**BEREA CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING JUNE 16, 2020**

The Berea City Council met in a special called meeting via videoconference, Tuesday, June 16, 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, Susan Meeks, Shawn Sandlin, Priscilla Bloom, Amanda Haney, Donna Angel, Kerri Hensley,

Eric Scott

**INVOCATION:** David Rowlette

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Steve Caudill

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Caudill motioned; Davis seconded motion to approve agenda.

Roll Call Vote: All ayes

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JUNE 2, 2020**

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

Roll Call Vote: All ayes

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**BALDWN CPAs ENGAGEMENT LETTER FOR FY20 AUDIT - D. Gregory**

Gregory stated a copy of the letter included in the packet was standard annual operating procedures for auditors. The letter was submitted to the Audit & Finance Committee and the Mayor advising the upcoming audit.

Caudill stated in previous years the Audit & Finance Committee had met with the auditors and in lieu of a meeting this year his plans were to call them. Any of the Council are free to speak with the auditors or if they would like a committee meeting, he would be glad to set one up. Findings of the audit should be available and/or presented in early October.

**ORDINANCE #12-20 - 2ST READING**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL PERIOD JULY 1, 2020 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021, BY ESTIMATING REVENUES AND RESOURCES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF CITY GOVERNMENT AND PROVIDING FOR A LONG RANGE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND PUBLIC FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET AND PLAN.

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Ordinance #12-20 in its entirety.

Caudill motioned; Wilson seconded motion to approve and adopt Ordinance #12-20.

Caudill motioned; Little seconded motion to amend the budget to increase line item 1010-55350 (Berea Human Rights Commission/BHRC) to $500 and decrease line item 1010-55022 (Conference/Meeting Expenses) $14,500 to $14,000.

With discussion, Caudill stated due to the current situation of (COVID-19) he wanted to make sure line item 1010-55350 was funded and it was not the intent to defund BHRC but allow them to cover costs from

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other line items. This amendment would allow them to cover any previous costs and any costs moving forward. If additional funding was needed, it could be reviewed based on the current revenue at that time.

In further discussion, LaDouceur stated she would like to see BHRC receive more funding due to a recent Supreme Court decision of adding LGBTQ protections which would add more responsibilities to the HRC along with current Human Rights issues. The budget is a moral document stating our values and does not feel $500 would begin to cover what is coming in the next year. She would rather reduce the Animal Shelter funding by $10,000, due to lack of information that was requested, and reallocate to the BHRC.

Davis commented that in the last 4 to 5 years, the Animal Shelter was budgeted and never paid before increasing the amount to $30,000.

LaDouceur motioned; Payne seconded motion to amend the amendment to the budget to increase line item 1010-55350 (BHRC) to $10,000 and decrease line item 1010-55300 (Dog Warden-County) from $30,000 to $20,000.

Roll Call Vote Ayes: LaDouceur

Nays: Davis, Rowlette, Payne, Little, Caudill, Wilson, Terrill

Motion defeated 7 to 1

Without further discussion, returned to motion to amend the budget to increase line item 1010-55350 (Berea Human Rights Commission/BHRC) to $500 and decrease line item 1010-55022 (Conference/Meeting Expenses) from $14,500 to $14,000.

Roll Call Vote All ayes; motion carried.

Per Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, as the amendment would not change the summary totals, no additional action was required.

Davis motioned; Terrill seconded motion to change the Departmental Fee Schedule, Police Department, to increase the two-hour parking violation from $10 to $15.

Per Meeks, Finance Director, at this point the change would not change any revenue projections in the summary total.

Roll Call Vote All ayes; motion carried.

Returned to the following original motion:

Caudill motioned; Wilson seconded motion to approve and adopt Ordinance #12-20.

Roll Call Vote Ayes: Terrill, Wilson, Caudill, Little, Payne, Davis

Nays: LaDouceur, Rowlette

Motion carried 6 to 2.

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

* Thanked City Council for passing the budget.
* Staff was currently undergoing CPR training, from the Fire Department, which was required every two years.
* Working with the IT Department & Microsoft on updating our e-mail. Beginning in July, the City of Berea will be under a government account offering more security.

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* The Codes & Planning Department was currently working on updating the Comprehensive Plan and working on a tentative public forum scheduled for July 15th, 6pm – 8pm, at the Russel Acton Folk Center.
* Berea Municipal Utilities Staff had been working on the logistics for the O’Donnell Road sewer project. The project had to begin with designing, then as weather permits plans are to begin work this fall. Work will also be done on Bridge Avenue during this time.
* Auditors will be on-site, at City Hall, during the week of July 6th, working with Finance Staff.
* Parks & Rec Staff were in the process of opening shelters, opening the ball fields for scheduling, and working with the Police Department & Public Works on the July 4th celebration.
* Highway 25 punch list still had items to be completed. Although State Government was slow due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, he would continue to stay in contact with the Transportation Department.
* In the process of receiving COVID-19 grants for the City. Notification had been received from the Department of Local Government. Working on data for submission which would cover dates from March 2020 to December 2020.

Also working on EMA and Police & Fire on PPE and FEMA assistance.

**MAYOR’S REPORT / COMMENTS**

* White House Clinic had begun scheduled drive-up COVID-19 testing behind the Russel Acton Folk Center and at the Intergenerational Center. Pre-registration was available at whitehouseclinic.com or call to White House Clinic to schedule an appointment. Testing was also available at Instant Care on Brenwood Dr. and at the Richmond White House Clinic.
* He and the City Administrator, Gregory, had been in contact with the City Managers Association, Bluegrass Area Development (BGAD), and Kentucky League of Cities as businesses / industries had begun to reopen. Due to the impact of COVID-19, the projection for the City’s revenue was expected to have approximately a 20% decline compared to last year. As the budgeting process had been difficult this year, plans were to have several budget amendments during the year as revenue became clearer.
* Thanked Susan Meeks (Finance Director), Department Heads, Gregory (City Administrator), Steve Caudill (Audit & Finance Chair), and the Council for their input/work on this year’s budget process.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Davis** thanked Public Works for their work on Chestnut Street, repairing holes.

Complimented businesses on US 25 North for painting and/or the facelifts on their buildings as it made that area of town look better.

Continued to ask citizens to support local restaurants and businesses.

Everyone be safe.

Mayor Fraley stated he had been in contact with the State’sTransportation Department. Future plans were to work on Chestnut Street as a project.

**Rowlette** encouraged everyone to support local businesses as they reopen.

Thanked Administration for their work on the budget.

Explained “no” vote on the budget that he would like to see more funding for infrastructure, especially for road improvement projects. He would also like to see better administrating of City projects/programs as was done with Business Development and Tourism as they do a lot of work together and may be an opportunity to save money.

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**Payne** reminded everyone of the importance of the census.

Election Day is June 23rd, very important to vote in the primary.

On June 15th, had a landmark in the Civil Rights decision as the Supreme Court ruled LGBTQ workers were protected from job discrimination making Human Rights Commission even more important.

Glad for the peaceful protests in Berea and Richmond last week.

Went on a ride-along with Officer Manley, very professional and had a lot of good discussions.

Continue spending money at local businesses.

**LaDouceur** explained “no” vote on the budget that the budget passed reduced the Berea Human Rights Commission previous budget of $18,000 to $500 at a time such as this. Very disappointed.

Recognized June 19th as Juneteenth which commemorates the day in 1865 when new that slavery had been abolished reached Galveston, Texas. Proposed and read a draft resolution she hoped would be accepted for the City placed on the next City Council meeting agenda.

Happy Juneteenth to everyone.

**Little** stated a Public Works meeting was scheduled for Monday, July 6th, 5:30 p.m., via zoom / video teleconference, to discuss city streets that were to be blacktopped.

**Caudill** thanked everyone for their hard work on the budget, specifically the City Administrator, Gregory, and the Department Heads.

Thank you to Zinnia Hensley, Public Services Coordinator, for her work with the Human Rights Commission and felt the same level of service would continue to be provided.

Hoped everyone had a great July 4th and thank you to the City for working on and allowing citizens to watch the fireworks with their families and friends. Encouraged everyone to stay safe over the holiday weekend and enjoy the fireworks.

Mayor Fraley complimented several departments for working on the fireworks event, especially Priscilla Bloom as she was deeply involved with the event. Permission was given from the Berea Community Board and Dr. Hatchett for use of the area in front of the Community School and Field #5 for the event. Also, the City was in partnership with WBON / Wallingford Broadcasting for those who do not want to come out for safety reasons and watch the fireworks from home.

**Wilson** thanked the Department Heads, City Administrator, Gregory, and the Finance Director, Meeks, for their hard work on the budget in such a difficult time. Thanked all City Employees who worked during this time.

Happy July 4th, be safe, and support your local businesses.

**Terrill** agreed with Wilson. Have a happy and safe July 4th.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Caudill motioned; Wilson seconded motion to adjourn at 7:28 p.m.

All ayes.

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Mayor Bruce Fraley

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City Clerk