**BEREA CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING FEBRUARY 16, 2021**

The Berea City Council met in a special called meeting via videoconference, Tuesday, February 16, 2021.

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

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEWS

FIRE, PARKS, POLICE

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Jim Davis, Teresa Scenters, John Payne, Katie Startzman, Jerry Little,

Steve Caudill, Cora Wilson, Ronnie Terrill

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Jerry Gilbert, David Gregory, Robin Adams, Daniel Brindley, Eric Scott,

Shawn Sandlin, Donna Angel, Kevin Howard, Priscilla Bloom

**INVOCATION:** Cora Wilson

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Ronnie Terrill

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Davis motioned; Caudill seconded motion to approve agenda.

Roll Call Vote: All ayes

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 2, 2021**

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

Roll Call Vote: All ayes

**PUBLIC COMMENTS -** D. Gregory

None

**BID RECOMMENDATION - MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL -** David Gregory

Gregory recommended acceptance of the bid submitted from Parson’s Construction Services Inc., from Greensburg, KY, in the amount of $101,550.00, for the Mountain Bike Trail and Construction located on J.C. Chambers Road.

A breakdown was presented for each phase. Pricing had been confirmed with the Public Works Department for various alternatives on the Parson’s Construction Services’ bid with Parson’s having the best pricing.

With three verified recommendations, contractor had provided quality work and highly recommended.

The proposed scheduled date for the project to begin was April 2, 2021 with a completion date of July 18, 2021.

Caudill motioned; Startzman seconded motion to accept bid recommendation.

Roll Call Vote: All ayes

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**ORDINANCE #04-2021 - COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES - 1ST READING**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, as being subject to a work session in January, summarized the ordinance by title.

Ordinance #04-2021 was an update from Ordinance #16-2005, prepared by the Law Firm of Linda K. Ain (special counsel), and reviewed and approved by J.T. Gilbert, Corporate Counsel.

A brief discussion was held regarding remaining and/or cut off poles, pole attachment agreements, franchise agreements, new developments, competition increase, future bids, etc.

**ORDINANCE #03-2021 - SURPLUS PROPERTY - 2nd READING**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Ordinance #03-2021 in entirety.

Once Ordinance had been published, a website link would be provided for on-line bidding.

Little motioned; Payne seconded motion to approve and adopt Ordinance #03-2021.

Roll Call Vote: All ayes

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

* Praised all departments involved in the emergency declaration of the ice event.

The Utilities Department had worked non-stop on power outages and had gone 30+ hours without sleep.

Public Works worked in two 12-hour shifts clearing the streets. A lot of good communication took place, were professional in knowing what to do, and had not wasted salt supply.

Parks Department’s seasonal employees helped the Public Works Department with plowing, etc.

Along with their emergency calls and many other daily duties, Police and Fire also assisted in monitoring city streets.

* Praised City Council for passing the budget for Tree Trimming Services as it had paid off during the current weather event.
* Parks Department had a baseball field protection net damaged by the ice. Before replacing and/or repairing, they may need to review other, more appropriate, types of fencing for protection.
* Kevin Howard, Berea Municipal Utilities Director, provided an update on the current power outage situation. He was proud of his staff, their team effort, and not wanting to go home leaving customers without power. Thanked Administration and the City Council for their support. A BIG hats off to Public Works, Police, and Fire as they were able to maneuver the City Streets and First Responders were always there to assist. Also thanked customers for their patience.
* Shawn Sandlin, Fire Chief, gave kudos to Howard (BMU) and Department Heads working together as 95% of their runs were power lines and/or blown transformers.
* Eric Scott, Police Chief, thanked Howard (BMU), Sandlin (Fire), and Davidson (Public Works) and their teams as they had been amazing during the ice storm as Police and Fire were unable to assist citizens if they could not get to them. Call volume was down and appreciated citizens for staying home, off the streets.

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**MAYOR’S REPORT / COMMENTS**

* Expressed the importance of City Staff and proud of the Utilities, Public Works, Fire, and Police Departments for their work during the weather conditions in the past two weeks. They were ready for any emergency, it was a total team effort, and we owed them for doing their job well. Thanked all those involved and appreciated everything that was done to keep the City in good shape.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Davis** Thanked City Administrator, Mayor, and Departments Heads for formulating a plan before bad weather hit. Thanked city employees for their work in helping to get through the winter storm situation. An Economic Development Meeting was scheduled for February 22nd. Four new businesses opened in January, i.e., The Portal, Christina Stallard Photography, Mother Wella Doula, and Hallmark Portable Buildings. Remember Tom Howser, a cancer survivor, (organizer of Swing for a Cure Softball Tournament) in your thoughts and prayers as he had been on life support for 30+ days.

**Caudill** Echoed the Mayor’s comments to all city departments for a job well done during the weather conditions in the past couple of weeks. Thanked City Council and Tourism Commission for their support on the Mountain Bike Trail proposal.

**Startzman** Shared an update on the Artist Search Committee. They were organizing a survey to identify people working in the creative economy sector of Berea and help support their vision. Valerie Henderson, Director of Kentucky Small Business Development Center of Berea, had assisted in getting the survey organized. Once the survey was approved, it would be placed on social media for responses.

**Wilson** Thanked and appreciated all the City Departments for their work during the winter storm. Berea looked really good. As a former City employee, she knew it took every department for the City to function well.

**Little** Thanked all departments for their work during the ice storm. Suggested consideration of preventive maintenance on tree trimming on a regular basis. Requested a future work session regarding a dog park. A Public Works meeting was scheduled for March 1st, 6:00 p.m., via zoom. Echoed others’ comments for the City employees’ work during the winter storm. Stay safe, we would get through this.

**Terrill** Berea had the best City workers in Kentucky. They had done a good job.

**Payne** Thanked City employees for doing a phenomenal job with the magnitude of the winter event of snow and ice.

**Scenters** Echoed others’ comments. The City was blessed to have such dedicated staff and leadership. We would get through it. Berea was fortunate to be able to talk about more fun projects, i.e., the Mountain Bike Trail, dog park, etc. Glad to see the City moving forward.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Caudill motioned; Payne seconded motion to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

All ayes

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Mayor Bruce Fraley

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City Clerk