**BEREA CITY COUNCIL \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ REGULAR MEETING \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ MARCH 7, 2023**

The Berea City Council met in regular session, Tuesday, March 7, 2023.

Mayor Bruce Fraley presiding.

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

WORK SESSION

6:00 PM – 6:30 PM

RESOLUTION #03-2023 ESTATE OF JUDY HACKER KIRBY BEQUEST

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Teresa Scenters, Katie Startzman, David Rowlette, Cora Wilson, Ronnie Terrill

**COUNCIL ABSENT:** Jim Davis, Jerry Little, Steve Caudill

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

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

**INVOCATION:** David Rowlette

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** David Rowlette

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Scenters motioned; Rowlette seconded motion to approve agenda.

Voice Vote: All ayes

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES - FEBRUARY 21, 2023**

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

Voice Vote: All ayes

**CHEMICAL WEAPONS DISPOSAL UPDATE**

Craig Williams, Program Director, Kentucky Environmental Foundation, shared a slide presentation regarding an update on the Blue Grass Chemical Weapons Disposal project. From the original Blue Grass Chemical Weapons Stockpile of 523 U.S. tons of Mustard and Nerve Agent, 393.8 U.S. tons (75.24%) had been destroyed. The economic impact to date for Acquisitions consisted of $199 million spent with Kentucky companies, $116 million spent in Madison and surrounding counties, Staffing was at 1,487, and payroll was at $1.235 billion paid. Miscellaneous efforts continued as the project completion drew near. Williams summarized Economic Impact Activities which included Workforce Transition Actions, Workforce Retention Incentives, a Feasibility Study, and New Industry Interest. A recap was given of the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) grant status with a final report due in late March from Blue Grass Area Development District and MWM Consulting. The Operations Phase was scheduled to conclude end of 2023. After operations of the facility were completed, Closure Phase (2 to 4-year project) would begin, in which the site would be decontaminated. During the Closure Phase, employees associated with the project would be released from assignment and begin looking for their next employment opportunity. Approximately 1,200 skilled employees would become available from the decontamination Closure Phase. Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass had launched a new workforce planning web page and survey as a resource to assist employees with planning for future job opportunities.

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**CHILDREN’S CHAMPIONS OF MADISON COUNTY PROCLAMATION**

Mayor Fraley read proclamation in entirety, recognizing the month of March 2023 as Children’s Champions of Madison County Month in Berea, Kentucky, and presented to Phillis Adams, Representative, Children’s Champions of Madison County.

Adams stated groups and organizations worked together providing activities for Children’s Champions. The City of Berea Parks Department and the Berea Kiwanis Club had been very helpful in supporting an upcoming event. She also shared additional events during the month of March and the 2023 winning billboard design “Every Child Deserves a Champion!” by 1st grader, Emerson Radcliffe, Glen Marshall Elementary. We all want to work together to make this a better place for our children to keep them safe and help them be successful.

**RESOLUTION #03-2023 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, ACCEPTING THE BEQUEST TO IT BY JUDY HACKER KIRBY, DECEASED, UNDER ITEM VIII OF HER WILL AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS OF TRANSFER CONCERNING THE BEQUEST AND TO ESTABLISH TO A TRUST FUND TO MAINTAIN THE PROPERTY BEQUEATHED FROM THE ESTATE OF JUDY HACKER KIRBY, DECEASED.**

As being subject to a Work Session, Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Resolution #03-2023 by summary.

Wilson motioned; Startzman seconded motion to approve Resolution #03-2023.

Voice Vote: All ayes

**ORDINANCE #01-2023 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, AMENDING THE 2022-2023 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF BEREA, ORDINANCE #10-2022 REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES. - 2ND READING**

Corporate Council, Gilbert, read Ordinance #01-2023 by summary, highlighting amended totals.

Scenters motioned; Terrill seconded motion to amend Parks & Recreation budget line #010-6005-53400, Small Tools & Equipment, by increasing in the amount of $5000 due to discovering an immediate need to replace a water fountain at the ballpark.

Note: The increased amount was included in the reading of the ordinance.

Voice Vote: All ayes

Scenters motioned; Startzman seconded motion to approve and adopt Ordinance #01-2023 as amended.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Scenters, Startzman, Rowlette, Terrill, Wilson

Nays - None

Motion carried.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

**Shawn Sandlin, Chief, Berea Fire Department**

Due to nicer weather, the Fire Department had been able to work on outdoor maintenance issues at each station and it was also a suitable time to do more public relations. During the winter months, they had been focusing on training. Recently purchased two additional shipping containers used to create and simulate a house for training which would be engineer approved, State Fire Commission approved, and approved by the local Codes Office. The simulation would be a great asset for the Fire Department.

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In February, all physicals were completed and passed within the Fire Department and the annual service test was completed on their Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). Calls were up approximately 75 runs from this date last year, with 41 calls being the result of the March 3rd windstorm event. Their normal average was three runs per day. Thanked the Police Department, Public Works, and the Utility Department for working together during this past weekend’s storm event as everyone came together with a common goal to get the job done and take care of the citizens’ needs, putting others before themselves. Very proud of everyone.

Reminded everyone that fire season continued through April 30th. Burning was allowed between the hours of 6 p.m. – 6 a.m. if within 150 feet of wooded areas. The Fire Department asked that citizens still call, no matter the situation, to get guidance. Information was forwarded to the dispatch center in case a call came in for a particular area and they would know whether or not it was a controlled burn. Always good to call for advice.

**Jason Hays, Chief, Berea Police Department**

Thanked Fire Department, Berea Municipal Utilities, and Public Works for the team effort during Friday evening’s storm as everyone was needed. They were amazing. Ten officers were on duty that evening in lieu of the normal three officers. Shared calls that came in during the storm, i.e., down powerlines, down trees (across roads and/or powerlines) , doors blown open on local businesses, traffic light outages, STOP signs were monitored that were not being properly used, multiple weather-related alarms throughout town, City Police Officers trapped by down trees, a collision, along with additional calls throughout the night. A very hectic night.

**Roy Curtis, Director, Public Works**

The Public Works Department had prepared for possible storm damage throughout the day due to reports from the national weather service of severe winds. Beginning around 6:00 p.m. during Friday evening’s storm, calls began coming in regarding down trees and debris in roadways. Ten personnel were called in to operate four pick-up trucks, a bucket truck, a grapple truck, a backhoe, and a tractor.

Approximately 17 trees were in roadways, trees blocking waterways, sign damage, four city buildings with damage, trees and debris on the walking trails, and barricades had to be put up at traffic lights. This week would be spent picking up trees and/or debris that had been moved to the side of the roadways throughout town. Thanked all Public Works employees and all other departments for their hard work and dedication to the City.

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

As Friday’s storm was a significant event and departments were overwhelmed with calls, thanked all Department Heads for their cooperation, effort, and dedication.

BMU’s calls began at 4:30 p.m. Friday afternoon and begin to intensify in severity and number around 6:00 p.m. At 7:09 p.m. power was lost to 432 residential and commercial customers due to a tree down at Fire Station 2 on Glades Road. During this time outage peaked at approximately 675 customers. By 9:04 p.m. power outages had been reduced to 250 customers. They were able to coordinate with Barbourville Utilities and Nicholasville Utilities to each send a crew to assist in restoration. From 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 a.m., power was restored to all customers with the exception of approximately 120 customers due to broken poles that had to be replaced. By 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning, power had been restored to all customers with only small individual outages remaining. All crews were released from work by 10:00 a.m.

From 4:35 p.m. on Friday until 8:00 p.m., 255 Daupler calls were received. From 8:00 p.m. until 2:30 a.m., additional administrative staff were brought in to field and prioritize calls more effectively, resulting

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in an additional 200 calls. During the peak of outages, Frankfort Plant Board called seeking assistance. After a few hours of rest, BMU sent a crew of three (Adrian Isaacs, Kyle Baker, Keegan Parker) to Frankfort to assist in their restoration efforts. The crew worked an additional 16 hours/Sunday and 15 hours/Monday before returning home on Tuesday. A call had been received from Gary Zheng, Frankfort, thanking Berea for sending the crew to assist Frankfort. Frankfort was appreciative, the crew was very professional and great group to work with.

Howard stressed the fantastic job the electric crew did in taking care of issues during the storm regarding safety, power was restored to all customers within 18 hours, and only 12% of customers were affected during the peak of the storm. These were testaments to the day to day work Adrian Isaacs and his crew perform to mitigate the risk of outages and the work toward hardening our system to make sure they were able to restore power quickly in the event of an outage. It was also a result of the decisions the City Council had made in supporting the Utilities in their projects and training.

BMU thanked customers for their patience and understanding during outage events.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Tom Botkin, 4th District Magistrate, Berea, thanked City Council for their service and what they do for the City of Berea. As a resident of Berea, he appreciated the services of Berea. What he had heard during the meeting was top shelf all the way, amazing.

Being a 4th District Magistrate, Botkin wanted to highlight Roy Curtis, Public Works Director. In February, while out of town, he had received a call from Stoney Creek regarding a Metronet issue. He called Curtis, who was able to help. Regardless of when he calls Curtis, he expedites requests, if at all possible, to take care of an issue, always going above and beyond. Expressed his appreciation.

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

* Regarding last Friday night’s windstorm, gave a shout-out to all City staff who spent Friday night and Saturday morning dealing with the storm and aftermath clean-up. Staff was always waiting, willing, and ready to hold up our community when weather hits. Then, they are there to put the pieces back together when the storm is over, never complaining, taking pride in the importance of the work they do. They are quiet and humble with most of their work unseen. As with most things, it is easy to point out the little things that get missed here and there but the enormity of the work that our staff does tends to go unnoticed simply because they do such a great job. Thankful and grateful to work with such hard-working professionals!
* In the process of putting together the Road RFP for 2023 for the spring resurfacing project. Plans were to have in the newspaper by next week.
* While coordinating with the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, they were currently working on submitting three grants, i.e., the old concessions/trailhead bathrooms, the pool shell and underground piping, and the Farristown Community Center. Plans were to have a public meeting and resolutions for the grants at the next City Council meeting. One of the important parts of a grant application were the letters of support. Requested letters of support from the Council, Magistrates, other elected officials, and residents of Berea.
* The Parks Department was currently accepting applications for Seasonal Maintenance, Pool Management, Swim Lesson Instructor, and Lifeguards. Applications could be found on the City’s website, picked up at the Park Office, Pirate Parkway, or the Human Resource Office at City Hall.

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**MAYOR’S REPORT / COMMENTS**

* March 11th was the second annual Catch the Leprechaun 5K Race, 9AM - 11AM, sponsored by the Berea Chamber of Commerce.
* The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, District 7, had notified Berea of the Interstate 75 Rehabilitation Schedule for Southern Madison County, extending from Exit 83 to Mile Marker 73, North and South. Work had begun and would continue through September 30th, 7AM - 7PM, Monday - Friday, plan ahead, and expect delays.
* The last four years the City of Berea had been active with Kentucky League of Cities (KLC). In February he attended their 2023 City Day/City Night meeting in Frankfort, along with Council Members Startzman and Rowlette. Attendees support KLC in lobbying for support on behalf of Kentucky’s cities. They had also met with local elected representatives and attended the KLC Board Meeting.
* Commended Department Heads Sandlin, Howard, Curtis, and Hays, along with their departmental employees, on their work during the weekend storms. He was proud and admired the people he worked with, having never seen employees more dedicated to their work in public service as the employees of the City of Berea. They were examples of what the employees of the City of Berea do every day for the people who live here. Especially commended Public Works, Utilities, Police, and Fire on their effort in their coordination with one another during the weekend’s event and asked they forward the appreciation to their respective employees. Thanked them for a job well done.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Scenters** Whole-heartedly agreed with the Mayor’s comments regarding City Staff during the weekend’s storm event. To have electricity restored by 8:30 a.m. on Saturday morning was remarkable. The whole City was thankful for all that was done. Glad to hear from Craig Williams, the Chemical Weapons Disposal Project was winding down. Glad to hear from Phillis Adams who had been unfailing in championing our children for many years. Good to see all those in attendance.

**Startzman** Grateful for the Department Heads on their comments related to this weekend’s storm. Grateful for their service and their knowledge of coordinated efforts. Thank you to Williams. Grateful for the Mayor’s and Beverly’s leadership in applying for grants and leveraging the ARPA funding. Excited about the potential for the Farristown project.

**Rowlette** Regarding the weekend’s severe weather, commended each department on their leadership and willingness to work together. Encouraged residents to clean up their property, from the storm damage, and place limbs, brush, etc. next to the curb for pick up. Had also seen flags damaged throughout town and requested proper disposal when replacing the flags. Thanked the presenters at this evening’s meeting.

**Terrill** This past weekend, City employees worked together better than he had ever seen. Thank you, to each and everyone.

**Wilson** Thanked everyone for coming. Thanked the departments for all they did regarding the Friday night storm. We take for granted when flipping on the light switch that we will have electricity. Thanked them for putting their lives on the line in the storms and the great job they do. Proud to be from Berea, a former employee and appreciated all they do. Thank you.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Rowlette motioned; Wilson seconded motion to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

Voice Vote: All ayes

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Mayor Bruce Fraley

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City Clerk