**BEREA CITY COUNCIL \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_ REGULAR MEETING \_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_AUGUST 1, 2023**

The Berea City Council met in regular session, Tuesday, August 1, 2023.

Mayor Bruce Fraley presiding.

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

WORK SESSION

5:45 PM – 6:25 PM

PROPERTY VALUATION TAX RATE - Susan Meeks, Finance Director

REVISED PAY SCALE - Rose Beverly, City Administrator

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Jim Davis, Teresa Scenters, David Rowlette, Jerry Little, Cora Jane Wilson,

Ronnie Terrill

**COUNCIL ABSENT:** Katie Startzman, Steve Caudill

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

Priscilla Bloom, Shawn Sandlin, Charlie Russell, Jason Hays, Susan Meeks, Kevin Howard, Amanda Haney

**INVOCATION:** Teresa Scenters

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Teresa Scenters

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Fraley requested motion to amend agenda to add Ordinance #08-2023 Ad Valorem Tax Rate.

Rowlette motioned; Davis seconded motion to amend agenda by adding Ordinance #08-2023, Ad Valorem Tax Rate.

Voice Vote: All ayes

Little motioned; Davis seconded motion to approve agenda as amended.

Voice Vote: All ayes

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES - JULY 18, 2023**

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

Voice Vote: All ayes

**TRAILS SUMMARY REPORT -** Dr. Louisa Summers

“Data Talks & Everything Else Walks”

Summers provided a six-year overview of trails studies, i.e., Stephenson, Shortline, and the Pinnacle Trails, as it related to visitor spending (Tourism), attraction to skilled workers, and it is not just about the trails.

The Trail Town Certification Program began in the State of Kentucky in 2012 with Berea becoming certified in December of 2015. Events were designed to get multi-generations out on the trails. Data was collected on the Stephenson and Pinnacle Trails via paper surveys, hiker infrared trail counters, and QR codes.

In 2017, a Stephenson Trail pilot study of three months included 7,784 walkers, avoiding $2,032/yr. in health care costs. By 2022, the estimated annual trails use had increased to 30,076 users.

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In 2018, In Outdoor magazine, the Pinnacles were voted the number one-day hiking venue in Kentucky. From June 2021 – July 2022, the annual potential Economic Impact of the Day Hiking Venue, local and out-of-town/state hikers, was estimated at $1,297.557.

In 2019, the Stephenson and Pinnacle Trails were connected which lengthened the trail to 3.2 miles increasing walkers, runners, and bicyclists.

In 2020, Boone Trace Trail was opened. In 2021 the Mountain Bike Park was opened.

The trails not only supported physical activity and/or health, they also included social impact, i.e., community development & advocacy, economic benefits, and attracted highly skilled workers (active lifestyle).

Thanked all who assisted in research over the years.

**STREET ACCEPTANCE - VINEYARD PHASE 3**

**Amanda Haney, Administrator, Codes & Planning and GIS Departments**

Codes & Planning and Public Works inspected Vineyard Phase 3, consisting of 1350 LF of streets at Chardonnay Way (1042’) and Vineyard Way (308’), for acceptance into the City Maintenance Program. All deficiencies had been corrected and requested acceptance by City Council. The street acceptance included curbs, gutters, roads, sidewalks, stormwater piping and infrastructure, excluding any retention / detention ponds. Streetlights would be furnished and installed by Bluegrass Energy.

Berea Municipal Utilities previously inspected and gained approval from Berea City Council at the September 2022 meeting for 732 LF of 8” PVC sewer pipe and 4 manholes at Vineyard Way (Vineyard Phase 3)**.** All sanitary lines on Chardonnay Way, as part of Vineyard Phase 3, had been previously installed and accepted into the maintenance program.

Assets to City:

1350 linear feet of street from back of sidewalk to back of sidewalk on Chardonnay Way and Vineyard Way. Total asset to the city was $540,000.

Wilson motioned; Little seconded motion to accept 1350 linear feet of streets in Vineyard Phase 3 into the City Maintenance Program. City to accept all infrastructure in the public right of way (from back of sidewalk to back of sidewalk) on Vineyard Way and Chardonnay Way for a total asset to the City of $540,000, excluding maintenance of detention / retention ponds.

Voice Vote: All ayes

**RESOLUTION #10-2023 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY ADOPTING THE MADISON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2023 - 2027 UPDATE**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Resolution #10-2023 in entirety.

Scenters motioned; Davis seconded motion to approve and adopt Resolution #10-2023.

Voice Vote: All ayes

**ORDINANCE #06-2023 ORDINANCE REVISING THE AUTHORIZED POSITIONS’ ASSIGNED PAY GRADE AND PAY SCALE - 2ND READING**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Ordinance #06-2023 in entirety.

Little motioned; Davis seconded motion to approve and adopt Ordinance #06-2023.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Terrill, Wilson, Little, Davis

Nays - Rowlette, Scenters

Motion carried.

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**ORDINANCE #07-2023 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, DECLARING CERTAIN PROPERTY TO BE SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZING IT TO BE SOLD - 1ST READING**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Ordinance #07-2023 in entirety.

**ORDINANCE #08-2023 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR CITY PURPOSES UPON ALL PROPERTY, NOT OTHERWISE EXEMPT, IN TH CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY. - 1ST READING**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Ordinance #08-2023 by summary.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

**Jason Hays, Police Chief**

Shared Police Department upcoming events within the community, i.e., Coffee with a Cop, partnered with the Parks Department in Bingo, Spoonbread Festival & Parade, and Homecoming Parades.

Officer activity statistics for 2023, to improve relationship with the community, included more traffic stops, extra patrols, more business checks, and general calls for service in hopes to prevent crimes.

January 2022 – August 2022 January 2023 – August 2023

962 extra patrols 1,360 extra patrols

357 business checks 752 business checks

9,555 calls for service 12,062 calls for service

1,565 traffic stops 1,864 traffic stops

Proud of the officers’ efforts to work harder and be more involved with the community.

This was a busy time of year for training, which included Strategies & Tactics of Patrol Stops (STOPS) Training, Rapid Employment / Active Shooter Training, Crowd Control Training, Defensive Tactics Training, Night-Time Firearms Qualifications Training.

The Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Administrator, Officer Casey Botkin, had been busy with incoming applications and questions, and had been conducting inspections of businesses with the Codes and Fire Departments.

Regarding last week’s event, although he could not currently speak on details of the event, all officers were physically safe. As events of this nature were not easy on mental health, he knew all officers involved would appreciate everyone’s thoughts and prayers.

Requested budget purchase approval, from City Council, for three outfitted Dodge Durangos, to be used as police cruisers, at $40,300 each, per State Contract pricing.

Scenters motioned; Rowlette seconded motion to approve purchase of three Dodge Durangos at $40,300 each.

Voice Vote: All ayes

**Charlie Russell, Assistant Fire Chief**

Had been a busy month for the Fire Department. Station 2 had been busy with the expansion of their training facility to provide in-house testing before certification training, utilized for search and rescue training for volunteers, and any type of technical training.

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Year-to-date, they had done over3300 hours of personnel training. Had had recently been awarded a TC Energy Grant of $15,000 and purchased a five-gas monitor, expanded their trench & rescue equipment, and added an air monitor cart. Had applied for the Leary Firefighter Foundation Grant for a max fire box and a fire extinguisher simulator for fire extinguisher classes. Planning to apply for the Firehouse Sub Grant for additional equipment.

This year’s First Responders Camp consisted of 27 kids, involved several different activities throughout the week, and topped off on Friday with a trip to King’s Island.

Four firefighters were scheduled, in September, for International Fire Service & Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) Certification.

The annual Fire Service Testing and hydrant testing were scheduled for September.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jacque Bowling, Berea

Attended the City Council Work Session and felt the meeting should have been a closed meeting due to information discussed. Recalling the last City Council meeting, felt it was improper for a Council Member to be able to vote on pricing of alcohol sales when it was a conflict of interest.

Lydia Kitts, Berea

Regarding visual accessibility, requested all City Government related social media posts be accessible by sharing more than an image or graphic by also adding a caption. As there were blind and deaf community members using social media, visual accessibility could help them get the information they need. All government agencies were required to be ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessible and 508 compliant. ADA compliance makes websites accessible to all users and refers to the ADA Standards for Accessible Design. Best practices for ADA social media compliance include alternative text, closed captions, and transcripts when posting digital media files, making electronic and information technology accessible. 508 Compliance refers to a federal law that requires government websites and media to be accessible to people with disabilities. If people were able to read information, they were more likely to share it, i.e., communication, public relations, and marketing reasons. There were many ways to better support our diverse community, especially those with differing disabilities.

Eleanor Workman, Berea

Heard a short interview with Berea College’s new President, Nixon. Nixon hoped Berea College continued to work with the City to make relations better. Workman’s first thought was, “Please put up an over-ramp on Chestnut Street.”

Gary Price, Berea

Regarding Berea’s trails and attracting businesses, he had worked at Toyota (Georgetown, KY) for many years and Toyota lost a lot of skilled employees to Colorado, Utah, etc., not necessarily for higher pay but for the environment, things they wanted to do, i.e., outdoor activities, etc. Was surprised to see the trail numbers/statistics and thought the trails were a good thing.

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

* During the transition of Police Chiefs, a vehicle was purchased which caused the contractor to forget to send an invoice ($15,082) for one of the Police Department’s Dodge Durango’s upfit, this caused the 2022-2023 Automobiles budget line item (Police Dept.) to have an overage of $14,558.37.

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Requested approval to pay the December 2022 invoice for L&W Emergency Equipment in the amount of $15,082.00 creating an overage of $14,558.37 in the Automobiles line item.

Little motioned; Rowlette seconded motion to approve overage of the Police Department 2022-2023 Automobiles line item in the amount of $14,558.37.

Voice Vote: All ayes

* Due to several days of high winds in the Spring of 2023, a set of light fixtures on the Parks’ soccer field fell from the pole. A claim was filed with Kentucky League of Cities in which a check was issued in the amount of $28,829.

The City received the following three quotes to replace the lights:

Qualite Sports Lighting, LLC $50,505

Upton Construction Inc. $59,800

Musco Sports Lighting, LLC $48,100

After careful consideration, Musco Sports Lighting, LLC was chosen to complete the project through a Sourcewell contract.

Requested approval to purchase the lights in the amount of $48,100 (line item 6005-56800 – Other Capital Outlay). Currently, there was no funding in that line item and would be included as part of the amended budget process.

Scenters motioned; Wilson seconded motion to approve overage (line item 6005-56800) and purchase of the new LED light fixture from Musco Sports Lighting, LLC in the amount of $48,100.

Voice Vote: All ayes

* Thanked Council for their support for the First Responders Camp, it is a really good program.

Gave a shout out to all Departments for their programs and special services provided.

**MAYOR’S REPORT / COMMENTS**

* Looking back at the news coverage regarding the domestic situation in the City last week, Mayor Fraley was impressed and extremely pleased with the professionalism of Chief Hays and his team. Standard operating procedures covered everything that needed to be done. Complimented and thanked Chief Hays and the entire Police Department Team on their leadership and support.
* Due to concerns from the public, as an Economic Development front, Mayor Fraley stated although news reports were that AppHarvest was pursuing Chapter 11 Bankruptcy to restructure their debt, the Berea facility was different. The Berea facility was owned by distributor Mastronardi Produce as of December 2022. With court approval, the Berea facility would be a transition from AppHarvest to Mastronardi, with intentions to keep their workers and keep them at roughly the same wages. Soon to meet with Mastronardi officials and optimistic they would make it work as it is a great concept, state of the art business.

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**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Terrill** No comment.

**Wilson** Had intentions of voting “no” on Ordinance #06-2023. Not for the pay, not for the employees, but for some things within the Ordinance. Hoping that moving forward, the Personnel Committee could be more involved, i.e., have work sessions, talk about what was going on, what the plans were.

**Little** Thanked everyone involved that helped put together the surplus items. The items would go online after the second reading, in two weeks. Bidding would be on govdeals.com, enter ‘Berea,’ and items would be available for bidding.

**Rowlette** Challenged Council Members to resume Committee meetings, i.e., Audit & Finance, Public Works, Economic Development, Parks, and Personnel. In turn, working committees gives Council the opportunity to show and demonstrate pro-active approaches and for citizens to share ideas with Council and Administration. Thought they could work together and do better with less division. Appreciated everyone’s time and the work of Department Heads.

**Scenters** Chief Hays and his Department had been in her prayers and continued to be as last week’s situation was a tough situation. Mayor Fraley represented the City well in the public regarding last week’s domestic situation. Glad to see public input at this evening’s meeting. Have a good week.

**Davis** An Economic Development Meeting was scheduled for Monday, August 14th, 6:00 p.m., City Hall, Randy Stone Community Room. Thanked Dr. Summers for her work over the past six years. Shout out to Roy Curtis and the Public Works Department for their work on Rose Court. Thanked everyone for public comments. Thanked Chief Hays for his crew and report.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Davis motioned; Little seconded motion to adjourn at 7:45 p.m.

Voice Vote: All ayes

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Mayor Bruce Fraley

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City Clerk