**BEREA CITY COUNCIL \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ REGULAR MEETING \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ NOVEMBER 1, 2022**

The Berea City Council met in regular session, Tuesday, November 1, 2022.

Mayor Bruce Fraley presiding.

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

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Teresa Scenters, Katie Startzman, John Payne, Jerry Little, Steve Caudill,

Cora Wilson, Ronnie Terrill

**COUNCIL ABSENT:** Jim Davis

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Jerry Gilbert, Rose Beverly, Robin Adams, Tommy Horn, Donna Angel,

Jason Hays, Susan Meeks, Amanda Haney, Josh Gabbard

**INVOCATION:** John Payne

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** John Payne

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Caudill motioned, Wilson seconded motion to approve agenda as presented.

Voice Vote: All ayes

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES - OCTOBER 18, 2022**

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

Voice Vote: All ayes

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**KENTUCKY LEAGUE OF CITIES TRAINING AWARDS -** Terri Johnson

Terri Johnson, Member Relations Manager, Kentucky League of Cities (KLC), awarded Training Certificates to the following City of Berea Staff and/or Board Members:

Amanda Haney, Level III, Master of City Governance

Donna Angel, Level I, Achievement in City Government

Susan Meeks, Level I, Achievement in City Government

Jeff Reed, Planning & Zoning Commission, Level I, Achievement in City Government

Chester Powell, Planning & Zoning Commission, Level I, Achievement in City Government

Martin Richards, Planning & Zoning Commission, Level I, Achievement in City Government

**STEPHENSON TRAIL -** Dr. Louisa Summers, Professor, Berea College

Summers presented a slide presentation and discussed the Health Impact of the Stephenson Trail during the summer of 2022. The multi-use path, Indian Fort Mountain Trail, included Stephenson Trail, Shortline Pike Trail, and the West Pinnacle. Through a survey / QR code method, results showed that although temperatures have increased over the past few summers, the increased heat did not impact the number of trail users over the age of 25. Per counter results, the estimated annual usage had decreased slightly during the peak of COVID in 2020 but was still above average use in 2019. The percentage of walkers, runners, and bikers remained similar to 2021. The largest percentage of users were from Berea at 67%. The most liked traits of the trail were the beautiful nature trail / environment, access to parking lot and the city, and access to the Pinnacles. Opportunities for improvement included painting green gates yellow, provide restrooms at Berea Municipal Utilities (BMU), clear trail of gravel,

**BEREA CITY COUNCIL \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ REGULAR MEETING \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ NOVEMBER 1, 2022**

and extend trail from Shortline Pike to Highway 1016. Takeaways included hotter/warmer weather did not restrict the older adults, COVID spiked annual trail usage which is being sustained, and COVID increased cycling and running which continued to maintain numbers.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

**Susan Meeks, Finance Director**

The 2022 Audit had been completed. Meeks extended an invitation, to meet with her, to any Council Member who would like to discuss the end results of the audit in more detail. Once the financial statements were audited, they were distributed to approximately twenty government agencies, submitted to the Municipal Securities Rule Making Board, and a Uniform Information Report was sent to the Kentucky Department of Local Government (DLG).

The first quarter of the new budget year, 2023, was completed in September. Compared to last year, General Fund Revenue had increased and Net Profits Revenue had decreased. Property tax cards went out in late September with approximately 44% collected to date. Compared to last year, Berea Municipal Utilities (BMU) Revenue had increased.

Due to Council amending the Investment Policy approximately one year ago, the Department was working on re-evaluating the City’s investments, investing for longer periods of time in different securities. In September, the City invested $6M of General Fund Reserves and $6M of Utility Reserves into US Treasury Bonds, over a 12-month period, with maturity of investments being staggered for liquidity purposes creating a steady flow of incoming cash and increasing investment revenue. The City also had money invested in Certificates of Deposit (CDs) with local banks. They were re-evaluating and/or taking into consideration of cashing in CDs early, taking advantage of higher rate CDs.

The Department had been working on staff development , i.e., customer service training, leadership training, and continuing professional education, helping to ensure a qualified workforce, keeping employees engaged and motivated in their jobs.

Currently in the process of redesigning the BMU website with plans to have it up by year end. They were also continuing to accept applications for sign-ups from BMU customers for the roll-out of the new alert system.

Amended Budget time was approaching. They were looking into processes to more accurately budget Building & Grounds Repairs & Maintenance.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT -** Rose Beverly

* Requested approval of the following purchases over the $20,000 threshold:
* **Berea Municipal Utilities**

Four screw pump lower-bearing assemblies from Lakeside Equipment in the

amount of $48,532.

Little motioned; Wilson seconded motion to approve purchase of four screw

pump lower-bearing assemblies in the amount of $48,532.

Voice Vote: All ayes

* **Police Department**

Two 2022 Dodge Durangos, each fully equipped with graphics, in the total amount

of $51,736.95 each.

Scenters motioned; Payne seconded motion to purchase two 2022 Dodge

Durangos, fully equipped with graphics, in the total amount of $103,473.90.

Voice Vote: All ayes

**BEREA CITY COUNCIL \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ REGULAR MEETING \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ NOVEMBER 1, 2022**

* **City Street Striping**

A bid was received from Central Seal, Danville, KY for city street striping in

the amount of $21,188. The bid included striping for Shortline Pike, North

Dogwood Drive, South Dogwood Drive, Ellipse Street, and Prince Royal Drive.

The contractor planned to have striping completed by next week.

Little motioned; Caudill seconded motion to approve bid for City Street Striping

in the amount of $21,188.

Voice Vote: All ayes

* The Public Works Department was in the process of painting parking spaces throughout the

City and would continue until completed.

**MAYOR’S REPORT / COMMENTS**

Mayor Fraley shared information and/or comments regarding a trip to the First Baptist Church, Hindman, Kentucky, in which he and fireman, Brent Billings, delivered a box trailer load of winter clothing and other miscellaneous items purchased by Church on the Rock, along with donations received by the City of Berea Fire & Police Departments for recent flood victims in southeastern Kentucky. They were met by Brother Mike Caudill and several church members, to receive the donations, who were thrilled and overwhelmed with the generosity, compassion, and care shown by the City of Berea, as many had lost everything.

The City of Hindman had displaced citizens still unable to return home and living in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Trailers, with family members, and some in tents. The collective donations would be put to good use, were desperately needed, and confident the First Baptist Church congregation would get them to those who needed help the most.

The need in Hindman was still great and the donations would have a substantial, positive impact on the men, women, and children who desperately needed help. The people of Hindman relayed to all who donated how much their generosity was appreciated and needed. Mayor Fraley also thanked all involved in the drive.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Scenters** Thanked everyone for participating for the coat drive for Hindman, Kentucky. Congratulated Haney, Angel, Meeks, Powell, Reed, and Richards on their KLC Training Awards. Good job.

**Startzman** Made an appeal to fellow Council Members to disassociate themselves from a campaign to elect a conservative slate of candidates to the Council. Felt the tenor of the campaign was toxic and affected other incumbents, other candidates for office, as well as family members of public officials. Wanted all to be able to agree they were a community that valued collaboration and worked together. She was proud of her work with the other Council Members, regardless of their politics, valued the role of all on Council, and felt the need to respect each other as colleagues and professionals.

**Payne** Congratulated those who went through training with KLC. Job performance training helped in becoming accountable, better public servants, and he found great value in the training.

**Terrill** Expressed his disappointment in a fellow Council Member of not supporting the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag and remembering those who had been in combat. Encouraged everyone to vote in next Tuesday’s election.

**Wilson** Congratulated to all on their KLC training. Thanked Dr. Summers for sharing information on the shared use paths and it was good to know that older adults could take the heat. Thanked everyone for coming tonight. Reminded everyone to vote.

**BEREA CITY COUNCIL \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ REGULAR MEETING \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ NOVEMBER 1, 2022**

**Caudill** Thanked city staff for the work they do and continue to do. Appreciated all we have in our city because of our amazing employees. The rewards received tonight were a testament to continued excellence and the work that keeps the city moving forward. Encouraged everyone to vote.

**Little** Thanked city employees for the good job they do. Without them, our city would not be near as good of a place that it is.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Wilson motioned; Little seconded motion to adjourn at 7:27 p.m.

Voice Vote: All ayes

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Mayor Bruce Fraley

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City Clerk