**BEREA CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING JUNE 2, 2020**

The Berea City Council met in a special called meeting via videoconference, Tuesday, June 2, 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, Shawn Sandlin, Priscilla Bloom

**INVOCATION:** John Payne

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** John Payne

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Caudill motioned; Davis seconded motion to approve agenda.

Roll Call Vote: All ayes

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MAY 19, 2020 & May 21, 2020**

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

Roll Call Vote: All ayes

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**HOLLY HILL SANITARY SEWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT RECOMMENDATION - Utility Department, Kevin Howard**

Howard stated original bids for this project were presented on March 3rd and due to meeting cancellations and/or schedules he had not had the opportunity to make a recommendation to the Council.

The low bid was presented by Potter Excavating at $32,700 with an additional $8,000 for driveway repair, if needed, when completed. References were checked and ready to move forward. Recommendation made to Council for Potter Excavating.

Terrill motioned; LaDouceur seconded motion to award contract with Potter Excavating for the Holly Hill Sanitary Sewer Replacement Project in the amount $40,700.

Roll Call Vote All ayes; motion carried.

**BOARD OF ETHICS APPOINTMENT**

Mayor Fraley stated as the Code of Ordinances allowed for an alternate position for the Board of Ethics, he requested a motion to approve re-appointment of Diane Kerby to the Board of Ethics, as an alternate, for a one-year term.

Payne motioned; Little seconded motion to approve Board of Ethics nomination of Diane Kerby for an alternate position of a one-year term.

Roll Call Vote All ayes; motion carried.

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**ORDINANCE #10-20 - 2nd 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 #10-20 in its entirety.

Caudill motioned; LaDouceur seconded motion to approve and adopt Ordinance #10-20.

Roll Call Vote All ayes; motion carried.

**ORDINANCE #11-20 - 2nd 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 #11-20 in its entirety.

Per Work Session discussion, Mayor Fraley clarified for this Ordinance there would not be any new staff nor personnel cost added to the City.

Davis motioned; Terrill seconded motion to approve and adopt Ordinance #11-20.

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

Nays: LaDouceur

Motion carried 7 to 1.

**ORDINANCE #12-20 - 1ST 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.

Mayor Fraley complimented City Administrator, Gregory, Finance Director, Meeks, the Audit & Finance Committee, and the Department Heads for all their work as this had been a difficult budget situation with the global pandemic (COVID-19) and the effect it had on the local economy.

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

* Regarding the current fiscal year budget, in anticipation, line items 1000-53040 / Janitorial Supplies and 1000-54500 / Building and Grounds Repair & Maintenance, would each be over budget approximately $5,000 by the end of June. This was due to COVID-19 and the continuous cleaning and sanitizing of city buildings and necessary changes needed for safety reasons.

Caudill motioned; Payne seconded motion to approve overage of $5,000 for line item 1000-53040 / Janitorial Supplies.

Roll Call Vote All ayes; motion carried.

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Caudill motioned; LaDouceur seconded motion to approve overage of 5,000 for line item 1000-54500 / Building and Grounds Repair & Maintenance.

Roll Call Vote All ayes; motion carried.

Caudill reiterated that all expenses mentioned were related to COVID-19, i.e. cleaning supplies, plexiglass added, sanitizers, etc.

Gregory stated expenses, for COVID-19, were reimbursable through the state and he would be submitting the expenses to the state.

* The Pinnacles would be re-opening on Monday, June 8th.
* June 1st would begin Phase I of re-opening City Hall, scheduling would be by appointment only with a series of steps to follow.

The Parks Department would be opening green spaces, parking lots, the skate park, and some of the restrooms.

* June 15th would begin Phase II of re-opening. Ball fields would be open by appointment only with the Parks staff, practicing healthy-at-work plans with each sport.
* Working with Tourism on re-opening the Welcome Center.
* The Police Department was working on returning to normal day-to-day operations.
* Public Works continued to cut grass, cleaning out waterways, and finishing sidewalks at the Folk Center.
* Fire Department was working on scheduled truck maintenance and year end projects.
* Berea Municipal Utilities were working with the contractor on the Walnut Meadow Pump Station project and annual hydrant flushing on U.S. 25 North.
* Tourism was working on a virtual craft festival to begin on July 10th.
* An update on the O’Donnell Road sewer project would be provided at the next meeting.
* Looking to Frankfort for guidance on complete opening of City Hall. Anticipated an opening date of July 6th with consideration of sanitization of the building and healthy-at-work guidelines.

**MAYOR’S REPORT / COMMENTS**

* A COVID-19 Resource Guide flyer was sent out with the utility bills to all 7200+ customers of Berea Municipal Utilities. The City wanted to try and reach all customers without internet access to help assist with any needs related to COVID-19.
* On the re-opening of the Pinnacles, Berea College asked that everyone follow the COVID-19 social distancing guidelines. They also asked everyone to practice the Leave No Trace guidelines, leave premises as you found it.
* Yeti Freeze planned on opening Friday, June 5th, in the concession stand at Berea City Park next to Duerson Stadium on Friday from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and again on Saturday from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
* Presented a review in response to budget reduction questions for the coming fiscal year, from citizens and the Berea Human Rights Commission (BHRC) chairperson, and how they relate to the Human Rights Commission.
* The BHRC continued to play a critical role in the City.
* As we had never experienced this before, we all need to recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic had an adverse effect on our local economy with an expectation of a 20% shortfall in the revenue general fund for fiscal year 20-21 beginning July 1, 2020.
* Very difficult decisions were made to cut many line items throughout the budget by all departments.

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* Two-thirds of City revenue comes from Occupational License fees. With an expected reduction in employment, wages, and net profits over the next twelve months, is the primary reason of expecting only 80% of the normal revenues which are needed to provide services in the City.
* In forecasting, as we had never experienced a health pandemic, it was difficult to determine how long term it would be and the severity of the impact on our local economy / jobs.
* Asked for everyone’s patience as we all worked together in learning how to deal with shortfalls caused by a global health pandemic.
* Expected to amend the budget several times in the coming months as the City’s revenue picture becomes clearer with hopes of adding funding to many areas.
* As a temporary measure, any required expenses for the BHRC could be paid for with the Administration budget or the Mayor / Council budget.
* Currently, all calls, e-mails, and internet reports for the BHRC are being taken care of by the Police Community Services Coordinator. A meeting had been scheduled to clarify the roles, responsibilities, and staff support provided to the commission while in the budget situation.
* The City’s commitment to the BHRC was unchanged.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Davis** encouraged everyone to patronize local businesses as they begin to open and visit Yeti Freeze this weekend.

**Rowlette** echoed Davis’s comments and keep in mind monies spent were returned 6-7 times in our local economy and extremely important to business owners / managers.

**Payne** echoed Davis’s and Rowlette’s comments. Stressed the importance of filling out and submitting the census. Regarding COVID-19, continue to wear your masks and practice social distancing. Thanked those who filed to run for public office. Thanked those who peacefully demonstrated this week and the officers making sure everyone stayed safe. Thanked the Mayor, the former and current Police Chiefs, for their public address this week and addressing the pain and continued need for systemic change that had been illustrated by recent tragic events. Wished everyone well.

**LaDouceur** suggested budget amendments she would like to see for the second reading regarding reducing funding for the Madison County Animal Shelter to $10,000 as requested information had not been provided. Suggestions were to transfer some of the funding to be used for a dog park ($5000), the Berea Human Rights Commission (BHRC) ($5000), and for COVID-19 relief or the general fund ($10,000). She felt the BHRC should be able to continue services and the responsibility of their services not placed on the Community Services Coordinator within the Police Department. Requested letter from former BHRC Chairperson to be included in the minutes.

Thanked the Berea Police Department for supporting the citizens’ right to protest peacefully in our City.

She implored the Council to refund the BHRC and other budgetary members as she commented on rereading the City’s history of struggle and found strength and perspective from the persistency of Berea’s founder, an abolitionist pastor, John G. Fee. He was labeled radical for consistently calling out the institution of slavery in telling slave holders how ungodly, immoral, and unlawful they were. Always humbled at how far ahead of time he was, self-assured in his convictions for a better community for all.

**Little** No comment.

**Caudill** thanked everyone for their work, patience, and time on the budget. He hoped any misunderstandings regarding refunding were clarified during the previous night’s work session.

Regarding the racial/social injustice issues during the past month, it had been shocking of the level of malice toward people from some members of society. Just because you ignore something does not mean you are not a part of it. We need to do better as a society and as an individual person.

**Wilson** as others stated, support local businesses. Stay safe.

**Terrill** No comment.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

LaDouceur motioned; Rowlette seconded motion to adjourn at 7:28 p.m.

All ayes.

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Mayor Bruce Fraley

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City Clerk