**BEREA CITY COUNCIL \_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_ SPECIAL CALLED MEETING \_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_ \_\_ MAY 5, 2020**

The Berea City Council met in a special called meeting via videoconference, Tuesday, May 5, 2020.

Mayor Bruce Fraley presiding.

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Jim Davis, David Rowlette, John Payne, Emily LaDouceur, Jerry Little,

 Steve Caudill, Cora Wilson, Ronnie Terrill

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Jerry Gilbert, David Gregory, Robin Adams, Daniel Brindley

**INVOCATION:** Emily LaDouceur

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Cora Wilson

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Little motioned; Davis seconded motion to approve agenda.

Roll Call Vote: All ayes

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: APRIL 21, 2020**

Caudill motioned; Rowlette seconded motion to approve minutes as presented.

Roll Call Vote: All ayes

**PARK PROGRAMS & SUMMER EVENTS - D. GREGORY**

**Local Youth Sports Leagues**

The Berea Youth League had cancelled their Spring Season and were hopeful for a Fall Season.

Swing for a Cure event had been cancelled for this year.

MUSA (Madison United Soccer Association) had been cancelled and were hopeful for a Fall Season.

**Berea Pool**

Due to the Governor’s orders of not opening city pools in May or June and without proper planning, the City of Berea recommended closing the Berea City Pool. The cities of Berea and Richmond were working together on a joint press release regarding not opening the city pools.

Caudill felt although a tough decision and not a popular one, the decision needed to be made to close the city pool.

**July 4th Fireworks**

Guidance was requested regarding the July 4th events as the cost would be over $9,000 and deadline to inform the (fireworks) vendor of decision was May 15th. Due to COVID-19, in order to comply with social distancing, there could not be any vendors or large social gatherings. A one-hour event of fireworks could be done with no one getting out of cars and following the social distancing guidelines, no other activities, no food vendors, etc.

Caudill, although recognizing the situation of current funding and with a lot of events cancelled, stated it would be nice for the citizens as there are no other events and nothing to do. Families could get a sense of normalcy and enjoy some time together, out of the home.

Terrill stated he agreed with Caudill. Although there was a need to save money, he thought the fireworks would be worthwhile.

Davis agreed with Caudill and Terrill, a somewhat sense of normalcy and good psychologically.

Wilson agreed with the others as people need to get out, something is needed for the citizens, especially since the pool would be closed for a few months.

Payne felt it was important as July 4th was a staple. If the City doesn’t have fireworks, the local people would. It would be safer to have a central location with professionals taking care of the fireworks.

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Rowlette agreed with all and felt there was a need to celebrate something other than thinking about COVID-19. He encouraged those who could to watch the fireworks from their own backyards in lieu of going to the school. He also suggested a possible cancellation clause with the fireworks vendor in case the state disagreed.

**Berea Crafts Fair**

A City event, July 10-12, which had its own fund and would affect this year’s and next year’s fiscal budget. It would also be difficult to enforce social distancing guidelines in a confined space. There was also the consideration of postponing the fair to October.

LaDouceur suggested having the Crafts Fair on-line, i.e. set up an on-line shop for vendors to use. The IT Department could link it to the City’s main website. Both, the Artists and the City could benefit financially.

Caudill stated if the Crafts Fair was cancelled, he also agreed that something should be done on-line. July 10 -12 would still be good dates with extensive advertising. As the fair is a huge event, the fair could also take place in October.

Fraley stated he had reached out to the Kentucky Guild of Artists and Craftsmen’s Executive Director to inquire if they would like to partner with the City in October.

Terrill thought there should still be a Crafts Fair with a mandatory stipulation of no entrance unless wearing a mask.

Rowlette noted it was important to also know that vendors were also involved with and loyal to other events throughout the country. In moving to October, and considering desired numbers, planning and advertising also needed to be considered.

**First Responder Camp**

Although the camp had been very successful, the decision was made to cancel this year with plans to continue next year.

Fraley gave a shout-out to Brent Bradley and Will Rogers in having done a fabulous job with the previous camps.

**Music Events on Broadway**

Terrill asked if the summer music events, on Broadway, were going to be cancelled for the summer.

Fraley stated it was undecided, at this time, and they would be discussing this with the Arts Council at a later date. An on-line format had been considered.

*Note:* Mayor Fraley stated no motions were required for the above-mentioned topics, only feedback with pros and cons was requested.

**RESOLUTION #07-2020**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY ADOPTING AND APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF THE FLEXIBLE BENEFITS PLAN THROUGH BENEFITS MARKETING SOLUTIONS, LLC.**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Resolution #07-2020 in its entirety.

Gregory explained the program as allowing employees to set aside money on a pre-tax basis to help pay for eligible healthcare expenses and/or daycare. This plan was new and a recommendation from the City’s new employer health benefits program.

Caudill motioned; Terrill seconded motion to approve and adopt Resolution #07-2020.

Roll Call Vote: All ayes; motion carried.

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**RATIFICATION OF MADISON COUNTY EMA AGREEMENT FOR HOUSING QUARANTINED FIRST RESPONDERS - MAYOR FRALEY**

Mayor Fraley read Agreement in its entirety. He stated the City of Berea was asked to sign the Agreement along with Madison County EMS, Madison County Fiscal Court, Madison County E911, Madison County Sheriff’s Office, Eastern Kentucky University Pubic Safety, and the City of Richmond.

The Agreement was critical in getting submitted to FEMA for any future reimbursement and would only be used in the event that a first responder from any of the participating parties listed was confirmed as having COVID-19 and preferred to be housed in a hotel in lieu of exposing their family to the virus.

LaDouceur motioned; Payne seconded motion to approve ratification.

Roll Call Vote: All ayes; motion carried.

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

* The State had installed guardrails on Dogwood Drive and East Haiti, discretionary funding was provided by the State with a $45,000 grant.
* Berea Utilities reminded residents near Holly Hill that the contractors were waiting on material and supplies to begin the sewer line project.
* City of Berea had received their username and password for the FEMA grant portal allowing request(s) for public assistance in cost share expenses with the COVID-19 virus.
* The Fire Department had seen an increase in residential and vehicle fires in the past few weeks. Reminded everyone as more people are currently at home, to be attentive to safety practices, i.e. checking smoke detector batteries, etc.
* Public Works Department is continuing to clean out streams, drainage boxes, etc. Reminded everyone to not put grass and clippings on the curb as they clog up the drainage system.
* City of Berea had put out a survey regarding Berea’s Comprehensive Plan. Reminded citizens of the survey and getting their input.
* Continuing to work on the Fiscal Budget for 2020-2021. Projecting a revenue shortfall of approximately 20%. This percentage did include the income from occupational license fees and/or net profits which are the largest revenue sources for Berea. A more accurate percentage can be determined after April numbers are submitted, due by May 15th.

Commended Department Heads on expenditure cuts.

Plans are to present the budget to City Council around mid-May.

* Per requests from Terrill and Davis, Gregory to contact the Allen Company regarding the deep manhole located at US 25 and Glades Road and the streetlights out at the bypass intersection.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

* The City of Berea had a one-stop website link regarding COVID-19 and acquiring assistance. It was located on Berea’s website, bereaky.gov, anchored in the yellow bar across the top of the home page.

Currently, in Madison County, there had been 30 confirmed cases of COVID-19. The thirty cases included 1 fatality, 5 recovering, and 24 fully recovered.

* Reminded everyone of the timeline for re-opening for Phase I of the economy that had been issued by Governor Beshear:

May 11th Manufacturing, Construction, Vehicle/Vessel Dealerships, Professional Services w/ Office-Based Business (at least 50% pre-pandemic capacity), Horseracing w/o spectators, Pet Grooming & Boarding, Photography

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May 20th Reopening of Retail Stores and Houses of Worship, when approved.

May 25th Social Gatherings of no more than 10 people, Barbers, Salons, Cosmetology Businesses and some of their services.

A request / proposal to re-open was required to be submitted and can be done on the official state website at kycovid19.ky.gov.

Although there was no current guidance for local government re-opening, this was expected by the end of the week. Once information was provided, the Mayor and City Administrator would share with staff and City Council.

* Reminded everyone of the importance of completing the Census Survey. Responses can be submitted via internet, phone, or mail.

Nationally, 56.8% of households had responded to the Census.

In Kentucky, 60.3% of households had responded to the Census.

In Madison County, 65.2% of households had responded to the Census.

In the City of Berea, 67% of households had responded to the Census.

 Encouraged everyone who had not responded to the Census to please take time to do so.

* Expect to have next City Council Meeting on May 19th, 6:30 p.m.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Payne** received notification that recycling had resumed as of May 5th. As re-opening of businesses gets closer, stressed the importance of wearing masks as it can make a difference between re-openings running smoothly or causing a second outbreak of COVID-19.

**Little** No comment.

**Davis** reminded everyone to support local businesses and even more so as they open to help make up their losses and to stay safe.

**LaDouceur** reiterated the importance of wearing masks and found it really upsetting to see people not wearing them. Challenged colleagues to not participate in suggestions of not wearing masks if we wanted to re-open. Happy Cinco de Mayo!

**Wilson** Everyone stay safe, have your masks ready, and support local businesses.

**Rowlette** supported the importance of wearing masks. Those who had not been able to find and/or purchase a mask, suggested to Google “maskmadisoncounty” for free masks and donations would be appreciated. Although he understood, he certainly hated to see annual events cancelled. Sadly, over the next 6-8 months the business community would pay dearly for the loss of revenue. We need to get creative in reaching out, do our part, put our thoughts into our faith, and believe things would take care of themselves.

**Terrill** No comment.

**Caudill** ask everyone to remember, as this is a difficult time, to check on their neighbors, practice social distancing, and think of creative ways to socialize. As this would be a difficult summer for everyone, anything we can do as a city for encouragement was important. Please take COVID-19 seriously as we want things to go well and not have to turn back the clock. Thanked everyone for their work in helping to make sure we could move forward.

**Mayor Fraley** acknowledged and thanked Daniel Brindley, IT Director, Robin Adams, City Clerk, and Jerry Gilbert, Corporate Counsel, for their work during the City Council Meetings as it was very important.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Davis motioned; LaDouceur seconded motion to adjourn at 7:22 p.m.

All ayes.

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Mayor Bruce Fraley

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 City Clerk