**BEREA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 3, 2019**

The Berea City Council met in a regular session, Tuesday, September 3, 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. Gilbert, D. Gregory, C. Chasteen, S. Sandlin, S. Meeks, A. Haney, K. Howard, E. Taylor

**INVOCATION:** Glen Felty

**PLEDGE:** Cora Jane Wilson

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Caudill motioned, Little seconded to approve the agenda. Little motioned to amend the agenda by adding the Ad Valorum Tax All ayes to approve the amended agenda.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: AUGUST 20, 2019:** Caudill motioned, Little seconded to approve the minutes of August 20, 2019; all ayes.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS; PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Sandy Rowlette, Berea; update on the Spoonbread Festival. There are still a few spots available and sponsorship is always welcome. Two new events have been added this year; a photo contest and a Spoon decorating contest. Each vote will cost a penny and the money will be donated to the Food Bank and to the Women’s Clinic. The wining decorated spoon will become the official spoon of the festival.

Peter Hille, secretary of the Berea Human Rights Commission; Mr. Hille presented

Jaqueline Bowling, Berea; asked why

Ellie Workman, Berea; If someone is not here to speak on business or an item on the agenda, it should not be brought up during the council meeting. This was not buinsss.

**HOMEGROWN SUCCESS STORIES – CYNTHIA MAIN**

Ms. Main, owner of Sun House Crafts stated her business was achieved by her attended the 123 Gallery. She recently purchased Hall’s Print Shop and will be opening a business there. She currently sells her designs on-line to many places across the country. She hopes to be open by May or June of next year. Coming to Berea has opened lots of doors for her.

**FIRE APPARATUS BID OPENING**

Two bids were received:

1. Vogul Pool Fire Appratus - $548,732.00
2. Pier Finly Fire Equipment - $586,168.00

STREET RESURFACING BID RECOMMENDATION – D. GREGORY

Administrator Gregory stated one bid was received and opened on August 26th. The Allen Company submitted the amount of $361,000.00. He recommended we accept the bid. Little motioned, Payne seconded to approve and accept the bid; all ayes.

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION BUDGET – E. LADOUCEUR**

Council Person LaDouceur motioned to bring back on the table her previous motion to increase the Human Rights Budget from $2,000 to $8,000. Caudill stated that the Audit & Finance Committee voted to increase their budget from $2,000 to $4,000. Caudill motioned to amend the motion on the table to approve the new budgeted amount of $4,000, Terrill seconded. LaDouceur and Payne voted no, motion passed.

**AD VALOREM TAX – J. LITTLE**

Councilman Little explained the increase to the Ad Valorem Tax rate. On a $100,000.00 of accessed real property, the rate would go from $102.00 to $105.00; it is not a 4% increase. The city needs to increase to be able to operate more efficiently and build up our rainy day funds. It is the council’s job to operate our city. He would like to see funds dedicated to street repairs and drainage projects.

**ORDINANCE #11-2019; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR THE CITY PURPOSES UPON ALL PROPERTY, NOT OTHERWISE EXEMPT, IN THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY – 2ND READING**

Corporate Counsel read the ordinance title and summary. Caudill motioned, Little seconded to approve an adopt the ordinance. Caudill stated he doesn’t want to see the city get behind, expenses increase daily, for example, last year’s black top was $ , this year it is $ Terrill doesn’t thinks we should not increase taxes, and that the council should draw monies from the utility department to repair the roads and pay for blacktop. Roll call vote; Little-yes, Caudill-yes, Wilson-yes, Terrill-no, LaDouceur-yes, Payne-yes, Rowlette-no, Davis-yes. Motion carries.

**ORDINANCE #12-2019; 2019-2020 BUDGET AMENDMENT – 1st READING**

Corporate Counsel read the ordinance by title and summary.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Ad Hoc – S. Caudill**

**Audit & Finance – S. Caudill**

The Audit & Finance Committee has two mayor functions;

**Economic Development – J. Davis**

No report.

**Parks - J. Payne**

The committee met last week, discussion was held concerning adding an additional concession stand . Nest meeting will be the last Thursday of the month at 5:30 p.m.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

Utility Director, Kevin Howard recommended approving the bid for the roof repairs at the Utility Building received from Hunter Exterior Service, LLC in the amount of $49,998.47. Caudill motioned, Terrill seconded to award the bid; all ayes.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT: D. GREGORY**

* The department heads and staff will be working with the Chamber of Commerce in preparation for the Spoonbread Festival.
* He, along with the mayor attended the college advocation last week.
* Currently 10 people have applied to attend the Citizens Police Academy, this is an increase from the past couple of years.
* The police department is patrolling the college campus, and doing some extra public relations at the Berea Community School.
* The Fire Department and Police has been updating their CPR training.
* Hope’s Wings personnel came to the department to work with our PD on domestic violence program.
* The Public Works Department is working on some stump removals in various areas of town, along with having the street sweeper back in service.
* The Public Works Department is worked with The Allen Company on getting some street cuts repaired.
* Our current tree trimming contract has expired, the Utility Department will be accepted bids until September 17th.
* The Walnut Meadow Pump Station and North Middletown Sewer Trunk Line bids will be out in mid-November, with construction expected to start in December.

**MAYORS COMMENTS:**

The next public meeting of the Strategic Planning will be held Monday, September 16th at 6p.m. at the Action Folk Center; the Kentucky League of Cities will be coordinating the meeting. The public is invited to attend and have in-put. This will be a special called council meeting of the city council. Congratulations to Cynthia Main on her new concept for her business.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**LaDouceur:** congratulations to Cynthia Main, its great to see something positive coming from the 123 Gallery. This Friday, the Levitt Foundation will be coming to Berea for their site visit to Berea, please come out and support the music series that takes place in Old Town. She requested updates on all the cities capital projects and progress reports. The Human Rights Commission can request funds as needed if they go over their approved $4,000.00 budget.

**Payne:** naming of the old Police Department is currently on the cities web-sire, 4 names are being considered for the name, please vote. Spoonbread is coming up on Sept, 20th, he ivited everyone to come to the 5K races on Saturday morning, the Library is gearing up for the race.

**Rowlette:** on the tax increase vote, it is the council’s responsibility as elected officials to be good stewards of any and all funds, it is important to live within our means. With the money that will be generated from the tax increase, we will be hard pressed to fix the pot holes in three or four subdivisions, even if we could ear-mark it; you are talking about a small increase. Cost do continue to increase just like they do in our households. What is going to happen with the county, (the other taxing district), before you know it, you have put a tremendous burden on people who have fixed incomes; it is a concern. How can we get more money, we have many other options that need to be explored? Approximately 80% of our funds go for personnel, we have to find ways to generate more income. He thinks the Human Rights Commission learned a hard lesson; the public perception is that they were not good stewards of the funds, right or wrong, that’s the public perception. Those folks need to realize is they have to be taking a proactive stanch in the budgeting process. If, and when they have projects, there are grant funds the council has set-up He is not against the H.R.folks we don’t need to be going down some of those paths, if they have an image in the community we can get out and educate people. He is most concerns that tonight, the county choose to scheduled a public meeting tonight at the same time as the city council which caused the council do they go over there to voice their concerns