**BEREA CITY COUNCIL \_\_ SPECIAL CALLED MEETING \_\_\_ MARCH 2, 2021**

The Berea City Council met in a special called meeting via videoconference, Tuesday, March 2, 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 6:00 PM

AMENDED BUDGET #2

**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,

Shawn Sandlin, Eric Scott, Donna Angel, Amanda Haney, Susan Meeks, Kevin Howard, Priscilla Bloom, Scott Adams, Shelby Bryant

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Kathy Scheller, Director of Government Affairs, MetroNet

Linda Ain, Attorney, Law Firm of Linda K. Ain

**INVOCATION:** Cora Wilson

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Cora Wilson

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Davis motioned; Wilson seconded motion to approve agenda.

Roll Call Vote: All ayes

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

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

Roll Call Vote: All ayes

**PUBLIC COMMENTS -** D. Gregory

Emily LaDouceur submitted a comment with a series of questions / concerns regarding budgetary decisions, namely the decision to enter a lease agreement with Enterprise to add three Teslas to the Police Department’s fleet of vehicles. She appreciated any earnest desire to go greener and save money over long term and would have liked to believe this was the driving force behind choosing Teslas.

**METRONET UPDATE -** Kathy Scheller, Director of Government Affairs

Scheller appreciated the due diligence of bringing this opportunity to the City of Berea. MetroNet began in 2004 in Evansville, IN and currently in nine states. MetroNet was a fiberoptic network offering symmetrical speed with broadband capability to offer internet, television, and phone services and were currently the fastest growing privately held internet provider in the country. Berea would have the opportunity to accommodate emerging technology. Communication / Customer Service was important, and they would be providing contact information to the residents. They looked forward to the impact provided to the City and becoming a corporate partner. Hoped to have final approval for Berea in Mid-March and looked forward to working with the City, residents, and businesses.

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**PERSONNEL UPDATE -** Chief Shawn Sandlin

Chief Shawn Sandlin introduced Shelby Bryant, the Berea Fire Department’s first female firefighter. She came to Berea with her 400 hours career certification through the State of Kentucky, had recently obtained her physical ability certification, and projected date to be on shift was March 10th. They were excited to have her in Berea and looked forward to her contributions.

Bryant was honored to be the first female firefighter in Berea and loving Berea. She had learned a lot, grown as a firefighter and was excited to work with the City of Berea.

Scott Adams, Training Officer, stated Berea Fire Department was now able to provide standardized training which provided consistency with new recruits. As the Training Officer was solely in charge of new recruits, while working with Bryant, he felt the Training Officer position had made a tremendous difference in training.

**ORDINANCE #04-2021 - COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES - 2nd READING**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Ordinance #04-2021 by summary.

Linda Ain, Attorney, The Law Firm of Linda K. Ain, stated the current cable franchise with Charter Communications had expired. The Ordinance would provide for any communications providers coming to Berea in the future and each service would be required to obtain a communications franchise. The City was required to advertise for non-exclusive franchises and could grant as many franchises as possible that could comply with the ordinance and/or needed.

As there were concerns regarding pole attachments, Ain reiterated that Pole Attachment Agreements were separate from the ordinance and were per provider / franchise.

Caudill motioned; Scenters seconded motion to approve and adopt Ordinance #04-2021.

Roll Call Vote: All ayes

**ORDINANCE #05-2021 - AMENDED BUDGET #2 - 1ST READING**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Ordinance #05-2021 in its entirety.

An Audit & Finance meeting was held on Monday, March 1st, to review and/or discuss Ordinance #05-2021 and a Work Session was held prior to the City Council meeting for any remaining questions or

concerns.

**ORDINANCE #06-2021 - ZONE CHANGE FOR 765 SCAFFOLD CANE ROAD FROM R-2 (TWO FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) TO R-3 (MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) - 1ST READING**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Ordinance #06-2021 in its entirety.

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

* Publics Works Department continued to clean storm drains and repair potholes on City Streets due to the recent ice storm and flooding issues.
* Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, District 7, reported they would begin pothole repair on State Roads but did not provide a timeline.
* Currently working with insurance brokers on renewal surveys and finding the best rate(s) for the City on Property, Liability, and Workers Compensation from Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) for the next fiscal year.

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* Working with the Health Insurance Broker, BIM Group, on the health plan renewal for the City. Fully insured or self-funding options for the 2022 renewal plan would be reviewed. BIM Group consultants would be working on and presenting a benefits analysis in May 2021.
* The Allen Company received the contract for the Berea By-Pass. A pre-construction meeting was scheduled for March 3rd with District 7 and the State. Although a timeline for completion would be determined, the project was scheduled to be completed within 360 days, weather permitting.
* Staff recently had software training with Susan Meeks, Finance Director. Plans were to be able to utilize the software in planning for the five-year capital plan.
* Surplus vehicles were in the process of being added to govdeals.com for the on-line auction which was to take place in the next 2-3 weeks.

**MAYOR’S REPORT / COMMENTS**

* Last week Governor Beshear, along with Transportation Secretary / COVID-19 Project Manager, Jim Gray, Rocky Adkins, Senior Advisor, and Dr. Steven Stack, Commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Public Health, held a video conference with Kentucky Mayors and Judge Executives around the State with a COVID-19 update.

COVID-19 cases and positivity rate had declined, testing and/or vaccinations were encouraged, and at the state level, expectations were that anyone who wanted to get a vaccination should be able to get one by the end of June 2021.

* Public Works Department Staff were out Sunday evening, working hard to put out high water signs on the roads and clearing drains due to flooding. Fire and Police Departments were also involved assisting calls and making sure the streets were safe.

Anyone with stormwater concerns could visit Berea’s website (bereaky.gov) and/or Facebook page and complete a form for submission.

If anyone was in a FEMA designated floodplain and had damage, there was a requirement to have a substantial damage assessment and obtain proper permits before repair work could be done. Tom Moreland, Certified Floodplain Manager, and Jean-Luc Dobson, MS-4 Coordinator, both with the City of Berea, could investigate any issues and recommend any mitigation, if needed.

* Keep northern Madison County and surrounding counties in your thoughts and prayers due to major flooding.
* Announced appointments for Boards/Commissions as follows:
* Rick Thomas, Tourist & Convention Commission, 2nd Full Term
* Heather Resor, Berea Industrial Authority, 1st Full Term
* Greg Lakes, Berea Industrial Authority, 2nd Full Term
* Bruce Fraley, Chair, Berea Industrial Authority

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Terrill** Reminded everyone that the Berea Independent School all-inclusive Playground Project still needed $10,000 to complete the project/equipment.

**Wilson** Thanked the Berea Police Department for their response to a call and greatly appreciated the work they do and the risks they take for the citizens. Thanked everyone for attending her Dad’s, Johnny Todd, 90th birthday celebration.

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**Caudill** Thanked everyone for their work on the budget. Commended the new firefighter, Shelby Bryant. There were a lot of good things going on in Berea and excited about the by-pass beginning completion. As it had been a tough time in the past few weeks due to ice storms, snowstorms, and flooding, remember to check on you neighbors.

**Little** The City had to wait until water receded in order to work on the potholes on City Streets and asked the citizens to please be patient as the Public Works / Street Department were doing the best they could. Also asked the citizens to keep in mind that all Berea streets were not City Streets and the City was not responsible for repairing all streets. Thanked everyone for doing the best they could do.

**Startzman** As being a part of theComprehensive Plan update process, she had concerns regarding traffic for new development and/or zone change at 765 Scaffold Cane Road, did Scaffold Cane Road have the ability to handle additional traffic from the proposed project. Concerned about flooding issues and would like to have public conversation of how flooding was prioritized and future plans. Was at the City Hall event for the unveiling of the Police Department’s new cars. Although she was grateful for the City setting a high standard for technology, she would also like to see equity between departments. Asked the Administration and/or Council to consider bringing one or two social workers on staff as she saw opportunities in the community that would be well served.

**Davis** Welcomed the newest firefighter, Shelby Bryant. Thanked City employees for their hard work during the ice and flooding.

**Scenters** Welcomed the historic event of Berea’s first female firefighter, Shelby Bryant. Happy Birthday Mr. Todd. Public Works, Police, and Fire had done a fabulous during the bad weather. Glad the Communications Ordinance was passed, the possibility of having free market competition was always a good thing for the consumer. Everyone have a good week.

**Payne** Excited about all things new.Thankful forpublic employees and their hard work. Looked forward to checking out the new Police cruisers and body cameras. Glad to see the City finding economical equipment and providing the opportunity to move us into the new decade.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Caudill motioned; Wilson seconded motion to adjourn at 8:02 p.m.

All ayes

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Mayor Bruce Fraley

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City Clerk