and congratulations to Mr. McKinney! Ms. LaDouceur addressed the mayor and public; (in summary) she has tried to advocate for more transparency from the council body and the administration, but she has observed a power imbalance. The administration is insisting the council vote to approve commission appointments without having the opportunity to know the candidates name until seconds before the vote; this prevents council from properly vetting nominees. It is an unprofessional practice. She has requested the mayor to inform the council on the agenda who the appointments are, and to not withhold that information. It is up to the council to set the agenda’s, and the mayor is to preside over the meetings. The mayor should not withhold information when a council person request information. The present council has requested to update our Ethics Code, but now an alternate person has been added. Micro-management was on display at last night’s Tourism Budget Meeting; the new commission appointment, Charles Arnold, was steam rolling over the other commission members and the director, speaking over, and cutting off the others, especially to women and persons of color. He repeatedly said, “per the mayor’s recommendation”, before suggesting cutting staff, cutting advertising and grants, that have historically helped find such programs as the “First Friday” series. The most reckless suggestion by Mr.

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Arnold was to empty their near one-million budget to pay off a loan. The council will be going through their own budgeting process soon, and we, as a city, must find new revenue streams beyond our major source of revenue, the occupational license fees. Our operational costs are increasing at a high rate. This is why it is so troubling to see the mayor seeming to intentionally cripple the budget and the effectiveness of one of the few

avenues that should be an essential catalyst to Berea’s healthy economic growth, Tourism. To reiterate how important commission appointments are, today we find out the mayor has appointed Virginia Bland to the very body that she created a petition to disband, the Human Rights Commission. She also made inconsistent claims about the commission, and commissioners at that time, and went as far as threatening to sue the HRC, calling them “worthless hypocrites”. She is part of the “Berea Moderates” as a founding member, and actively participates in the harassment of community leaders, has commented publicly that the HRC doesn’t serve their purpose, that they are a waste of tax payer money, and she would like to see them shut-down. This is the person the mayor appoints to advocate for the human rights of all? Many people here have witnessed how Ms. Bland hatefully attacks people, including herself (Emily). Virginia Bland has caused her personally much stress, panic attacks and anxiety. Ms. LaDouceur sent the mayor an objective factual letter of concern, about the appointment, but has been ignored.

**Little** – everybody needs to understand what the mayor’s job is; he has the right to make some appointments that the council has no say over whatsoever. It gives a false sense that the mayor is doing something wrong.

**Caudill**- thanks to Mr. Howser for the update on the Swing for a Cure event, this is a great event to help people at the cancer center; he encouraged everyone to come out and support them. Thanks to Laura Wick for the update on the Makers Market; he encouraged everyone to attend the new “Moonlight Market”. Thanks to all who take the time to serve on the committees. Congratulations to Raymond McKinney for representing Berea and on his time for completing the Boston Marathon. We need to offer a race series with what resources we have here. Contact him if anyone has questions about the budget process.

**Wilson** – echo what Steve said, and thanks to all who serve on the committee’s and for those attending this evening. She received a phone call from a lady who had a family member pass away recently; during the procession, some city employees, either Public Works, or Utility Department workers stopped what they were doing, and removed their hats to pay respects as the procession passed by them. She wanted the city to know her appreciation to them and their respect.

Caudill motioned, Little seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m.; all ayes.