**BEREA CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING \_ JULY 21, 2020**

The Berea City Council met in a special called meeting via videoconference, Tuesday, July 21, 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, Eric Scott

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Dr. Louisa Summers, Skyllar Gayhart, Lawren Brinley, Jesse J. Kiboi (JJ),

Dr. Peter Hackbert, Dr. R. Lakhan

**INVOCATION:** Steve Caudill

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Steve Caudill

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Davis motioned; Caudill seconded motion to approve agenda.

Roll Call Vote: All ayes

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 7, 2020**

Caudill motioned; Davis seconded motion to approve minutes as amended.

Roll Call Vote: All ayes

**PUBLIC COMMENT -** D. Gregory

Gregory read public comments submitted supporting the Juneteenth Resolution.

**TRAIL TOWN SURVEY RESULTS – ECONOMIC AND HEALTH IMPACT OF BEREA’S TRAIL**

**SYSTEM -** Dr. Louisa Summers

Dr. Louisa Summers, Students, and Staff makeup the Berea Trail Town Research Team. The Team presented a COVID-19 and Health Impact Analysis on the Stephenson and Shortline Trails.

Skyllar Gayhart presented a literature review and a twenty-six question survey (among trail users) review. Kentucky is 29% inactive as it relates to physical activity. Due to COVID-19, physical activity/traffic has increased on the trails.

JJ Kiboi presented results of the methods used and the survey. From March 2019 to present, there was a 211% increase of trail use which is over a 20,000 user increase with an average of 9,989 annual users. With the addition of the Shortline Pike Connector Trail and COVID-19 restrictions, physical activity had increased 40% - 50% on an average of fourteen days with 64% of users following social distancing guidelines. Of the combined trails, an increase of 65% in physical activity is leading to improved health for residents.

Lawren Brinley discussed survey comments. Survey improvement suggestions from trail users were a restroom facility with a water fountain, a dog park, fix speedbumps to make paths more accessible for wheelchair users and cyclists, mile markers, more trees for shade, and picnic tables and benches along the trails. Survey favorites included location, access points, scenery, a safe atmosphere for families, and paths without inclines. Coming next was a community-based national program, Walk With A Dog. The walks would be every Friday at 8:30 a.m. on the Stephenson Trail with the first walk beginning on September 11th.

City Council Members thanked Dr. Summers and the Berea Trail Town Research Team for their survey reports and commended them on their work. It was good to see the benefits of the trails, the increase in usage, and looked forward to new trails.

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Mayor Fraley thanked Dr. Summers and her Team for their work and the information provided.

Dr. Summers thanked participants in the community for taking the survey and thanked the City Council for allowing them to present. She also thanked Dr. Peter Hackbert and Dr. R. Lakhan for their advice during this summer project.

**BID OPENING FOR LAWN MAINTENANCE –** Mayor Fraley

Mayor Fraley opened bids. One bid received.

* Jade Incorporated Berea, KY Received 7/13/20 $47,960.00

Bid will be referred to City Administrator, Gregory, for review, and recommendation.

Gregory stated the bid included City Hall, the City Hall Annex, and various trails. He explained outsourcing lawn maintenance was an overall way of cutting costs.

**RESOLUTION #09-2020 JUNETEENTH RESOLUTION**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read the resolution in its entirety.

LaDouceur motioned; Payne seconded motion to approve and adopt Resolution #09-2020.

Terrill motioned; Rowlette seconded motion to table Resolution #09-2020 requesting the language was changed from ‘black lives matter’ to ‘all lives matter.’

LaDouceur stated a deadline date for the motion to be achieved was required.

Terrill stated when the language was changed, the resolution would be passed.

LaDouceur stated per the Kentucky League of Cities City Officials Handbook it was an illegal motion to table an item with pending amendments without a set date and time to be amended.

Mayor Fraley stated the item would be brought back to City Council at the next meeting.

Returned to the following original motion:

Terrill motioned; Rowlette seconded motion to table Resolution #09-2020.

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

Nays: LaDouceur, Caudill, Payne

Motion carried 5 to 3.

**RESOLUTION #10-2020 SUPPORTING BEREA POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read the resolution in its entirety.

Rowlette motioned; Terrill seconded motion to adopt Resolution #10-2020.

Payne motioned; LaDouceur seconded motion to amend the resolution by inserting additional language as the second Whereas clause.

Roll Call Vote

All ayes; motion carried.

Payne motioned; LaDouceur seconded motion to amend the resolution by removing the first Whereas.

Roll Call Vote

All ayes; motion carried.

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Returned to the following original motion:

Rowlette motioned; Terrill seconded motion to approve and adopt Resolution #10-2020 as amended.

All ayes; motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #11-2020 CORONA VIRUS RELIEF FUND**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read the resolution by summary.

Terrill motioned; LaDouceur seconded motion to approve and adopt Resolution #11-2020.

All ayes; motion carried.

**ORDINANCE #13-20 SALARY RANGES - 1ST READING**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read the ordinance in its entirety.

**ORDINANCE #14-20 AUTHORIZED POSITIONS & GRADES - 1ST READING**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read the ordinance by summary.

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

* Thanked Council for adopting Resolution #11-2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES ACT”). In May of 2020 Governor’s office set aside approximately $300 million for Kentucky cities and counties. In consideration of reimbursement of unbudgeted expenses, lost revenue during the COVID / economy shutdown, and to ensure continuity of services, Berea anticipated approximately a $1.1 million reimbursement. In early July, through the Department of Local Government (DLG), the City of Berea requested reimbursement of $778,984 in COVID related expenses, which occurred from March 1st to June 30th. As of July 16th, preliminary approval had been received for this amount. This amount will be placed in the General Fund and accounted for in Fiscal Year 19-20. In September, expectations are to request reimbursement of COVID related expenses for the balance of $356,203 which would be accounted for in the Fiscal Year 20-21.
* Public Works continued to work on cleaning up debris on the Brushy Fork Trail.
* Received notice from Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) on the City’s Workers Comp Audit, which will be this fall.
* Met with Brandstetter Carroll regarding the multi-use pavilion. Advertisements for the pavilion project had recently gone out and bid submission due date was August 4th.

**MAYOR’S REPORT / COMMENTS**

Mayor Fraley had a call for unity among all citizens of our City.

There is nothing wrong with speaking up in pursuit of justice and an end to racism and discrimination. The Constitution of the United States gives us the right to assemble and freedom of speech.

There is nothing wrong with voicing support for law enforcement, especially for the men and women of the Berea Police Department. Again, the constitution gives us the right to assemble and freedom of speech.

In fact, we are very fortunate to have a well-trained, diverse, and professional police department in our city and the entire department is committed to fair treatment and equal protection for all citizens of Berea. Personally, I am very proud of our department in the way they protect and serve our city.

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It has been said that “Before you judge my life, my past or my character, walk in my shoes, walk the path I have traveled, live my sorrow, my doubts, my fear, my pain and my laughter.”

And “Empathy is about standing in someone else’s shoes, feeling with his or her heart, seeing with his or her eyes. Not only is empathy hard to outsource and automate, but it makes the world a better place.”

I think these are words of wisdom for all of us.

Let’s think about how we can come together for the good of our Community. I believe it is important for all of us to:

* Seek to understand one another;
* Be tolerant of each other;
* And be respectful to each other.

If there was ever a time to do our part to come together as a community the time is now.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Terrill** commended the Utility Department on a good job of switching East Kentucky back on KU’s transmission lines last weekend.

**Wilson** agreed with the Mayor’s comments. Thanked everyone.

**Caudill** No comment.

**Little** thanked Mayor Fraley for his comments. So true, if we could all just come together.

**LaDouceur** wished she could say something in support of the Mayor’s statement of unity but there are some things that aren’t debatable, and racism was one of them. Tonight, those who chose to stand with coded language were racist and willfully ignorant to continue to obstruct a piece of legislation that did no harm to them. What it did show our community as that they did not stand or all people. She was disappointed and stated it was deplorable. She still stood that it was against parliamentary procedure. At some point they are going to have to vote. Everyone knew where they stood at this point. You could tell who stood with all people and who didn’t. She wanted them to have to vote and at some point they would have to.

**Payne** was also disappointed the Juneteenth Resolution was not passed. He felt it was written well as is. If a word had to change in order to pass the resolution, to assert that black lives “also” matter. That is what the movement suggests. By saying ‘black lives also matter,’ you are not excluding anyone. Something to consider. Still encouraged everyone to complete the census, wear your masks, get out and hike.

**Rowlette** was pleased to see the adoption of Resolution #10-2020 in support of the local law enforcement officers and others. Often, we take for granted when we leave home every morning for work that we will see our spouse at the end of the day. Unfortunately, law enforcement officers work in an environment in which they may not get to go home and see their spouse at the end of their shift. Until you have walked in their place, with a spouse and children, we cannot imagine the worry and concerns they have. He not only wanted to support the law enforcement officers but also their families.

On August 1st a march is scheduled from the Tolle Building to City Hall to support our local law enforcement. He encouraged everyone to join the walk or set up along the street for support.

Encouraged everyone to continue to reach out to the family of Donnie and Amy Davidson for the loss of their son. A tremendous loss to the family and our community.

**Davis** thanked Dr. Summers and her team for the work they were doing.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Caudill motioned; Rowlette seconded motion to adjourn at 8:12 p.m.

All ayes.

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Mayor Bruce Fraley

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City Clerk