**BEREA CITY COUNCIL \_\_ SPECIAL CALLED MEETING \_\_ \_\_\_\_DECEMBER 15, 2020**

The Berea City Council met in a special called meeting via videoconference, Tuesday, December 15, 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 5:45 PM

CENTRAL KENTUCKY REGIONAL AIRPORT

EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

PRESIDENT DAVID MCFADDIN AND ETHAN WITT

**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,

Donna Angel, Kevin Howard, Priscilla Bloom

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Craig Williams, Program Director, Kentucky Environmental Foundation; John Steinmetz, Banks Engineering; Todd Johnson, Todd Johnson Contracting, Inc.; David Bailey

**INVOCATION:** Jerry Little

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Jerry Little

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Caudill motioned; Rowlette seconded motion to approve agenda.

Roll Call Vote: All ayes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 1, 2020**

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

Roll Call Vote: All ayes

**PUBLIC COMMENTS -** D. Gregory

Ali Blair - Berea Resident

Re: The City of Berea’s released video of “Christmas in the Village” and asked for the video to be removed.

Disappointed with the City of Berea’s decision to use a marketing campaign for “Christmas in the Village.” Felt this was not inclusive of all faiths and the definition of discrimination as those who belong to minority religious groups and exercise their right as individuals to speak about the issue face backlash from community members, who do not share their beliefs, and from elected leaders, who may penalize the causes they champion and/or represent because of their religious beliefs.

**KENTUCKY ENVIRONMENTAL FOUNDATION DE-MIL BRIEFING -** Craig Williams

Craig Williams, Program Director, Kentucky Environmental Foundation, presented a slide presentation on the status and operations schedule of the demilitarization project, i.e., Chemical Weapons Disposal Program. Completion date was projected for December 2023.

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To plan for the economic future of post de-mil, an Economic Impact Working Group had been set up within the Governor’s Commission. The group was a collaborative effort between local governments, Kentucky’s CODEL, Chambers of Commerce, Industry, the Army, KY Cabinet for Economic Development, Area Development District, and BGCAPP’s primary contractor (Bechtel Corporation) and Bechtel Enterprises.

**BID OPENING – 2021 SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT -** Mayor Fraley

Mayor Fraley opened bids. Six bids received.

* Lagco, Inc.

Lexington, KY Received 11/16/20 Total Bid $1,225,873.00

* Connhurst, LLC

Wallingford, KY Received 11/16/20 Total Bid $ 764,929.60

* Akins Excavating Company, Inc.

Corbin, KY Received 11/16/20 Total Bid $ 659,657.75

* Leak Eliminators

Lexington, KY Received 11/16/20 Total Bid $ 849,778.00

* Todd Johnson Contracting, Inc.

Danville, KY Received 11/16/20 Total Bid $ 723,743.27

* Buchanan Contracting

Winchester, KY Received 11/16/20 Total Bid $ 763,804.00

Bids would be presented to Berea Municipal Utilities Director, Kevin Howard, for review and recommendation.

**MUNICIPAL ORDER #03-20 ONE-TIME PAYMENT TO FRONT LINE PERSONNEL**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Municipal Order #03-20 in its entirety.

Gregory provided background regarding proposed Municipal Order #03-20 stating the one-time funding was provided through the CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) in which the City received reimbursement for COVID-19 related expenses in July and September of 2020. As the City followed State and Federal recommendations, sending many employees home to work and/or placed on administrative leave, creating teams/rotating work schedules, to make certain the City could continue operations in case any staff member(s) became incapacitated with COVID-19. Sworn-In First Responders could not be excused from duty, could not work from home, and required to perform their normal duties which included close personal contact and social distancing was not always possible. First Responders were and continued to be at high risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of their job(s). On a nationwide basis, pay for police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical service workers were deemed to be COVID related. Receiving the CARES Act reimbursement allowed the City to maintain services to the citizens, prevented layoffs and furloughs of full-time, permanent City employees during the sharp decline of City revenue due to the economic shutdown.

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LaDouceur did not support the Municipal Order only applying to Police and Fire as there were other employees who were not able to stay and/or work from home, with the risk of being exposed, who should be included. Although she was not against the support for Police and Fire, she suggested finding a way to support all employees equally.

Payne stated he also respected the work of Utilities, Public Works, etc. as they were there the whole time.

Caudill stated all employees were essential and agreed that all employees should be considered. He felt the Order should be approved and then look at other groups.

Terrill motioned to call for the previous question.

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

Nays Payne, Caudill, LaDouceur

Motion defeated.

LaDouceur remained to have a concern that this topic would not be revisited for the remainder of the City staff as everyone should be supported.

Wilson supported Municipal Order #03-20 and agreed other employees should be included. The ball would not be dropped.

Payne agreed with Caudill and Wilson.

Rowlette motioned; Wilson seconded motion to approve and adopt Municipal Order #03-20.

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

Nays LaDouceur

Motion carried.

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

Per the October 19, 2020 Executive Order from the Governor’s Office, beginning November 6, 2020, utilities across the Commonwealth could resume disconnects in accordance with local tariffs and ordinances. The Utilities Office was working on letters for disconnect of non-payment on customers. Payment arrangements for monthly installments would be set up for the past few balances.

**MAYOR’S REPORT / COMMENTS**

* Per the Kentucky Heritage Council, the Berea Downtown Business District, i.e., Chestnut Street, most of North Broadway, and the Berea College Square, had been approved to be placed on the National Registry of Historic Places.
* Invited City Staff and others to participate/volunteer in Berea Kids Eat holiday food distribution. No contact pick-up would be at Berea Community School providing meals for children.
* Encouraged everyone to read the article in the December 3, 2020 Lexington Herald Leader featuring Berea in Kentucky Homemade Gifts, the Best Artists and Holiday Events from the State. Thanked the Tourism staff for working on this.

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**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Little** No comment.

**LaDouceur** Peace to everyone, been great serving the last two years representing Berea, hoped City Council would start doing the right thing for our people.

**Caudill** Thanked David and Emily for their time served on the City Council. Hoped everyone had a good holiday season. Proud of the work that had done during the past year. Hoping to have the Mountain Bike Trail RFP out soon. Thanked Craig Williams for the demilitarization project update. Challenged City Government and Council Members to begin making plans for 2023 regarding the impact on the completion of the demilitarization project, i.e., Chemical Weapons Disposal Program. Thanked everyone and have a good holiday.

**Payne** Looked forward to the follow up regarding showing appreciation for City workers. Expressed sadness over the milestones reached of over 300,000 deaths and 100,000 currently hospitalized due to COVID. Hoped Council and City employees, as leaders, would follow guidance by setting good examples, i.e., wearing masks, social distancing, and washing hands. Happy holidays, shop local. Thanked Emily and David for their last two years of service, hoping each of them would continue serving the community in their own way.

**Wilson** Wished everyone a Merry Christmas. Wished the best to David and Emily. Council would follow up on appreciation for City workers and it would not be dropped. Have a great Christmas.

**Rowlette** It had been an honor and privilege to serve on the City Council for the last three years, a tremendous learning curve. Appreciated the support from other Council Members. Encouraged listeners to spend quality time with family and friends during the holidays. Wished the new Council the best of luck on the coming two years.

**Terrill** Thanked the Street Department for moving the Welcome to Berea sign. Looked good. Good luck to David. Merry Christmas and happy New Year. Be safe.

**Davis** Cautiously optimistic about the bypass, he will believe it when he sees it. Thanked David for his service to the City for the last three years. Thanked Craig Williams for the update on the depot. Thanked Dr. McFaddin and Ethan Witt regarding the airport as it is an important part of economic development for our community and county. Thanked the scouts and their families for picking up trash around the City, helping to keep our City clean. Shop local. Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and happy New Year.

**REQUEST FOR MOTION TO ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION –** To Discuss the Future Sale of Real Property per KRS.61.810(1)(b)

Little motioned; Caudill seconded motion to adjourn to Executive Session.

Roll Call Vote: All ayes

Davis motioned; Payne seconded motion to return to Regular Session.

Roll Call Vote: All ayes.

City Council met in Executive Session to discuss the potential sale of real property for economic development purposes. No decisions were made during closed session.

Mayor Fraley stated during closed session he would be requesting a motion to enter into a contract with Stream Go Media, LLC to sell the Broadway Center, 204 North Broadway, and the Broadway Center parking lot, 213 Washington Avenue, to Stream Go Media, LLC for $435,000, for

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economic development purposes. Subject to approval of the Berea City Council, by and through an ordinance authorizing the sale of the property.

Caudill motioned; Davis seconded motion to enter into a contract with Stream Go Media, LLC to sell property located at 204 North Broadway and 213 Washington Avenue.

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

Nays None

Abstained Payne, LaDouceur

Motioned carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Caudill motioned; Payne seconded motion to adjourn at 7:54 p.m.

All ayes.

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Mayor Bruce Fraley

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City Clerk