**BEREA CITY COUNCIL \_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_ \_ REGULAR MEETING \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ APRIL 2, 2024**

The Berea City Council met in regular session, Tuesday, April 2, 2024.

Mayor Bruce Fraley presiding.

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

WORK SESSION

5:45PM – 6:20PM

LOW-SPEED VEHICLE USAGE - Bill West, Chair, Tourism Commission

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

Cora Jane Wilson, Ronnie Terrill

**COUNCIL ABSENT:** David Rowlette

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

Priscilla Bloom, Jason Hays, Kevin Howard

**INVOCATION:** Teresa Scenters

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Teresa Scenters

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Voice Vote: All ayes

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES - MARCH 19, 2024**

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

Voice Vote: All ayes

**NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH PROCLAMATION**

Mayor Fraley read Proclamation in entirety and presented Victoria Benge, Executive Director, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Madison and Clark Counties.

Benge stated as April was National Child Abuse Prevention Month, they wanted to raise awareness of what is happening within our community. Thursday of this week, April 4th, at 2:00 p.m., they would be planting 263 pinwheels on the front lawn of City Hall to represent the number of abused and/or neglected children in Madison County for last year, 2023. Encouraged the public to help on Thursday. CASA could be contacted at madisoncasa.org or by calling #859.353.8608.

**RESOLUTION #05-2024 A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, TO PARTICIPATE IN AN INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BEREA, THE CITY OF RICHMOND, AND THE MADSON COUNTY FISCAL COURT, FOR TRANSITIONING THE CURRENT JOINT 911 TO A COUNTY DEPARTMENT FUNDED BY A 911 FEE ASSESSED ON ALL PROPERTY TAX BILLS FOR MADISON COUNTY, AND THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY TO CONTINUE AS A COUNTY DEPARTMENT TO BE JOINTLY FUNDED BASED ON NUMBER OF PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL, AND FOR THE CREATION OF A PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS.**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Resolution #05-2024 by summary title.

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Beverly gave an overview of the Joint Post-CSEPP Transition Task Force stating around September of 2023, a Task Force Board was created to collaborate and identify innovative strategies, funding, and actionable recommendations for Madison County Fiscal Court, City of Berea City Council, and City of

Richmond City Commission to prepare for the loss of federal CSEPP funding that had provided tools

and resources to support community funding for the last thirty years.

Dedicated staff members assigned to the Task Force included the following: Chris Iseral (Chief Information Officer, Madison County), Tim Gray (Fire Chief, Madison County), Rob Minerich (City Manager, City of Richmond), Rodney Richardson (Police Chief, City of Richmond), Shawn Sandlin (Fire Chief, City of Berea), Rose Beverly (City Administrator, City of Berea).

Additionally, Wendy Lynch (Madison County 911 Director) had served as trusted advisor to the Task Force, while Pat McNeely and Brian Malinich (Mission Critical Partners) served as meeting facilitators.

The Task Force was honored to represent our respective local government agencies and expressed gratitude to the elected officials for entrusting them with this critical responsibility. Their primary objective was to secure funding for a system that had been historically covered by the CSEPP program, ensuring ongoing access to 911 and Emergency Management as expected and deserved by community members.

The Task Force had diligently worked to develop and recommend a viable plan that our government entities could utilize to seamlessly transition from the federal funding that had been subsidizing our county for decades. When CSEPP funding disappeared, it would create a financial gap that the government entities must find solutions to bridge to ensure that the standard of services was maintained.

Caudill motioned; Scenters seconded motion to approve and adopt Resolution #05-2024.

Voice Vote: All ayes

**ORDINANCE #10-2024 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, AMENDNG SECTION 56.006 (B)(7) TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, PROVIDING FOR A PROHIBITION OF ALCOHOL SALES ON CITY OWNED PROPERTY. - 1ST READING**

As Ordinance #10-2024 only amended Section 56.006 (B)(7), Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read and summarized the amended Ordinance by summary title.

After discussion of Council Members regarding Ordinance #10-2024, Caudill requested a Work Session for further discussion before the 2nd Reading on April 16th.

**ORDINANCE #11-2024 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, ADOPTING A SUPPLEMENT TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY. - 1ST READING**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Ordinance #11-2024 in entirety.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

**Donna Angel, Director, Business & Tourism Development**

Business Development Recap of 2023

* Worked with 60 new businesses in 2023, closing out the year with 130 business inquiries.
* Worked with 8 local manufacturing companies for hiring events, adding 580 new employees to our industry.
* Received 110 site and/or building visit inquiries regarding sale or lease.

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* Referred 14 small business start-ups to local banks for financial assistance and referred 4 clients to the Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) for guidance on existing business plans.
* Collaborated with:
* Berea College Business Development for events on campus and/or Boone Tavern.
* Bluegrass Area Development District (BGADD) & Madison County Ignite North to create evening classes for new, unseasoned welders that were hired throughout the Industrial Park.
* Bechtel Parsons and the Bluegrass Army Depot for an Industrial private hiring event.
* KY Chamber Fair Chance Recovery program for hiring second-chance employees for small business and industry.
* Upgraded the Mayde Road Industrial Park sign.
* Completed all new photos of the Industrial Park for marketing and advertising promotions and requests.
* Berea remained in the top 10 cities of industrial growth for Kentucky, written by Site Selector Magazine, and was voted #6 in the Nation as Best Small Art Scene Town, industry related.
* Attended the Governor’s presentation rolling out the Kentucky Aviation Career Preparation Curriculum across the state, with credits for grades 7 through 12.
* Continued aggressive membership meetings with Kentucky Association Economic Development, Bluegrass Alliance, and BGADD on workforce issues.

Berea Tourism Recap of 2023 of Cash Injections Into Our City

* Twelve conferences were held in Berea, in collaboration with Berea Tourism; cash injection of

$348,700.00

* Eleven festivals and events; cash injection of approximately $2,800,000.00
* One hundred nine motorcoach buses visited Berea; cash injection of $886,000.00
* Community Projects supported; cash injected back into the community, $80,371.00
* Property Maintenance paid expenses; injection of renovation projects, $101,700.00
* Building Projects; project asset injection to the City, $700,00.00
* Equipment purchases totaled $52,000.00

Berea Tourism Projects for 2024-2025

* Will begin new sign wrap package for signs around town; estimated cost of approximately $1 Million for 171 signs.
* Will wrap up Trolley project with approximately $225,000.00.
* Will begin replacing ceramic tile roof on the Welcome Center and new flooring for the train back platform with approximately $80,000.00.

5-Year Capital Plan for 2024-2025

* Old Town Hotel renovation reserved funding for approximately $1.5 Million.

Berea was a great town. The growth had been unbelievable. Our City continued to be strong and healthy.

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**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Several citizens and/or business owners of Berea**, i.e., Cody Crowder, Mike VanWinkle, Erica Chambers, Carol VanWinkle, Hailey Howard, and Shane Morris, expressed their opposition and/or opinion regarding Ordinance #10-2024.

**Mary Colmer, Old Town, Berea**, for thirty-six years, shared the history of the giant hands (12) that were painted and placed around town several years ago. She had painted a hand with a traditional mitten pattern called, “We make you kindly welcome.” Over time, the hand was damaged. After repair, and damaged once again, the hand was stored by the City. Colmer requested if the hand was returned and/or given to her she would love to repair it at her expense.

**Ali Blair, Berea**, appreciated Tourism’s report and shared information regarding her own program(s), First Friday/Levitt Amp, for 2023, i.e., live performances, open mic, trivia games, theater performances, regional conference programs, and outdoor live music performances. Blair also requested a way to be able to pay City taxes on-line as it would assist in getting taxes paid in a timely manner and help cash flow.

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

* City of Berea’s Spring Clean-up was scheduled for the week of April 15 – 19. Detailed information could be found on the City’s website, Facebook, and in the local newspaper.
* Parks Department events for April included Autism Sensory Day, Special Olympics of Kentucky (SOKY) Spring Dance, and Spring Painting.
* Requested approval for increase of Tourism Budget Line Item #028-1000-56300 / Automobiles from $150,000 to $221,000 for the purchase of a new trolley.

After brief discussion and before approval, Council requested a Work Session to review total cost which included a driver for trolley, insurance, parking/storage, etc.

Caudill motioned; Davis seconded motion to postpone indefinitely, pending a Work Session.

Voice Vote: All ayes

**MAYOR’S REPORT / COMMENTS**

* As the Parks Department had scheduled an Autism Sensory Day in April, he noted that April was Autism Awareness Month.
* The Berea Fire Department assisted downtown Mt. Vernon today in a serious fire. Offer support to those in Mt. Vernon and keep downtown businesses and/or owners in your thoughts and prayers.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Davis** Thanked Angel for her report. If Tourism did purchase a trolley, thought a place should be found to keep it inside.

**Scenters** Thanked everyone for attending.

**Startzman** Thanked Bill West for his Work Session presentation regarding Low-Speed Vehicles (LSV). Thanked everyone who spoke, sent e-mails, and phone calls. Appreciated hearing from them. Shared Caudill’s confusion regarding Ordinance #10-2024, of why it was begin revisited. City property was taxpayers’ property and felt the voter referendum referring to alcohol sales in the City demonstrated a clear will of the people. Had a lot of faith in the City’s attorneys to protect the City from legal jeopardy.

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**Little**  Thanked Bill West for the Work Session presentation. Thanked Angel for her report. Regarding Resolution #05-2024 and CSEPP funding coming to an end, although the level of service from CSEPP had been ‘Cadillac/Rolls-Royce’ style, they were trying to come down to a ‘Chevrolet’ style.

**Caudill** Would be happy to talk with anyone regarding CSEPP and/or CSEPP funding as it was confusing, and people were asking why this was being done. The funding was not for local equipment but for the Emergency Management System, as this funding was ending. It was a difficult task with no easy answers.

**Wilson** Thanked everyone for coming. Great report from Angel, appreciated all that she does. Regarding Resolution #05-2024 and CSEPP funding, asked everyone to consider, “How important was it when making a 911 call for someone to answer the phone, especially if needed for a child, family member, accident, etc.?” It was well worth the money when you have an emergency. Everyone have a safe evening.

**Terrill** No comment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Wilson motioned; Caudill 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