**BEREA CITY COUNCIL \_\_ SPECIAL CALLED MEETING \_\_\_\_ AUGUST 18, 2020**

The Berea City Council met in a special called meeting via videoconference, Tuesday, August 18, 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, Eric Scott,

Kevin Howard, Priscilla Bloom

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Joyce Mosher, Sue Blyth, Dr. Louisa Summers, Dr. Peter Hackbert

**INVOCATION:** Emily Ladouceur

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Jim Davis

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Rowlette motioned; Little seconded motion to approve agenda.

Roll Call Vote: All ayes

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 4, 2020**

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

Roll Call Vote: All ayes

**PUBLIC COMMENT -** D. Gregory

Gregory read public comments submitted opposing Resolution #12-2020 Juneteenth Day.

**TRAIL TOWN UPDATE - THE PINNACLES -** Dr. Louisa Summers

Dr. Louisa Summers presented on the potential economic impact of the Pinnacle Trails of Indian Fort Mountain and the impact of COVID-19.

The Pinnacles were owned and maintained by the Department of College Forestry at Berea College. The Pinnacle Trails were cited as the number one hiking attraction in the state of Kentucky in Outdoor Magazine in 2019 and provided an estimated 80,000 uses per year.

Methods used to review the economic impact were an online 26-item question survey and a 2019 / 2020 Hiker Infrared Trail Counter with the results showing an estimated 83,913 annual uses of the Pinnacle Trails. With 24% of hikers being day hikers and 50% of those within fifty miles of Berea, the idea was to encourage more users to increase their spending and experience while in Berea. Survey results show out of state visitors/hikers would spend more, within the City, than the local residents.

The Potential Economic Impact of Hikers for 2020, of an estimated 83,000 hikers, was approximately $500,000. Numbers were lower than 2019 which was believed to be due to COVID-19.

In conclusion, 75% of the Pinnacles’ hikers were non-Berea residents, the primary missed opportunity was with in-state hikers within fifty miles, 54% of users within fifty miles outside of Berea were reported as not spending money in town, and the four year expenditure average was $8.16 which was non-COVID related.

What next? A sign had been approved to place at the back of the Pinnacle’s Gatehouse and plans were to meet with business and city leaders to discuss drafts/prototypes for the sign. Also look for ways to direct hikers as they leave the Pinnacles, to experiment with incentives to come into a local restaurant, and find ways to use Berea’s assets to blend out of town travelers with local businesses.

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**PROCLAMATION – WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** Mayor Fraley read the proclamation in its entirety recognizing August 26, 2020 as Women’s Suffrage Celebration Day in the City of Berea for the 100th Anniversary of the Women’s Suffrage Amendment. Proclamation was presented to Joyce Mosher and Sue Blyth with the Berea Woman’s Club.

Mosher thanked Mayor Fraley for recognizing the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920 and read the actual 19th Amendment.

**PROCLAMATION – EDUCATORS DAY**

Mayor Fraley read the proclamation in its entirety recognizing August 26, 2020 as Educators Day in the City of Berea.

Proclamations would be presented to Berea Independent School, Madison County Schools, and Berea College.

**ELECTRIC RATE STUDY UPDATE -** Kevin Howard

Howard, Utilities Director, requested an extension until October for the electric rate study as the consultant, Catalyst Consulting, needed to gather more data. By the end of August, the preliminary numbers would be available for the period from July 2019 to June 2020 which would serve as a better indicator of revenue requirements.

Little motioned; LaDouceur seconded motion to approve extension of the electric rate study until October 6, 2020 for a final presentation to the Council.

Roll Call Vote: All ayes

**CODES ENFORCEMENT BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

Mayor Fraley requested a motion to approve re-appointment of Andrew Baskin to the Codes Enforcement Board for a three-year term.

Payne motioned; LaDouceur seconded motion.

Roll Call Vote: All ayes.

Mayor Fraley requested a motion to approve re-appointment of Ken Vasey to the Codes Enforcement Board for a three-year term.

Terrill motioned; LaDouceur seconded motion.

Roll Call Vote: All ayes.

**BID RECOMMENDATION -** D. Gregory

Gregory stated regarding the bids for the multi-use pavilion and a lengthy discussion with the architect and City Attorney, based upon recommendation, he recommended the City of Berea reject all bids and rebid for construction of the multi-use pavilion.

On a Federal USDA Grant it is often presumed prevailing wages were incorporated and they were not on this USDA Grant. It would be best to rebid the project.

Payne motioned; Rowlette seconded motion to reject all bids for the multi-use pavilion and rebid for construction.

Roll Call Vote: All ayes.

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**RESOLUTION #12-2020 JUNETEENTH DAY RESOLUTION**

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

Payne motioned: Caudill seconded motion to postpone Resolution #12-2020 indefinitely.

Payne stated although the Resolution acknowledged and credited white men for writing the Declaration of Independence, the Emancipation Proclamation, and Order Three delivered by General Gordon, it did not reach out to the African American community. A Juneteenth Resolution should be used to recognize the journey from statements of equality toward the practice of equality.

Returned to motion to postpone Resolution #12-2020 indefinitely.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Payne, LaDouceur, Caudill, Rowlette

Nays: Little, Wilson, Terrill, Davis

Nay: Mayor Fraley

Motion defeated 5 to 4; discussion permitted to continue.

Caudill withdrew original motion.

Little motioned; Wilson seconded motion to approve Resolution #12-2020.

Wilson noted the Resolution was submitted to her by a Berea College Alumni whose grandfather had taught at Berea College for over forty years. She forwarded the Resolution on to City Administrator, Gregory, and Mayor Fraley.

Caudill motioned; LaDouceur seconded motion to postpone Resolution #12-2020 until June 1, 2021.

Little asked why postpone until June 1, 2021.

Caudill stated as it was now August and they were moving to approve a Resolution based on a holiday in June. He felt it would be more impactful to have the Resolution in line with the actual celebration.

Return to motion to postpone Resolution #12-2020 until June 1, 2021.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Caudill, Payne, LaDouceur

Nays: Wilson, Terrill, Davis, Rowlette, Little

Motion defeated 5 to 3.

LaDouceur suggested a Work Session to correct the historical inaccuracies of the Resolution.

Davis motioned; LaDouceur seconded motion to postpone Resolution #12-2020 until the next City Council meeting, following a Work Session.

Roll Call Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE #15-20 VACATION CARRY-OVER HOURS - 1ST READING**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Ordinance #15-20 in its entirety.

Little asked for explanation of the vacation policy.

Gregory stated, with the original vacation policy, an employee was permitted to carry over forty hours. If an employee left the City, they were paid their currently earned vacation hours. The temporary change with Ordinance #15-20 was due to COVID-19 leave issues and/or scheduling allowing employees to schedule time off later without losing any hours.

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

* August 19, 2020 was his one-year anniversary as City Administrator. All would have never dreamed they would be dealing with a pandemic. Department Head and Employees have done their best to stay healthy at work and home. As everyone had goals and objectives within our government, all of these had been put on hold. He would like everyone to begin focusing on important issues within our government, especially long-range finance planning for our City. He hoped to soon begin discussing revenue. Once the first quarter is over, he hoped to begin examining the City’s future with the Audit & Finance Committee members. Also, after completing his first year as a City Administrator, he had re-examined his management responsibility he had with all departments.
* The City of Berea had received its first reimbursement, $778,000, from the Corona Virus Relief Fund from the Department of Local Government. The reimbursement was for related expenses which occurred from March 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020. Hopes were to get revenue closer to the actual expenses that occurred last budget year.
* Regarding the Budget Ordinance, Gregory requested an expenditure of $50,000 placed in line item 9300-56300, Utilities / Automobiles, due to a pick-up truck ordered last year which did not arrive and funding was not carried over. This needed to be amended but would not change the bottom line.

Little motioned; Payne seconded motion to place expenditure of $50,000 in line item 9300-56300, Automobiles, for pick-up truck.

Roll Call Vote: All ayes.

* Requested an increase of $60,000 in line item 1035-56610, Capital Projects, due to COVID-19 preventing the purchase of property related to the Cherry Road Drainage Project. This would not affect the bottom line.

Caudill motioned; Payne seconded motion to increase line item 1035-56610, Capital Projects, in

the amount of $60,000.

Roll Call Vote: All ayes.

* The City offices were still open by appointment only. With the increase of COVID-19 cases in Madison County, the City was working closely with the Madison County Health Department and would continue to operate by appointment only.
* The Richmond Road Project had a new project manager. The project needed to be reseeded in various areas, i.e. broken concrete, drainage boxes, and other minor areas. Currently, there was no timeline as the state did not have the funding.

**MAYOR’S REPORT / COMMENTS**

* The City of Berea Police Department was approved for a Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant in the amount of $250,000. Thanked and congratulated Police Chief, Scott, and his team / department for applying for and getting approved for the grant.
* Thanked Council Member, John Payne, for drafting the Educators Day Proclamation.
* Regarding COVID-19, four City employees had recently been diagnosed with the virus. Employees/Staff had been asked to double their efforts in protecting their families, co-workers, friends, and themselves by following the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. The City was working closely with the Madison County Health Department to ensure the well-being of all employees.
* Reminded everyone of the COVID-19 information provided on the City of Berea website.

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**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Davis** commended and appreciated the Madison County Lacrosse Team on picking up trash, during the past weekend, from the Berea College Alumni Building to the base of Scaffold Cane Road hill. Reminded everyone to stay safe and to continue to support local businesses during the pandemic.

**Rowlette** was glad to see the celebration of the 19th Amendment. Reminded everyone the Secretary of State’s plan for voting beginning in October through Election Day in November. Encouraged citizens to support students, educators, and administrators while adjusting to their new normal.

**Payne** reiterated Davis’ comment to support local businesses. A new sandwich shop was soon opening on the College Square and needed business. Read an article that Health Departments throughout Kentucky would begin issuing citations for businesses that do not comply with the mask mandate. As it had been said since March…wear your masks, social distance, wash your hands. Make sure to submit your census as it was very important to the community. Hoped to work through the Juneteenth Resolution at the next Council Meeting, put it to bed, and hopefully to the satisfaction of the community in whom we serve.

**LaDouceur** congratulated “Happy Jack’s,” the new sandwich shop, on their opening. Last Friday, August 14th, was Law Enforcement Appreciation Day and thanked that sector of City personnel. Invited everyone to a virtual town hall to share a vision for the future of Berea, Thursday, September 10th, 7 p.m.

**Little** thanked Kevin Howard, Utilities Director, for extending the electric rate study as it was very important to get the correct data on the electric rates.

**Caudill** was impressed with the Madison County Lacrosse Team on the trash pick-up. If everyone was wanting schools to open back up and get back to normal, we need to do everything we are being asked to do or schools aren’t going to open.

**Wilson** thanked everyone who spoke this evening. Hoped the Juneteenth Resolution could get passed. Encouraged everyone to go the website and get their own opinion, i.e. blacklivesmatter.com. Hoped everyone had a good night.

**Terrill** agreed with all comments. Thanked the IT Department for their help and taking care of his problems.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Caudill motioned; Rowlette seconded motion to adjourn at 8:07 p.m.

All ayes.

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Mayor Bruce Fraley

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City Clerk