**BEREA CITY COUNCIL \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_ REGULAR MEETING \_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_SEPTEMBER 19, 2023**

The Berea City Council met in regular session, Tuesday, September 19, 2023.

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, David Rowlette, Jerry Little,

Steve Caudill, Cora Jane Wilson, Ronnie Terrill

**COUNCIL ABSENT:** None

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** J.T. Gilbert, Rose Beverly, Robin Adams, Tommy Horn, Priscilla Bloom,

Jason Hays, Susan Meeks, Kevin Howard, Amanda Haney

**INVOCATION:** Cora Jane Wilson

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Cora Jane Wilson

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Voice Vote: All ayes

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 5, 2023**

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

Voice Vote: All ayes

**HOPE’S WINGS UPDATE -** Jennifer Lainhart, Executive Director//Blueprint for Safety Coordinator, Hope’s Wings Domestic Violence Program

As October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Lainhart shared and invited everyone to scheduled events for Hope’s Wings during the month of October. Events included Lunch at Richmond City Hall and Proclamation signing on October 2nd, These Hands Don’t Hurt Rally in Berea on October 20th, Wear Purple Month and use purple light bulbs in porch lights in support of Domestic Violence Awareness. The domestic violence trend had increased for Madison County and homeless calls also increase during winter months.

Phase 3 of their program included moving people from the shelter into their own homes, assisting with rent for up to two years, helping them get back out into the community. Requested landlord contact information if anyone was familiar with landlords who would like to work with their program.

**CONSTITUTION WEEK PROCLAMATION**

Mayor Fraley read Proclamation in entirety and presented to Patty Calico Davis, Laurel Ridge Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

Davis stated DAR was a service organization committed to historic preservation, education, patriotism, and honoring patriots of the Revolutionary War. Davis shared events taking place all week to celebrate the signing of the Constitution, i.e., Constitutional information packets were given to all 7th graders at Berea Community School, Bell Ringing, Constitution Week display at the library, and “Preamble” bookmarks.

**BEREA CITY COUNCIL \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_ REGULAR MEETING \_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_SEPTEMBER 19, 2023**

**RESOLUTION #11-2023 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARTICIPATION OF THE CITY OF BEREA IN A JOINT POST-CSEPP TRANSITION TASK FORCE; AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPOINT THE CITY’S MEMBERS OF SUCH TASK FORCE**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Resolution #11-2023 by summary.

Each entity, i.e., Berea, Madison County, and Richmond, would appoint two members to serve on the task force.

Caudill motioned; Little seconded motion to approve and adopt Resolution #11-2023.

Voice Vote: All ayes

**ORDINANCE #10-2023 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, BY REVISING SECTION 41.101 TO INCLUDE UTILITY STRIPS IN THE REQUIREMENT OF MAINTENANCE BY PROPERTY OWNERS, AND TO ADD A DEFINITION FOR UTILITY STRIPS. - 2ND READING**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Ordinance #10-2023 by summary.

After extensive discussion, the following motions were made:

Little motioned; Terrill seconded motion to amend Ordinance #10-2023 by adding Section I § 41.101 (D) nothing to be grown or planted in Utility Strips except grass.

Voice Vote: Ayes prevailed. Motion carried.

Caudill motioned; Startzman seconded motion to postpone Ordinance #10-2023 until the next City Council meeting.

Voice Vote: Nays prevailed. Motion failed.

Caudill motioned; Startzman seconded motion to amend amendment by adding “without the approval of the City of Berea Utility Strip Working Group.”

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Davis, Scenters, Startzman, Little, Caudill

Nays: Rowlette, Wilson, Terrill

Motion carried.

Little motioned; Terrill seconded motion to approve and adopt Ordinance #10-2023 as amended by adding Section I § 41.101 (D) Nothing shall be grown or planted in utility strips except grass without the approval of the City of Berea Utility Strip Working Group.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Terrill, Wilson, Caudill, Little, Rowlette, Scenters, Davis

Nays: Startzman

Motion carried.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

**Susan Meeks, Director, Finance**

The FY23 audit was moving along well and on track for presentation to Council by the second Council meeting in October. As clear guidance was later provided for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, auditors would be reporting on a Prior Period Adjustment related to how ARPA funds handled in the 2022 Financial Statement was being used as revenue, especially lost revenue, and how unearned revenue could not be considered revenue until spent. Overall, nothing changed except how funding was presented in the financial statement. They would also be discussing a new accounting standard for handling prescription-based software packages lasting longer than twelve months.

**BEREA CITY COUNCIL \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_ REGULAR MEETING \_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_SEPTEMBER 19, 2023**

Year-end financial results, without any anticipated changes, presented an increase in the general fund balance of approximately two million dollars. Tourism was also showing an increase in their general fund balance of approximately one million dollars.

As far as totals for FY24,it was too early to determine where totals would be. Revenue received to date is the same as last year at this time. Expenditures were 20% below budget. CDs and Treasury Security investments continued to do well.

Property tax cards were mailed and would soon be showing up. In recognizing the cards, they were now white with a blue line across the top, instead of blue cards. The county cards were also white with a yellow line across the top.

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

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was sent out for a new chemical for the Water Treatment Plant. One bid was received from Zeta Solutions, Arden, North Carolina, and opened on September 18th. The bid was for a Polyaluminum Hydroxychloride Solution (ZetaSOL 124) at 58.9 cents / lb. This chemical had been used on a trial basis for the past few months, showing improved results compared to the previous chemical used and using 155 lbs. less per day, anticipating a cost savings of $8500 per year. Howard requested and recommended purchase of Water Treatment chemical, ZetaSOL 124, from Zeta Solutions at 58.9 cents / lb.

Caudill motioned; Terrill seconded motion to approve purchase of Water Treatment chemical, ZetaSOL 124, from Zeta Solutions at 58.9 cents / lb.

Voice Vote: All ayes

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Eleanor Workman, Berea

Was troubled, at what seemed to be, an unwillingness to investigate such a simple matter as the strip, to plant only grass or not. As a citizen, she would appreciate more information and what could we do to beautify the city. Also, as many do not think about those who are less than five feet tall and could not see around nor over trees and signs, would like consideration on placement of signs.

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

* Rose Street drainage project was complete and performing well.
* Along with their day-to-day activities, Public Works would be moving toward work on the Firing Range.
* The City was working on a pavilion for the Mountain Bike Park, hopefully completed by the fall.
* Thanked all departments that worked to help the Chamber of Commerce with the Spoonbread Festival. The Chamber did a really good job highlighting the community.
* The Salute to Service luncheons with each department were continuing and had been enjoyable. Thus far, Mayor Fraley and Beverly had been to lunch with the Finance, Electric, and Water Departments. It had been nice to have the one-on-one time with the employees.

**MAYOR’S REPORT / COMMENTS**

* Had a good time at the Spoonbread Festival. The amount of work on the Festival was incredible, involving the Chamber of Commerce, the business community, volunteers, sponsors, vendors, and city staff. Compliments to all involved.

**BEREA CITY COUNCIL \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_ REGULAR MEETING \_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_SEPTEMBER 19, 2023**

* To coincide with Richmond City and Madison County, requested approval from Council to schedule Halloween Trick-or-Treat day for Tuesday, October 31st, 6pm – 8pm.

Little motioned; Caudill seconded motion to set Trick-or-Treat date for Tuesday, October 31, 2023, 6pm – 8pm, for City of Berea.

Voice Vote: All ayes

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Rowlette** No comment.

**Startzman** Requested thescheduled date for Halloween-at-the-Park. Per Bloom, Parks Director, Halloween-at-the-Park was scheduled for the same as Trick-or-Treat, October 31st.

**Scenters** Noticed activity on the bypass this week and glad to see it going forward.

**Davis** Echoed comments regarding the Spoonbread Festival. A great weekend and festival, thanked all City Departmentsfor helping. Recognized Daniel Brindley, IT Director, on speaking at Rotary, represented the City well and represented himself well.

**Little** Regarding the Rose Street project, gave a shout out to the Public Works Department. As good of a job he had ever seen done. Felt the problem was taken care of, they did a great job.

**Caudill** With weekends like this past weekend, you begin to see community involvement. A testament to a lot of great work throughout our City Government. To see the many people enjoying our City, appreciated everyone involved in the festival as it was a mass amount of work. Excited to see the audit and audit financials and the news of surplus. Having a surplus was a testament to a lot of people spending and investing wisely and hard work over a lot of years. Thank you to all those people.

**Wilson** Echoed everyone’s sentiments. Have a great week.

**Terrill** No comment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Rowlette motioned; Davis seconded motion to adjourn at 7:42 p.m.

Voice Vote: All ayes

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mayor Bruce Fraley \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City Clerk