**BEREA CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING \_ JULY 7, 2020**

The Berea City Council met in a special called meeting via videoconference, Tuesday, July 7, 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, Priscilla Bloom, Amanda Haney, Donna Angel, Eric Scott

A WORK SESSION WAS HELD AT 6:00 P.M. TO DISCUSS SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM JOB DESCRIPTIONS.

**INVOCATION:** Cora Jane Wilson

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Cora Jane Wilson

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Caudill motioned; Rowlette seconded motion to approve agenda.

Roll Call Vote: All ayes

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 1, 2020 & June 16, 2020**

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

Roll Call Vote: All ayes

**PUBLIC COMMENT -** D. Gregory

Gregory read public comments submitted.

**BEREA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION APPOINTMENT -** Mayor Fraley

Mayor Fraley appointed Sharyn Mitchell, a local resident and historian, to the Berea Human Rights Commission to fill an unexpired term ending December 6, 2022.

Mayor Fraley thanked those who sent in nominations and/or suggestions for the appointment and those who volunteered to serve on the Commission. All were very well qualified.

**RACIAL UNITY IN BEREA –** E. LaDouceur

LaDouceur explained and/or clarified the proposed Juneteenth Resolution as she was concerned that some may not understand where she was coming from nor the importance of the resolution.

She felt, as an elected official, it was her responsibility to take up issues and help voices be heard. When it came to race relations in our City, she invoked a national discussion around police brutality and systemic racism to present the Juneteenth Resolution even though she had a very visceral personal connection to the conversation. She chose what she felt was a safe route to show solidarity with Black, indigenous, and people of color in our community. This came from her receiving a barrage of racially charged harassment and threats online for participating in recent peaceful protests. Rather than sit idly and do nothing, she presented the resolution with intention of exposing how her colleagues felt about the issue. As she had shared personal stories of adverse experiences in our community, only to be met with opposition, one starts to lose hope that change could ever be realized. She hoped they [City Council] could all take a step back and try to understand one another and the issues facing our community. In her stating that ‘Black Lives Matter,’ she explained that she was asking others to acknowledge that there are people who experience this world differently than them for no other reason than the fact they have

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different color skin. We can no longer afford to pretend issues do not apply to our City and must be proactive. She asked the Council to stand in solidarity with her family.

Although striving for racial unity in Berea may sometimes feel like committing to planting seeds in a garden we may never see, she still had faith in everyone to be the Berea they love and the Berea that comes together to solve the greatest challenges of our times.

Terrill stated as a Council, they must support everyone regardless of race. Therefore, he felt supporting one group was racist as all lives matter.

Caudill appreciated LaDouceur for sharing her personal stories and/or experiences. As he felt no one had any bad intentions, we need to be careful of our language in realizing it is important of what people hear and see. We, as a Council, have a direct impact on our City and its image.

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

* Reminded everyone on the guidelines for public comment that if guidelines are not followed and/or an individual is named, the comment would not be read.
* The City’s e-mail migration from a business to a government account with Microsoft began this past weekend. Commended Daniel Brindley and Eli Taylor for their work on this process.
* He had been working with District 7 on several permit applications for encroachment.
* **Richmond Road**

Completion of punch list, the piano key crosswalk at the intersection of Glades & HWY 25 and Ellipse Street, and getting the Ellipse Street symbols corrected.

* **Scaffold Cane / Brushy Fork Trail**

Waiting on approval of the Brushy Fork Trail expansion as the City will have to expand the culvert and place new piping for the new parking area that will be created. Regarding Brushy Fork, rain had prevented the City from working on the projectand plans were to start back soon.

* **Chestnut Street**

The expansion for the entrance of the new Multi-Use Pavilion parking lot was still waiting on approval. The proposed schedule was advertising by July, bid openings in August, construction from August 2020 to March 2021. All weather pending, etc.

* **KY Highway 21**

Vegetation would be removed from the area behind Speedway and Arby’s and drainage would be fixed with Class II Channel liner. This would allow the area to have a clean appearance for our community and the Public Works Department to clean up debris easier.

* An RFP had been sent out for Landscape Maintenance with proposals due by Monday, July 13th, and opened at the next City Council Meeting on July 21st.
* The Parks Department staff had been working on getting drainage issues corrected on the athletic field. The Utilities Department installed two hydrants to assist in watering the baseball fields. The Public Works Department assisted Parks in removing sod from the edge of the concrete dugouts and topsoil was removed to correct more drainage issues at the baseball fields. Public Works had ordered drainage pipe to go around the football field that would drain into the drainage system near the parking lot. Staff received training from Eric Harshman, Berea College Head Groundskeeper, on maintaining the fields. Parks Maintenance had been spraying the fields. Within the spring of next year, a program would be developed for maintaining the fields, i.e. for watering, aerating, thatching, seeding, fertilizing, etc.

He felt the school wanted more ownership of the fields, especially the baseball and football fields, which was a good thing. When the Berea Youth League begins in the fall, options could be discussed for the league assisting the City with maintaining the fields and keeping them in good condition.

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* Auditors were on site this week and working directly with the Finance Department. They sent out a fraud questionnaire to Council Members and other employees. Please complete the questionnaire as quickly as possible.
* Working on an RFP for blacktopping of streets and hoped to soon bring this before the Council.
* **Owsley Fork Project**

On June 30th, Kevin Howard, Utilities Director, and his staff met with the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Lexington to discuss design timeline and additional environmental impact. The Plan Environmental Analysis amendments and revised Site Civil Design should be completed by the end of October 2020. At that time the 90% Design Submittal would be turned into the National Design Center in Fort Worth.

If no revisions were required a construction funding secured, bid documents could be available by April 2021 and construction begin in the summer or fall of 2021.

Over the next few months, attention would be focused on the direct impact of the cemetery and timelines would be developed determining the sequencing and procedures of moving any gravesites that would be affected by raising the water levels.

Berea Municipal Utilities / City of Berea thanked the design team at Schnabel and Bell Engineering and the NRCS in getting the project design to this point and are excited to get this project to construction as quickly as possible.

* **Walnut Meadow Pump Station and South Middletown Trunk Line Improvement Project**

Approximately 3,000 feet of line had been installed and crucial bore under the CSX track had been completed. Boring would now begin under Menelaus Road and at the end of the Berea Bypass while continuing to lay pipe across the Brooklyn Boulevard area near the Bypass. Thank you to the effected property owners for their cooperation on this project.

* **O’Donnell Lane, Bluebird Avenue, and Bridge Avenue Sewer Line Improvement Project**

All in-house inspections and initial surveys had been completed. Over the next few weeks the City’s engineer would be working to develop plans and soon be ready to advertise for bids.

* **Holly Hill Sewer Line Project**

With the COVID-19 shutdowns, the manhole vendor had been working with half-staff. This caused delay in receiving the materials to begin the project. As of Monday, July 6th, the material was supposed to be delivered in two weeks and the project would begin immediately.

* **Tree Trimming**

With the new fiscal year beginning, the tree trimming contractor, Phillips Tree Experts, would be in town trimming areas of Center Street, Jackson Street, Estill Street, and Crescent Drive.

**MAYOR’S REPORT / COMMENTS**

* The USDA Rural Development notified the City of Berea that the proposal for the Rural Business Development Grant had been selected for funding of $100,000. This would be set aside for the Multi-Use Pavilion Project. This grant was in addition to the $250,000 grant received earlier in the year from the Governor’s Office of Agricultural Policy, which provided a total of $350,000 for the Multi-Use Pavilion
* Although Kentucky had been one of the few states with declining numbers of the COVID-19 cases, Nancy Crewe, Public Health Director for Madison County, reminded everyone to not let their guard down as businesses and activities were beginning to reopen. Hoping to prevent a resurgence, remember the guidelines, i.e. wash hands often, avoid close contact, cover mouth & nose with a cloth face cover when around others, cover coughs & sneezes, clean & disinfect often, and monitor your health condition.

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* Kentucky River Foothills resumed the Foothills Express Bus Service on a limited basis. Currently offering services at no charge. All passengers are to comply with seating arrangements

and wear cloth face coverings. Thank you to Kentucky River Foothills for resuming the service for Berea citizens.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Davis** apologized for statement made at previous meeting giving Public Works credit for paving Chestnut Street and wanted to thank the State Highway Department, District 7, for taking care of this repair. Encouraged everyone to support the local businesses, wear masks, and be safe. Thanked everyone for their comments.

**Rowlette** thanked Gregory for the thorough update of projects that were underway.

**Payne** thanked Daniel Brindley for his work on the e-mail migration. Thought Sharyn Mitchell was a well-chosen addition to the Human Rights Commission. Thanked LaDouceur for her speaking on racial unity as when only heard on the news, there is the tendency to think it doesn’t happen here. It helps to better understand and have empathy when you hear about personal experiences. Encouraged everyone to fill out and submit the census. As we are still under the pandemic, reminded everyone to continue to wear their masks, practice social distancing, wash your hands often, and shop locally.

**LaDouceur** congratulated Sharyn Mitchell for her appointment to the Human Rights Commission as she is an amazing choice and individual. Support local businesses and continue wearing your masks.

**Little** No comment.

**Caudill** was glad the City was able to have July 4th fireworks. Continue to shop and support local business as they reopen and be patient. From the Audit & Finance perspective, he had spoken with auditor, Drew, reaffirming the auditors were completely on schedule with plans to present in October.

Thanked everyone for their comments. He realized everyone would like to return to in-person meetings, but he wanted to make sure it was done right. If done too early, we may not be able to do the things we want to do.

**Wilson** thanked everyone for their comments. Support local businesses. Thanked Gregory for the information presented. Congratulated Sharyn Mitchell on her appointment to the Human Rights Commission. Thanked LaDouceur for sharing.

**Terrill** thanked Public Works for their work during the rain last week, two inches in forty-five minutes. The City’s stormwater had done good since the last flood in Berea.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Rowlette motioned; Davis seconded motion to adjourn to executive session.

All ayes; motion carried.

**MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

Caudill motioned; Little seconded motion to return to open session.

All ayes; motion carried.

Mayor Fraley stated the City Council met in Executive Session to discuss the potential appointment of an employee, in accordance with KRS61.810F. No decisions were made during the Executive Session.

Candidates were discussed for the Business and Tourism Development Director position. Announced he selected Donna Angel, the current Economic Development Director, for this position for the City of Berea.

Congratulations to Donna and encouraged all elected officials, City staff, and citizens to support Donna in her new role.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Caudill motioned; LaDouceur seconded motion to adjourn at 7:40 p.m.

All ayes.

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Mayor Bruce Fraley

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City Clerk