**BEREA CITY COUNCIL \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ REGULAR MEETING \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ DECEMBER 6, 2022**

The Berea City Council met in regular session, Tuesday, December 6, 2022.

Mayor Bruce Fraley presiding.

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

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Jim Davis, Teresa Scenters, Katie Startzman, John Payne, Steve Caudill,

Cora Wilson, Ronnie Terrill

**COUNCIL ABSENT:** Jerry Little

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

Priscilla Bloom, Shawn Sandlin, Jason Hays, Susan Meeks, Kevin Howard

**INVOCATION:** Katie Startzman

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Jim Davis

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Voice Vote: All ayes

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES - NOVEMBER 15, 2022**

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

Voice Vote: All ayes

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Peggy Coyne, Burnell Drive, Berea

Thanked Council on their work regarding Public Comments for City Council meetings. As it was not a guarantee by the State of Kentucky to have Public Comments at a City Council meeting, appreciated that Berea allowed Public Comments.

Buddy Croucher, Baldwin Street, Berea

There was a bad water problem on Baldwin Street that had not been resolved. Asked if there were any plans to solve the problem.

Mayor Fraley stated he would have the Utilities Manager to address his concerns.

**RESOLUTION #13-2022 FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) AWARD**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Resolution #13-2022 in entirety.

Beverly explained the Resolution was to provide Federal financial assistance under the Disaster Relief Act for recovery of COVID19 pandemic expenses awarded due to a grant submission by Fire Chief, Shawn Sandlin. The Resolution was required to receive funds.

Payne motioned; Scenters second motion to approve and adopt Resolution #13-2022.

Voice Vote: All ayes

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**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

**Jason Hays, Police Chief**

**Completed Projects**

* Recently completed Active Shooter/Rapid Deployment Training at Berea Community Schools and Madison Central High School. A final event would be held at Madison Middle School, December 27th - 29th.
* Citizens Police Academy had recently ended.
* Partnered with the Bluegrass Army Depot on the Hooks and Hero’s fishing event held this summer with several children in the community fishing with police officers.
* Although it had been a city-wide event, Hays was proud to be a part of delivering one of their cars that had been donated to Hazard, KY due to the recent flooding disaster in Eastern Kentucky. Several officers had also gone to Hindman, KY, to work in shifts to assist with the flood disaster.

**Current Projects**

* Todd Johnson, School Resource Officer, had completed teaching a Criminal Justice 101 course at the Ignite Academy South. Next semester he would be teaching a course in Police Studies.
* Recently hired three new officers, i.e., Josiah McFarland, Lane Owen, and Tyler Grant. Their Academy start date would be January 29, 2023, with a completion date in June 2023.
* Partnering with Walmart in preparing for this year’s Christmas with a Cop event scheduled for Saturday, December 10th, 9:00 a.m.
* Implementing a Red-Dot-Site onto their duty pistols to improve accuracy as point of aim would be more natural.
* Speed enforcement patrol had been increased in the Big Hill Road area and they had been observing the new STOP sign on Prince Royal Drive.
* Had begun some night campaigns due to recent thefts at night.

**Future Projects**

* Would like to see the return of Police & Fire Summer Camp.
* Planning the third annual spring clean-up, partnering with Berea Earth Warriors.
* Looking into developing a peer support group for mental health within the department.
* Recognized members within the department which had completed specialized training in 2022:
* Aaron Boycan completed the FBI National Academy, Virginia, in September.
* K-9, Buddy, completed Therapy Dog Training at Franklin County Sheriff’s Office Therapy

K-9 School. Buddy was the second canine from Kentucky to successfully complete the course with all certifications.

* Lt. Chris Neal completed the Sergeant’s Academy training at the Department of Criminal Justice Training (DOCJT).
* Sgt. Adam Short completed the Sergeant’s Academy training at the Department of Criminal Justice Training (DOCJT).

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**Susan Meeks, Finance Director**

Meeks explained / clarified recent sales tax changes from the Department of Revenue, State Legislation House Bill 8 (HB8). If a customer had multiple utility accounts with the City, they would be contacted regarding the requirements.

Meeks also reminded citizens of the “Give the Gift of Utilities” program. The program allows you to make a payment toward any friend or family member’s Berea Municipal Utility (BMU) bill. The gifted amount would appear as a payment on the recipients BMU statement. The giver would receive a Gift of Utilities certificate to give the recipient, or the certificate could be mailed to the recipient.

**Kevin Howard, General Manager, Berea Municipal Utilities (BMU)**

Howard shared an update from the November 17th meeting with the design team and Kentucky National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) regarding the Owsley Fork Project. They were edging toward resubmittal, making certain all opportunities had been explored in regard to the expansion of pyrite shale. Kentucky NRCS agreed to fund additional boring based on an expert’s opinion that it would be worthwhile. Unfortunately, every decision effects the project timeline. With additional boring and design, there would be approximately a two to three month turn around with an approximate possible savings of $6.25M. Overall, everything they hoped to achieve had been accomplished during the meeting.

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

* A bid had been received for two Ford Interceptors for the Police Department, which were included in the budget, from Don Franklin Ford. Each vehicle was priced at $35,746, without equipment, for a total of $71,492. Request a motion from Council to approve purchase.

Caudill motioned; Payne seconded motion to approve purchase of two Ford Interceptors for a total cost of $71,492.

Voice Vote: All ayes

* The Ellipse Street shared use path had been fully approved. A meeting had been scheduled with the engineer with plans to let the project this spring.
* Received a draft of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) the City Council had approved earlier in the year. The draft would be sent to Roy Curtis (Public Works), Jerry Little (Council Member/Public Works Committee Chair), and Mayor Fraley for review.
* The Parks Department was offering several free holiday programs. For information on all upcoming Park events, visit their Facebook page.

**MAYOR’S REPORT / COMMENTS**

* Received a report that the City of Berea had been granted a Cleaner Water Grant for rehabilitation of the KY 595 Pump Station in the amount of $958,126. A positive step in getting our water and sewer infrastructure modernized, prepared, and brought into the 21st Century. Thanked Kevin Howard for his work on this, along with the Bluegrass Area Development District (BGADD) being a part of the process.

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* Shared the following Executive Orders:

Executive Order #2022-32

Re-Appointment of Sharyn Mitchell to the Berea Human Rights Commission for a three-year term.

Executive Order #2022-33

Appointment of Katie Heckman to the Berea Human Rights Commission to fill the unexpired term of Gene Stinchcomb to expire on February 24, 2023.

* As to realize the importance of the Central Kentucky Regional Airport, shared a report from Jason Bonham, Operations Manager at the airport. Two flights last week were critical organ donor flights. Due to flying into a smaller airport, they were able to get through easier to get organ donor transplants to recipients in a more timely manner. Compliments to George Wyatt and Chuck Conley who serve on the Airport Board on behalf of Berea.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Terrill** No comment.

**Wilson** Thanked everyone for coming. Thanked Department Heads for their reports. Officially have eighteen days to get your Christmas shopping done.

**Caudill** No comment.

**Payne** Inquired about a follow-up report of a December 1st meeting with the Transportation Cabinet regarding the airport and/or roadway improvements on Duncannon Lane, wondering if a member of the City attended. Mayor Fraley stated although he was unable to attend due to a NRCS meeting with Berea Municipal Utilities General Manager, Kevin Howard, he had been briefed on the subject and the roadway of discussion was a county road.

It was a pleasure to attend the Christmas parade, seeing our community and all the energy and enjoy. Looked forward to continuing to serve as a Council Member for the next few weeks.

**Startzman** No comment.

**Scenters** The town looked beautiful. Glad to hear that officers were beginning the academy in January. Asked, “How was the STOP sign on Prince Royal working out?” Mayor Fraley stated, from Roy Curtis, Public Works Supervisor, and the Public Works Committee, all reports were good with some complaints. The sign was to prevent blocking of Plaza Drive.

**Davis** Congratulated Charlie Russell on his promotion to Assistant Fire Chief. The new Ignite Academy South was quite a facility with state-of-the-art equipment, felt it would get a lot of good use, and be productive for the citizens.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Scenters motioned; Caudill seconded motion to adjourn at 7:20 p.m.

Voice Vote: All ayes

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Mayor Bruce Fraley

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City Clerk