**BEREA CITY COUNCIL \_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_ REGULAR MEETING \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_JANUARY 16, 2024**

The Berea City Council met in regular session, Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

Mayor Bruce Fraley presiding.

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

WORK SESSION

5:30 PM – 6:25 PM

ORDINANCE #02-2024 2024 STORMWATER DESIGN MANUAL

ORDINANCE #03-2024 PAY SCALE AMENDMENT

ORDINANCE #04-2024 MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMPENSATION

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Jim Davis, Teresa Scenters, Katie Startzman, Jerry Little, Steve Caudill,

Cora Jane Wilson, Ronnie Terrill

**COUNCIL ABSENT:** David Rowlette

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** J.T. Gilbert, Rose Beverly, Robin Adams, Daniel Brindley, Priscilla Bloom, Jason Hays, Kevin Howard, Amanda Haney, Matthew Thomas, Zinnia Hensley

**INVOCATION:** Cora Jane Wilson

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Ronnie Terrill

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Little motioned; Davis seconded motion to amend agenda to add Ordinance #04-2024.

Voice Vote: All ayes

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

Voice Vote: All ayes

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES - DECEMBER 19, 2023**

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

Voice Vote: All ayes

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH**

Lisa Foster, President, and Zinnia Hensley, Vice President, of Redeeming Hope, shared an update regarding January as National Human Trafficking Awareness Month and the status on their non-profit home that would be aiding victims of human trafficking, serving girls between the ages of 14 and 18 with twenty-four-hour care. As of January 2019, for federal cases, Kentucky ranked number nine in the nation for human trafficking. In 2023, Kentucky was now ranked approximately at number five, determining human trafficking was still a huge problem. According to the Cabinet of Health & Family Services, in the last two years with 2022 being the highest, there had been an increase of reports in labor, trafficking, and sexual exploitation.

Redeeming Hope had been given five acres from Church on the Rock for the construction of their facility, which had included a groundbreaking and donation of building supplies. More information was available on their website at redeeminghopeky.org.

Mayor Fraley presented a National Human Trafficking Prevention Month Proclamation to Foster and Hensley.

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**ORDINANCE #01-2024 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN AND REFERRED TO AS 334 RASH ROAD AND OWNED BY ROY TODD BUILDERS LLC FROM R-1 (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) TO B-2 (MAJOR BUSINESS DISTRICT). - 1ST READING**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Ordinance #01-2024 by summary based on Findings of Fact.

**ORDINANCE #02-2024 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, ADOPTING THE 2024 STORMWATER DESIGN MANUAL AS REFERENCE STANDARD FROM CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 34 STORMWATER CONTROL (SPECIFICALLY REFERENCED IN SECTION 34.005, 34.205.C, 34.206.E(4), AND 34.301.E). - 1ST READING**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, as being subject to a Work Session, read Ordinance #02-2024 by summary.

**ORDINANCE #03-2024 AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE AUTHORIZED POSITIONS’ ASSIGNED PAY GRADE AND PAY SCALE BY ADDING THE POSITION OF METERING COORDINATOR, ADDING THE POSITION OF SMALL ENGINE REPAIR TECHNICIAN, AND DELETING THE POSITIONS OF ELECTRIC METER TECHNICIAN AND WATER METER TECHNICIAN. - 1ST READING**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, as being subject to a Work Session, read Ordinance #03-2024 by summary.

**ORDINANCE #04-2024 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, BY REVISING SECTION 20.100 AND SECTION 20.201 TO PROVIDE FOR AN INCREASE IN THE COMPENSATION OF THE POSITIONS OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS. - 1ST READING**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, as being subject to a Work Session, read Ordinance #04-2024 by summary.

Scenters reiterated the said Ordinance #04-2024 would not go into effect until after the 2024 Election of the next seated Council in January of 2025.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

**Kevin Howard, General Manager, Berea Municipal Utilities**

As a Water Conservation Advisory had recently been issued, the current precipitation had helped gain approximately thirty days of water supply. With more precipitation on the way, hopeful that the water levels would improve. While water levels were still down, Berea Municipal Utilities and Southern Madison Water District continued to keep the Water Conservation Advisory in place through January. Requested customers to be patient and take water conservation seriously.

Calendar year 2023 consisted of 915 completed Electrical Work Orders, 158 power outages, 278 completed Water Work Orders, 61 water leaks, 209 completed Sewer Work Orders, and the After-Hour Call Service consisted of 906 calls.

Industrial water usage for calendar year 2023 consisted of an 8% decrease in overall water usage compared to year 2022.

As a daily average of 2.88 million gallons of water was used, a close watch is kept on water production due to withdrawal charges for every gallon of water taken out. Another monitored metric was the recycled lagoon water in the water treatment process. As solids settled, the water on top was recycled back into the plant. They had been able to recycle 41.42 million gallons of water over the year creating a water withdrawal savings of approximately $8000 and fourteen days of water supply to not have to withdraw from the lakes.

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2023 Wastewater Treatment Plant average daily flow was 2.6 million gallons. The average was down from past years indicating the money spent on projects to resolve the I&I issues had results of a positive impact.

Miscellaneous Projects

* Of the city’s 1071 LED streetlights, 580 lights had been replaced.
* In-house camera inspection assessments were being performed on the Brushy Fork sewer shed.
* Engineers were in the middle of the design phase of the 595 Pump Station Upgrade.
* B-Lake Remediation Project had begun, equipment was on site.
* Planned to submit RFPs (Request for Proposals) in the coming weeks for Automated Meter Infrastructure (AMI) Metering and Street-Cut Repairs, with plans to submit RFP for Owsley Fork Dam by mid-summer.
* Owsley Fork Dam finalizing projects involved roadway elevation, scheduling meetings with property owners to discuss any needed acquisitions, cemetery relocation plan, minor utility line relocates, lease agreement for offsite storage, public meetings to discuss construction plans, etc. Once construction had begun, the construction timeline would be sixteen to eighteen months.

**Amanda Haney, Administrator, Codes & Planning**

Thanked Council for their support regarding updates to the Stormwater Manual.

Haney introduced the new Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Technician, Matthew Thomas. Thomas had worked with the Codes Department the last 1½ years as a part time employee. He graduated from Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) in December 2023 with a GIS Certificate, a double major in Political Science & GIS, and a minor in Geography.

Thomas commented he had enjoyed his time working at Berea thus far, was looking forward to the future with his bright dreams and visions for the GIS Department.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

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

* Excited to have Matthew Thomas on our team.
* An Amended Budget Work Session had been scheduled for Council on Thursday, February 1st, 6:00 p.m. After meeting will all Department Heads, changes were minimal.
* The Departmental written report would be sent out later this week due to the weather and holiday.
* Planned to begin working on (RFPs) for Streets and Garbage Service.
* A Public Works Committee Meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 23rd, City Hall, Basement Conference Room, 6:00 p.m., and a Parks Committee Meeting was scheduled for Thursday, January 25th, City Hall, Randy Stone Community Room, 5:30 p.m.

**MAYOR’S REPORT / COMMENTS**

* Happy for new staff member, Matthew Thomas.
* The following retirees were scheduled to retire in early 2024:
* Bill Lovern, Berea Municipal Utilities Electric Division, 20+ years of service

Retiring in January

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* Preston Chandler, Public Works Department, 20+ years of service

Retiring in January

* Sheila Wolfe, Finance Department, 16+ years of service

Retiring in April

* Hats off to the Public Works Staff. They went above and beyond the call of duty, with a split shift, clearing streets due to the weather. Appreciated and thanked them for their efforts, a job well done.
* Commended Police Chief Jason Hays and staff on a 100% score from Kentucky League of Cities’ Loss Prevention Control Survey on sixty-two different items, achieving 148 points out of 148 possible points. An outstanding score which would assist in insurance premiums. Congratulations, a job well done.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Davis** Congrats to Chief Hays, a job well done. The City’s Street Department did an outstanding job. Welcome to Matthew Thomas. Thanked Kevin Howard for his report. Curious about trash pickup, asked if anyone had heard the pickup schedule due to the holiday and the snow.

**Scenters** All should be grateful for the Department Heads and how they run their departments. Howard’s report was really good, appreciated all he does. Consider all other departments and how well the City was run. Street Department must be exhausted working all the time, especially during the winter weather, continue to pray for their safety. Thanked all departments for what they do.

**Startzman** Grateful for the presentation regarding the Stormwater Manual changes. Thanked the Public Works Department for repairing the water leak behind her restaurant and the whole block, a huge impact. Really grateful for their work.

**Little** No comment.

**Caudill** No comment.

**Wilson** Human Trafficking was real and a big problem as she had experienced it through a ‘stern’ visitor at her own business. Be mindful and alert to your surroundings, especially kids. Congratulations to Chief Jason Hays, good job. Kevin, great report. Amanda, the Stormwater Manual “cheat sheets” upgrade was good. Street Department had done a phenomenal job. Appreciated all employees. Happy New Year to everyone.

**Terrill** Echoed Wilson’s comments.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Davis motioned; Caudill seconded motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation per KRS 61.810(c).

Voice Vote: All ayes

Caudill motioned; Little seconded motion to return to Open Session.

Voice Volte: All ayes

Mayor Fraley stated the City Council met with Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, in closed session to discuss pending litigation, per KRS 61.810(c). No decisions were made.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Caudill motioned; Scenters seconded motion to adjourn at 7:54 p.m.

Voice Vote: All ayes

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

City Clerk