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

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

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, Jerry Little, Cora Jane Wilson,

Ronnie Terrill

**COUNCIL ABSENT:** David Rowlette, Steve Caudill

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Rose Beverly, Robin Adams, Daniel Brindley, Priscilla Bloom, Amanda Haney,

Jason Hays

**INVOCATION:** Jerry Little

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Jerry Little

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Voice Vote: All ayes Moton carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES - JUNE 18, 2024**

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

Voice Vote: All ayes Motion carried.

**THE BEREA CITIZEN – CELEBRATING 125 YEARS PROCLAMATION**

Mayor Fraley read Proclamation for The Berea Citizen Celebrating 125 Years, presented to Keith Taylor, Publisher, on behalf of The Berea Citizen, also recognizing Council Member, Publisher Emeritus, Teresa Scenters.

Taylor stated in 2021 The Berea Citizen Office moved to a new location on Plaza Drive. He shared an 1899 copy of the first published newspaper, i.e., The Citizen, found in the attic of the previous office. Appreciated Mayor Fraley and City Council for recognizing The Berea Citizen. It was an honor and joy to serve as Publisher of The Berea Citizen. Appreciated the support and engagement of the community, Mayor, City Council, and his staff. Very humbled and honored in receiving the Proclamation.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

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

Haney provided an update on current projects for the Codes & Planning Office, which included the following:

Residential Permits / Inspections

* 83 New Single Family Dwellings (NSFD) under construction; primarily at Harvest Park and Stoney Creek.
* 4 Duplexes
* 29 Miscellaneous Permits, i.e., additions, decks, pools, etc.

Commercial Plan Reviews, Permits, Inspections, & Other

* Starbuck’s
* Davis & Powell Funeral Home / Chapel addition recently completed

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* Berea College Edwards Building
* Berea College Hutchins Library / renovation
* Berea College Frost Building / renovation
* State Farm Insurance Building / addition
* Hitachi / clean room project
* Novelis (2) / foundation for future expansion and a baghouse
* Circle K / renovation at both locations
* Laundromat located on Price Royal Drive
* Old Theater Building on Chestnut Street / renovation
* Other miscellaneous projects in the design phase
* Kentucky Department of Housing, Buildings, & Construction is intending to adopt a new 2024 Code Cycle

Code Enforcement

* 31 active complaints for grass, trash, and nuisance

Planning & Zoning

* Land Management & Development Ordinance Updates
* Kentucky Housing Corporation was working on a county by county, three-phase housing gap analysis, which the results would be published. Plans were for the results to be available at the Kentucky League of Cities Conference in September 2024. Hoping to use the information in making better housing decisions for Berea and as an addition to the Comprehensive Plan.
* Updating the Comprehensive Plan was the next project to begin in 2025.
* The Planning Commission recently approved a townhouse development on Ridgewood Drive.
* Eight minor plats currently in review.
* Expecting to receive a final plat for Stoney View Estates with 55 house lots.
* In the process of a Zone Change for a 50-lot subdivision and storage building development along Menelaus Road.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

* Actively mapping the City’s Stormwater System, a requirement of the MS-4 Program.

Other

* Reviewed the Trash for Cash Program.
* Continued to work on OpenGov making it more useful to the public and for staff.
* Brian Reed was working on Capital Projects which included the Folk Center Window Project, Tolle Building, design for Concession Stand, and Basketball Court paving.
* Recognized the Codes & Planning staff for their hard work.

Mayor Fraley commended Haney and her staff for the job they do as it related to Business Development, Economic Development, etc., with a business-friendly attitude.

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**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Martin Richards, 107 Holly Street, stated, as having been a Planning & Zoning Commissioner, attending numerous conferences, and his experience as a general contractor, that Berea Planning & Zoning had it together, i.e., ahead of addressing issues, making processes business friendly, etc. Commended Haney and staff of how well the community was doing in this area, compared to other communities.

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

* Requested approval for a line overage for budget line #200-1900-54600, Purchase of Electricity, for FY23-24 Budget, for approximately $1.54M and ending the year at approximately $686K in the budget line.

The overage was for a one-time “true-up” payment for the rate stabilization fund due to Kentucky Municipal Energy Agency (KYMEA) under the new Purchase Power Contract. Although the payment was approved by Council to pay in the FY24-25 Budget, auditors felt it should be paid out of the budget year in which the City entered into the contract.

Little motioned; Terrill seconded motion to approve overage of budget line #200-1900-54600, Purchase of Electricity, for FY23-24, which was originally budgeted for in the FY25 Budget.

Voice Vote: All ayes Motion carried.

* The Parks Department invited everyone to the City’s Independence Day Celebration scheduled for Thursday, July 4th, 6:00 p.m., Duerson Stadium, behind Berea Community School. There would be activities for kids, food vendors, a local band beginning at 8:00 p.m., with fireworks show beginning at 10 p.m.

In case of rain, no alternate date was scheduled for the event. Updates would be provided on the Parks Department’s Facebook page.

* Appreciated Haney and her team for the work they do for the City while keeping a positive atmosphere, a testament to great leadership.

**MAYOR’S REPORT / COMMENTS**

* No comments.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Terrill** No comment.

**Wilson** Thanked everyone in attendance. Wished everyone a happy and safe July 4th.

**Little** Glad to see Police Chief, Hays, back. As the City offers brush and limb pick up, the third full week of each month, try not to get brush/limbs in the street gutters or block the sidewalks. This was a really good service and hoped the citizens appreciated and honored the system, not abusing it. Thanked everyone for coming, have a good holiday.

**Startzman** Compliments and thank you to Amanda with the work on the Land Management & Development Ordinance (LMDO) process. Also thanked the Planning Commission.

**Scenters** Echoed Startzman’s comments regarding the LMDO, very well done. Congratulations to Keith Taylor, 125 years for the Berea Citizen is unbelievable. Everyone have a safe and happy Independence Day.

**Davis** Congratulations and thank you to Amanda for her report and her crew, as well as Planning & Zoning. Wished everyone a happy and safe July 4th. Reminded everyone to be mindful of neighbors when setting off fireworks and cut them off at a decent hour.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Little motioned; Scenters seconded motion to adjourn at 7:09 p.m.

Voice Vote: All ayes Motion carried.

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Mayor Bruce Fraley

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City Clerk