**BEREA CITY COUNCIL \_\_\_ \_\_ REGULAR MEETING \_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_ JANUARY 18, 2022**

The Berea City Council met in a regular session, Tuesday, January 18, 2022.

Mayor Bruce Fraley presiding.

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

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Jim Davis, Katie Startzman, John Payne, Jerry Little, Steve Caudill,

Cora Wilson, Ronnie Terrill

**COUNCIL ABSENT:** Teresa Scenters, Steve Caudill

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Jerry Gilbert, Rose Beverly, Robin Adams, Daniel Brindley, Donna Angel,

Priscilla Bloom, Eric Scott

**OFFICIALS ABSENT:** None

**INVOCATION:** Cora Wilson

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Cora Wilson

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Davis motioned; Startzman seconded motion to approve agenda as presented.

Vote: All ayes

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 4, 2022**

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

Vote: All ayes

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**BEREA COLLEGE UPDATE -** Lyle Roelofs

Spring Semester student move in process had been completed as of January 18th. Students were required to show a negative COVID test before returning to campus. Approximately ten percent of returning students had tested positive and had been asked to delay their arrival. The college was operating on a high vaccination / booster rate, hoping few cases, if any, would be serious.

Berea College had begun generating electricity at their hydropower plant on the Kentucky River, near Ravenna, Estill County. Last semester they had a dedication celebration at the dam, distributing to participants a piece of the cable delivering electricity from the underwater generators to the control building, delivering electricity to the households of Jackson County. Berea College sold the electricity to Jackson Electric Cooperative, which resulted in reduced electric bills for their customers. Expected return on this investment was approximately ten percent for the College. Although their Board of Trustees were skeptical of this project working with dam #12, having seen the results, the Board had given authorization to proceed with a similar project at dam #14, near Heidelberg, KY.

Horse logging was going well. They had an addition of two new foals, which gave them three horse teams and one mule team, with a future goal of six teams and loggers. A new stable had recently been started on Shortline Pike for the horses which would provide better accommodations. As horse logging was intrinsically appealing, visitors would be able to meet the horses and see them at work.

Thanked the City workers for keeping the roads passible during the bad weather, helping students to arrive and faculty / staff getting to work.

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**PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENT -** Mayor Fraley

Mayor Fraley requested Council approval of Denise Hagan-Rubin for a four-year term on the Berea Planning Commission to expire January 18, 2026.

Payne motioned; Startzman seconded motion to approve appointment of Denise Hagan-Rubin for a four-year term on the Berea Planning Commission.

Voice Vote: All ayes

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS UPDATE -** Mayor Fraley

The US Treasury Department had issued the final rule (437-page document) for ARPA funding on January 6, 2022. The document governed how states, counties, and cities could utilize ARPA funds. The final rule would become effective on April 1, 2022. Cities with under ten million dollars in ARPA funds could use the ‘standard allowance’ and treat all funds as revenue loss. The funds could be applied to any general government service that benefitted the citizens, thus providing maximum discretion of flexibility. Prior to the issuance of the final rule, states, counties, and cities had to operate under an ‘interim final rule,’ which was more restrictive. Advice received from Kentucky League of Cities (KLC), Bluegrass Area Development District (BGADD), the Kentucky Department for Local Government, and the City’s Finance Director, was to not make any plans for using the funds until the final rule was issued by the US Treasury Department due to being subject to changes. In December 2021, Berea City Council approved a bid from the BGADD to provide administrative services for administrating the ARPA funds which involved stringent reporting responsibility and use. The City of Berea would be receiving a total of *$4,141,082* in ARPA funds. Half of this amount had been received, with the second half expected to be received on/or about June of 2022. ARPA funds must be obligated, i.e., committed to use the funds by December 31, 2024, and must be spent by December 31, 2026.

**ORDINANCE #01-2022 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, BY ADDING SECTION 31.315, PROHIBITING WASTEWATER TREATMENT SERVICE TO ANY PRIVATE COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OUTSIDE OF THE CORPORATE LIMITS AND WHICH IS ADJACENT AND CONTIGUOUS TO THE CITY BOUNDARIES. - 2ND READING**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Ordinance #01-2022 in entirety.

Little motioned; Wilson seconded motion to approve and adopt Ordinance #01-2022.

Roll Call Vote: All ayes

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT -** R. Beverly

* One bid was received for an RFP for a City vehicle.

Mayor Fraley opened bid reporting the following:

Don Franklin Somerset Inc., Somerset, KY $41,642 Received 1/11/22

Mayor Fraley referred bid to City Administrator for further analysis.

* Gave a huge thank you to the Public Works, Police, Fire, and Utilities Departments for their work during the recent inclement weather conditions. Many compliments had been received from the citizens. Public Works worked through the night on snow removal, clearing roads and spreading salt. Police and Fire continued providing their normal services while traveling the icy roads, also providing live updates on road conditions. Water, Sewer, and Electric had no

weather-related power outages and/or issues which was a testament to the care and dedication of daily maintenance.

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* Two ribbon cuttings took place this week for businesses opening in Berea, i.e., Berea Nutrition, 711 Chestnut St, and T-Mobile Phone Service, Jill Dr.
* Watch for additional ‘coming soon’ grand openings, i.e., Bad Wolf Gaming, a cookie shop, Honeysuckle restaurant, and an auction facility/services office.
* Tourism had an upcoming weekend filled with LearnShops throughout the City. Contact the Tourism office to register for classes.

**MAYOR’S REPORT / COMMENTS**

* Added praises for Public Works and other City Staff. A true team effort of Public Works,

Fire, Police, and Utilities to keep our City running during inclement weather. Appreciated the hard work.

* January 10, 2022, the Berea Industrial Development Authority (BIDA) sold 10.8 acres in the Menelaus Industrial Park to Menelaus Berea Spec, LLC, an affiliate of MP Kelly Design & Construction, Richmond, KY. Plans were to construct a 50,000 sq. ft. spec building on the site during 2022. The building would assist BIDA and the City in continuing to attract quality employers. Other cities had been very successful with the spec building process and appreciated their investment in the City.
* On behalf of the City, expressed sincere condolences to Council Member, Teresa Scenters, on the unexpected passing of her husband, Tex Scenters, on January 7th. Keep Teresa and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Davis** Acknowledged the Public Works Department and other City Staff for their work this weekend during the inclement weather, keeping the streets cleared. Did a fabulous job. Kentucky Fried Chicken opened, located on the corner of HWY 21 and North Dogwood.

**Wilson** Thanked everyone for attending, getting out in the cold weather. Public Works did a great job on the streets during the past few days. Appreciated Public Works and Utilities for the work they do. Appreciated the video updates, from the Police Department, regarding the street situation updates due to the winter weather.

**Startzman** Grateful for the new businesses opening in town. Highlighted the Facebook group, Women Entrepreneurs of Berea, and upcoming informational meetings. A lot of good energy for entrepreneurship in town.

**Terrill** Berea should be smiling for the work of the City Staff this past weekend. Amazed at the work they did and appreciated that there were no electric outages due to such a heavy snow. Thanked everyone that worked for the City.

**Payne** Echoed sentiments of fellow council members and Mayor Fraley. Shared available website for free COVID test kits, i.e., covidtests.gov.

**Little** Thanked all City Departments for their hard work during the snowstorm. Requested Codes Department be placed on the next Council Meeting agenda, would like to discuss the importance of the Codes Department to the City, the citizens, and Economic Development.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Payne motioned; Davis seconded motion to adjourn at 7:25 p.m.

All ayes

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Mayor Bruce Fraley

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City Clerk