**BEREA CITY COUNCIL \_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_ SPECIAL CALLED MEETING \_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_MAY 19, 2020**

The Berea City Council met in a special called meeting via videoconference, Tuesday, May 19, 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, Kevin Howard

**INVOCATION:** Jerry Little

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Jim Davis

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Caudill motioned; Davis seconded motion to approve agenda.

Roll Call Vote: All ayes

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MAY 5, 2020**

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

Roll Call Vote: All ayes

**RESOLUTION #08-2020**

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE EXECUTION OF A MUNICIPAL ROAD AID COOPERATIVE PROGRAM AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, TRANSPORTATION CABINET, DEPARTMENT OF RURAL AND MUNICIPAL AID IN THE AMOUNTOF $246,502.17 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, RECONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF CERTAIN ROADS AND BRIDGES.**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Resolution #08-2020 in its entirety.

Caudill motioned; Rowlette seconded motion to approve and adopt Resolution #08-2020.

Roll Call Vote: All ayes; motion carried.

**ORDINANCE #10-2020 - 1ST READING**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, ADOPTING A SUPPLEMENT TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY.**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Ordinance #10-2020 in its entirety.

**ORDINANCE #11-2020 - 1ST READING**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, BY ADDING SECTION 22.800, PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT, AND REVISING SECTION 22.203 OF THE BEREA CITY CODE TO BE IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE NEW SECTION 22.800.**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Ordinance #11-2020 by title and summary.

Council held further discussion regarding the Ordinance.

LaDouceur stated several things should be considered regarding the new position/establishment, as we are in the middle of a pandemic, with an unstable budget. Having a freeze on city wide vacancies, no cost of living increases, cutting travel expenses, elimination of funding for capital budgets, and other expenditure reductions across all departments, she asked why this position was considered at this time. She preferred using current staff and creating a better partnership between Business Development and

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Tourism in lieu of creating a new position and the funding could be used for small business grants. She felt this was an attempt to restructure/control Tourism and requested a legal opinion regarding if the City was allowed to have this type of set-up.

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

* Briefed on re-opening per guidelines which could change on a daily basis:

May 11th the Governor Beshear presented a ‘healthy at work’ plan to follow.

The City was currently maintaining their shift rotation / work assignments.

Continued to collect payments at the drive-thru window.

Continued to use video conferencing and other video portals for conducting business.

Police and Fire records being provided through e-mail.

Parks, green space, and walking trails would be open to the public with social distancing required.

The Welcome Center remained closed until further notice.

Employees were required to use the ‘healthy at work’ plan before coming in to work.

Public Works crew were sanitizing 2-3 times daily throughout the building.

All City vehicles were required to be cleaned & sanitized and only one person per vehicle with emergency exceptions.

Hopeful, by June 1st, to open parks and allow guests into City Hall by appointment only.

* Wednesday, May 20th, Budget Meeting / Work Session Agenda would be sent out regarding meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 21st, 6:00 p.m.

Also, Audit & Finance Committee would be meeting after the Budget Meeting / Work Session at 7:30 p.m.

The meetings would be via videoconferencing.

* Owsley Fork Dam Raise Update

Utilities received confirmation in late April from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Lexington, proposing a 30% design had been approved by the National Design, Construction, and Sil Mechanics Center (NDCSMC) in Fort Worth, TX. The delay in the process was due to a new design with standard criteria for the new structure. A revision would be submitted for approval with plans to have the process completed by the end of the calendar year with development of bid documents by mid-2021.

* The Holly Hill sewer line project had been delayed due to material delivery. Per the contractor, work would begin as soon as the manholes were delivered.
* Walnut Meadow Pump Station & South Middletown Trunk Line Improvements had begun with staging and surveying completed by the end of the week.
* Tree Trimmers were currently working on clearing out power lines in the areas of Estill Street and Lorraine Court.
* Annual hydrant flushing was taking place during the month of May.
* The Public Works Department continued to pick up trash & brush, clean out ditches & catch basins, painting curbs, and assisting other departments with mowing.
* The State had been contacted several times regarding lights being out and the manholes in need of repair on Richmond Road.
* Terrill asked about the O’Donnell Road sewer project as children had been playing in the overflow, suggesting this should be fixed prior to the Holly Hill project.

K. Howard, Utilities, stated this was the next project scheduled, along with Bluebird Avenue and Bridge Avenue, after the Holly Hill project had been completed. Due to COVID-19 restrictions they had been unable to proceed and needed approval. Friday, May 22nd, they will be on site to begin the design phase.

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* Little asked what the criteria was on deciding which sewer projects were selected first. If there was overflow, should it not be a top priority?

Gregory stated the projects which had been submitted, by the engineers, to the Division of Water and had received approved design plans were the ones taken care of first. He would discuss this with the engineer.

* Little noted the lane was marked wrong at Ellipse Street and U.S. 25 and needed to be corrected.

Gregory to contact the state of lane in need of correction.

**MAYOR’S REPORT / COMMENTS**

* Per the Madison County Health Department, additional COVID-19 testing would be taking place May 19th – 21st, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. More information was provided on the City of Berea’s website.

In Madison County, as of March 6th, there had been 41confirmed cases of COVID-19. There were no current hospitalizations, 1 fatality, 8 recovering, and 32 fully recovered.

* Berea College was looking into re-opening the Indian Fort Pinnacles when safe.
* According to Dr. Louisa Summers, since the COVID-19 pandemic, there was an increase in traffic on the City of Berea trails. The Stevenson Trail, in particular, had increased traffic by 82% compared to 2019. Plans are for Dr. Summers to present an update on the trails later as we return to having meetings in the Council Chambers.
* He had been in contact with Superintendent of Berea Community School, Dr. Diane Hatchett, requesting permission for use of the green space for July 4th fireworks. Areas included were in front of the school, between BCS, Walnut Meadow Road, and Ellipse Street. The City was currently working on a safe fireworks display and a live feed. He encouraged the citizens to watch the fireworks at other places around town in order to continue social distancing due to the COVID-19 guidelines. Appreciation to Dr. Hatchett and Berea Community School for considering the request.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Wilson** No comment.

**LaDouceur** was increasingly concerned about the transparency of government during the pandemic. There should be an avenue to incorporate public comment until the Council was able to meet again in person. She felt legislation was being opportunistically shoved through and incomplete information provided prior to Council meetings.

**Terrill** No comment.

**Caudill** stated Thursday’s Work Session, May 21st, would be conducted in the same manner as previous budget meetings. Currently, there was a lot to consider due to the uncertainty of the economy. He appreciated all the work Mayor Fraley, David (Gregory), and the entire staff had done on the budget.

LaDouceur asked if the draft could be put online for the public’s viewing.

Caudill stated the budget is not typically put out for public viewing in draft form as there are always changes, small or large. Also, some will look at the budget assuming it’s the final version, some will have discrepancies over items that have already been removed, added, and/or changed. Although he had no problem with placing the draft on the web, he preferred to wait until after the work session on Thursday (May 21st) as it would have the most recent changes.

**Payne** reminded everyone to complete and submit their census. Government funding received for the community was determined from the collected data from the census. Also, as we were approaching Phase II of re-opening, from the COVID-19 shutdown, he stressed the importance of following the state’s guidelines

which did include wearing masks when among others as no one wants to go back to where we had been

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in the past two months. He looked forward to all of the upcoming openings. As we are getting ready to go outside again, and not the same as before, there would be a lot of opportunities that we have not had in the past two months. Hoped everyone was doing well.

**Rowlette** suggested to those who were still seeking masks or had not been able to find and/or purchase a mask to Google “maskmadisoncounty” for free masks and donations would be appreciated.

Encouraged residents to support local businesses as they re-open.

Congratulations to local seniors and their parents who have worked hard over the years to get them to this milestone accomplishment. Although the students had not been able to celebrate as usual, he was sure that in fifty years from now they would be reminiscing about their graduation celebration of what was happening during that time.

**Little** hoped everyone stayed healthy and safe.

**Davis** was glad to see businesses were finally re-opening and echoed Rowlette regarding supporting our local businesses. Everyone stay safe.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Payne motioned; Wilson seconded motion to adjourn at 7:09 p.m.

All ayes.

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Mayor Bruce Fraley

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 City Clerk