**BEREA CITY COUNCIL \_\_ SPECIAL CALLED MEETING \_\_\_\_ SEPTEMBER 1, 2020**

The Berea City Council met in a special called meeting via videoconference, Tuesday, September 1, 2020.

Mayor Bruce Fraley presiding.

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

A WORK SESSION WAS HELD AT 5:30 P.M. TO DISCUSS

PROPERTY TAX COMPENSATION RATE

JUNETEENTH RESOLUTION

**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

**INVOCATION:** Jerry Little

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Jerry Little

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Rowlette motioned; Caudill seconded motion to approve agenda.

Caudill motioned; LaDouceur seconded motion to remove item #8, Juneteenth Day Resolution 12-2020, from the agenda until the following meeting.

Roll Call Vote: All ayes

Return to original motion.

Rowlette motioned; Caudill seconded motion to approve agenda.

Roll Call Vote: All ayes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 18, 2020**

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

Roll Call Vote: All ayes

**PUBLIC COMMENTS -** D. Gregory

None

**ORDINANCE #15-20 VACATION CARRY-OVER HOURS - 2nd READING**

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

Little motioned; LaDouceur seconded motion to approve and adopt Ordinance #15-20.

Roll Call Vote: All ayes

**ORDINANCE #16-20 AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX - 1ST READING**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Ordinance #16-20, stating Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 contained standard provisions for the collection of taxes proposed herein.

Caudill explained the current 2019 property tax rate is 0.105%. The City was able to lower the rate for the citizens to 0.104%, a 1% reduction. If there was not a change in the valuation of property, the actual ad valorem taxes paid to the city would decrease.

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

* City Staff had been working on the policies and procedures manual. The first draft had been with the assistance of attorneys from Kentucky League of Cities (KLC). The manual covered hiring & employment, general employment policies and rules, employee code of ethics, employee financial practices, classification and compensation, health, retirement, and other benefits, paid and unpaid leave. Plans were to have the manual adopted for January 1, 2021.
* The Finance Department had been working on and preparing for the audit and had processed 2,025 pages of transactions. Thanked Susan Meeks, Director of Finance, and her team for what they do and accomplish for the City. They work hard behind the scenes to make sure all departments comply with policies and rules. The auditors would be in-house the week of September 7th to finish the audit and would be providing the Council a report in October.
* The Allen Company had Berea on their list for blacktopping which should begin in approximately two weeks. The effected property owners would be notified.
* The Public Works Department completed a 3D crosswalk in Old Town at the intersection of Broadway and Adams Streets.
* The Parks Department had been busy with field preparations for the upcoming fall ball season and continued routine maintenance for the parks.
* Administration was aware of a proposed payroll tax deferral that was scheduled to begin September 1, 2020. After both, internal and external discussions, it was determined there was not enough information available to make the change. Without legislation, the deferral would negatively affect employees in 2021. If / When additional information became available from the U.S. Treasury or IRS, the decision would be re-evaluated.
* Upcoming Events:
* Halloween; most cities were waiting until early October in making decisions for Halloween events.
* US 25 Yard Sale was scheduled for October 2nd & 3rd, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**MAYOR’S REPORT / COMMENTS**

* Recently, many inquiries had been received regarding displaying temporary signs. The City’s current sign regulations, according the Land Management & Development Ordinance (LMDO), allowed temporary signage of 32 square feet or smaller to be placed on or after October 1st and removed by November 15th. After consulting with the City Attorney, considering the amount of questions and the general election for 2020 would be quite different due to COVID-19, temporary signage would be allowed without the need for a permit and/or fee. This would be effective immediately within the City Limits of Berea. Keep in mind that temporary signs should not be placed in the rights-of-way or site triangles of any intersection.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Davis** thanked Andrew Baskin for his insight, during the Work Session, regarding the Juneteenth Day Resolution. Looking forward to the final / updated Resolution.

**Rowlette** appreciated Administration and colleagues working to keep taxes low. Encouraged citizens to continue to support local businesses.

**Payne** echoed previous comments. Continue to wear your masks, social distance, and follow the guidelines to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Reminded everyone to submit their census as this is the last week for submittal. Support local businesses. Contacts had been made with local businesses inquiring of which ones had internet access (Wi-Fi) in which they could share with students. If you are a business with Wi-Fi that you are willing to share, please contact the City or the Public Library.

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**LaDouceur** highlighted the new mural in Old Town, 210 North Broadway. The mural was dedicated last week and commissioned by Dr. Edd Easton-Hogg. The mural is of Mary Eliza Merritt, a 1902 graduate of Berea College’s nursing program and the first African American to be licensed as a registered nurse in Kentucky. There was also a mural, of Bell Hooks, on the patio wall of nearby Apollo Pizza. Loved the mural movement as it contrasts a lot of the architecture. It’s beautiful and important to see public art.

**Little** No comment.

**Caudill** stated the mural in Old Town was amazing. Thanked Mr. Baskin for his insight, knowledge of history, and invaluable information regarding the Juneteenth Day Resolution.

Appreciated the work done on the Ad Valorem Property Taxes.

Madison County Schools were beginning virtual classes on September 2nd.  Commended Councilman, John Payne, and the Public Library in helping to provide resources to students.

**Wilson** echoed others’ comments. Appreciated Andrew Baskin for his insight taking the time to speak with the Council. Shop local, have a good September.

**Terrill** stated Burger King opened! Support Berea restaurants.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Caudill motioned; Rowlette seconded motion to adjourn at 7:01 p.m.

All ayes.

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Mayor Bruce Fraley

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City Clerk