**BEREA CITY COUNCIL \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ REGULAR MEETING \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ MARCH 21, 2023**

The Berea City Council met in regular session, Tuesday, March 21, 2023.

Mayor Bruce Fraley presiding.

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

WORK SESSION

5:45 PM – 6:30 PM

OPIOD SETTLEMENT FUNDS / PROPOSED MEN’S TREATMENT CENTER

Greyson Evans and Zinnia Hensley

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Jim Davis, Teresa Scenters, Katie Startzman, David Rowlette, Jerry Little,

 Steve Caudill, Cora Wilson, Ronnie Terrill

**COUNCIL ABSENT:** None

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Jerry Gilbert,Rose Beverly, Robin Adams, Tommy Horn, Priscilla Bloom,

 Shawn Sandlin, Jason Hays, Zinnia Hensley

**INVOCATION:** Teresa Scenters

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Teresa Scenters

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Davis motioned; Rowlette seconded motion to approve agenda.

Voice Vote: All ayes

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES - MARCH 7, 2023**

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

Voice Vote: All ayes

**HOPE’S WINGS UPDATE**

Jennifer Lainhart, Executive Director/Blueprint Coordinator, Hope’s Wings Domestic Violence Program shared a current fundraising event, i.e., Jail & Bail, Central Bank, Richmond, on Friday, March 24th. Come visit, hang out, have fun, donate, etc. Time and support, from citizens, were always appreciated. Lainhart noted that part of this year’s fundraising went toward a major plumbing malfunction ($22,000) that closed Hope’s Wings shelter until repaired.

Great things were happening in Madison County, amazing to see the local governments working together. Glad to hear from Hensley, the research regarding small non-profits, in which small non-profits were also in need of support from their governments.

**RESOLUTION #04-2023 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BEREA AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR THE FARRISTOWN COMMUNITY CENTER CDBG PROJECT**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Resolution #04-2023 in entirety.

Mayor Fraley recognized Logan Hart, Blue Grass Area Development District (BGADD), who was assisting Berea with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application. Beverly was grateful for Hart’s assistance and honored to work on the project.

Davis motioned, Scenters seconded motion to approve Resolution #04-2023.

Voice Vote: All ayes

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**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

**Priscilla Bloom, Director, Parks Department**

Maintenance

Crews had been extremely busy preparing the athletic fields for the spring season. Had been working on improving the condition of the football field at the park expansion, i.e., improving drainage, leveling the field, overall safety, etc. Baseball fields were ready. They were also working on getting water back on to public restrooms which was taking longer than usual due to several leaks.

Programs

Current programs for March included Children’s Champion Month (March), Circus (Fold Center), St. Patty’s Week Scavenger Hunt at the Parks, and Mall Madness (Richmond Mall).

April’s activities included Autism Sensory Day (Folk Center), Annual Kiwanis Easter Egg Hunt (skate park), Painting Class instructed by local artist, Heather Dent, and Berea Kids Eat Earth Day.

All park activities/programs could be found on the Parks Department’s Facebook page.

Other

Preparing for upcoming pool season and the annual July 4th celebration. Applying for two grants, i.e., Land & Water Conservation and Recreational Trail Program, both due May 31st. Beginning to work on the upcoming fiscal year budget, please be kind to the Parks Department.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Eleanor Workman, 351 Christmas Ridge Road, Berea

Thanked Scenters for condolences at the March 7th City Council meeting.

After attending a Planning & Zoning meeting, shared concerns regarding effects on the City’s water system/supply with the new local development(s) of 192+ units. Requested information on the impact of the overall City as it related to the new developments’ approximate water usage/supply, electric, and sewer.

Anna Keller, 208 South Powell Avenue, Berea

Propositioned the City of Berea to consider supporting a Corridor Identification Grant Application for Kentucky from the United States Department of Transportation for a New Bluegrass Passenger Rail System. Cities involved would include Cincinnati, Georgetown, Lexington, Winchester, Richmond, Berea, London, Corbin, and Knoxville. Keller was requesting letters of support from municipalities and provided contact information for sending letters.

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

* In full swing for the FY23-24 budget preparation. Preparing a top-quality budget requires a lot of time and effort from our department heads, especially Finance. Although it’s easy to throw numbers together, the budget is used as a planning tool and a means to measure strategic planning. Thanked departments heads, especially Meeks, Finance Director, in advance for all their hard work.
* Upon arriving to the finish line on the Ellipse Street project, an alternate staff member with the Department for Local Government (DLG) had been assigned to Berea. The City was working on moving forward and currently working through a now grant required, on-site certified construction inspector to supervise the project at all times when work was being performed. When that requirement was met, plans would be submitted. Once approved, a Request for

Proposal (RFP) would be sent out.

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* The RFP for the street resurfacing project was published last week. The deadline for submission(s) was April 3rd, 4:00 p.m.
* Requested letters of support for grant on Parks Department projects, .i.e., pool project, old concessions/restrooms.

**MAYOR’S REPORT / COMMENTS**

* Thanked Judge Taylor, Rob Minerich (Richmond City Manager), Greyson Evans (BGADD), Nikki Stanaitis (NewVista), and Zinnia Hensley (Community Resource Coordinator) for their Work Session presentations regarding the Opioid Settlement Funds / Proposed Men’s Treatment Center. Thought the Center was a good goal.
* Complimented Lainhart, Hope’s Wings, for reaching out, including Berea, and the work she does.
* Had been briefed by the State Transportation Cabinet regarding the Farristown Bridge. Although plans were originally to let out for bid this spring, plans have been delayed until December due to the railroad project.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Rowlette** Encouraged listeners to take advantage of the Parks & Rec Programs this summer. Noticed businesses nationwide and throughout the community were struggling to hire staff. As we all had unemployed friends and family, suggested everyone get involved, actively participate/seek job opportunities. This was a good way to gain experience.

**Startzman** Grateful for the Work Session regarding the Opioid Settlement Funds / Proposed Men’s Treatment Center and to hear from those directly involved. Thanked residents who joined tonight’s meeting.

**Scenters** Had been a good meeting. Glad to see members of the Farristown community in attendance. Have a good night.

**Davis** Thanked speakers regarding the Men’s Treatment Center, an exciting project. Asked if the state had any financial involvement with the railroad / Farristown Bridge repair. Although Mayor Fraley was unsure of an answer, he did not think the railroad was required to install nor financially involved with the bridge.

**Little** No comment.

**Caudill** The Farristown CDBG Grant was encouraging. It was good to see local government in the process. Appreciated the Farristown Community continuing to be engaged in working through projects, discussions, etc. regarding their community. Excited about the Passenger Rail option mentioned during Public Comments. Also, our Parks were fantastic, fields were unbelievable, and thankful each time he went to a soccer game on a Berea soccer field.

**Wilson** Thanked Judge Taylor, Rob Minerich, NewVista, and Hensley for their work on the CDBG Grant. A great on-going project she considered a win-win. Good to see Farristown residents at the meeting tonight.

**Terrill** As all Berea College students had now returned to campus, after COVID restrictions had been lifted, suggested someone contact Berea College to get an experienced security guard for better traffic directing during events due to streets becoming terribly backed up.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Rowlette motioned; Caudill seconded motion to adjourn at 7:18 p.m.

Voice Vote: All ayes

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Mayor Bruce Fraley

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 City Clerk