

The Berea City Council met in regular session, Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

Mayor Bruce Fraley presiding.

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

COUNCIL PRESENT: Steve Davis, John Payne, Katie Startzman, Teresa Scenters, Steve Caudill, Cora Jane Wilson, Ronnie Terrill

COUNCIL ABSENT: Jerry Little

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Jerry Gilbert, Shawn Sandlin, Robin Adams, Daniel Brindley, Donna Angel, Priscilla Bloom, Jason Hays, Kevin Howard, Charlie Russell

INVOCATION: Steve Davis

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Steve Davis

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Terrill motioned; Wilson seconded motion to amend agenda to add Resolution #03-2025.

Voice Vote: All ayes Motioned carried.

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

Voice Vote: All ayes Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - JANUARY 21, 2025

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

Voice Vote: All ayes Motion carried.

DANCEBLUE

Abilene Prevett, representing Silver Creek Elementary's DanceBlue mini marathon, shared her experience with kidney cancer and DanceBlue Clinic. DanceBlue was a University of Kentucky student-run group that raises funds for the fight against childhood cancer, helping families and patients. Students raise funds throughout the year, later having a 24-hour dance marathon. In support of Abilene, Silver Creek Elementary was hosting a mini marathon on February 28th.

Prevett shared what DanceBlue meant to her, i.e., student volunteers keeping her company to help pass the time, kind nurses helping treatment to move along quickly, childhood specialists, gas cards, hotel rooms, food for her family, iPads, video games, crafts, etc. She was thankful to be supported by Berea and her school, Silver Creek Elementary, during treatment, feeling loved and cared for in her community. She hoped everyone would support DanceBlue and get the word out for such a great cause.

SAFETY SUPPLIES CONTRACT

Mayor Fraley stated the City would like to enter into contract with Adams Coomes, owner, Endeavor Fire Protection. Although Coomes was also a Berea Firefighter, the City's Ethics Ordinance required Council approval to move into a contract with an employee.

Sandlin stated the City's current vendor, Northwind Safety Corporation, requested to terminate their contract for medical supply cabinets, AED certifications, and fire extinguisher services. To address this, a Request For Proposal (RFP) was issued to cover all City Departments. Only one bid was received from Endeavor Fire Protection at a cost of \$7,775.80/year, in which was lower than the previous provider. As Endeavor Fire Protection was owned by Adams Coomes, a City employee within the Fire Department, there was a need to review and ensure the City was following the Code of Ethics

before awarding the bid.

Mayor Fraley shared the City's Ethics Ordinance, Chapter 27, Section 27.011(A), Conflicts of Interest in Contracts.

Caudill motioned; Terrill seconded motion to approve contract for safety supplies for Adams Coomes, firefighter and owner of Endeavor Fire Protection, based on the price and being the sole vendor was in the best interest of the City.

Voice Vote: All ayes Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #02-2025 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERE, KENTUCKY, APPROVING A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT ("AGREEMENT") BY AND BETWEEN CMN-RUS, LLC F/K/A CMN-RUS, INC. ("METRONET") AND THE CITY OF BERE, KENTUCKY ("BERE"), WHEREBY METRONET CEASES TO PROVIDE CABLE TELEVISION SERVICE PURSUANT TO ITS 2021 FRANCHISE, THE FRANCHISE IS TERMINATED, AND METRONET ENTERS INTO A NEW FRANCHISE FOR COMMUNICATION SERVICES ONLY, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT.

Corporate Counsel read Resolution #02-2025 by title summary.

Sandlin shared that Metronet had chosen not to do television due to low number of customers (15), choosing to only provide internet and/or Wi-Fi services. Resolution #02-2025 covered the fifteen customers in which Metronet no longer wanted to provide television services.

Payne motioned; Davis seconded motion to approve and adopt Resolution #02-2025.

Voice Vote: All ayes Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #03-2025 A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING AN ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BERE, KENTUCKY AND THE KENTUCKY INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE UP TO \$1,173,800 OF LOAN FUNDS FOR PROJECT NUMBER B21-001.

Mayor Fraley read Resolution #03-2025 in entirety clarifying the Resolution was for the airport modernization project for water and sewer. Berea City Council, Richmond City Commission, Madison County Fiscal Court, and Eastern Kentucky University had agreed to support the project. The loan would be repaid with aircraft hangar rentals. This loan portion is the amount not paid by the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Terrill motioned; Caudill seconded motion to approve and adopt Resolution #03-2025.

Voice Vote: All ayes Motioned carried.

ORDINANCE #01-2025 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BERE, KENTUCKY, GRANTING UNTO CMN-RUS, LLC ("METRONET"), ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, THE RIGHT, FRANCHISE, AND PRIVILEGE FOR A PERIOD OF TEN YEARS TO ACQUIRE, CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN IN THE CITY OF BERE, KENTUCKY, THE NECESSARY FACILITIES FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE USE, AND TO USE AND OCCUPY THE PUBLIC STREETS, HIGHWAYS, AVENUES, ALLEYS, BRIDGES, AND PUBLIC PLACES FOR SUCH PURPOSES, AND PRESCRIBING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS THEREOF. - 1ST READING

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Ordinance #01-2025 by title summary.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**Charlie Russell, Assistant Fire Chief, Berea Fire Department**

Russell highlighted the following for a 2024 year-end summary for the Fire Department:

- 899 Service Calls, ranging from emergency responses, training, and public services.
- 679 of the Service Calls were within the City Limits and 220 calls were in the County.
- Paid staff and volunteers completed 6,034 training hours.
- Career Pathway at the school had grown from three students to ten.
- Participated in forty-one public education events.

Updates for 2025 included:

- A meeting was scheduled this week to discuss the purchase of training props for the school's Career Pathway and for use with the City's volunteer agency.
- Four new hires began on February 3rd and would be attending the Fire Training Academy in Western Kentucky, a thirteen-week process.
- Berea Fire Department and Tourism were working on a joint effort with Berea College on Brushy Fork Trails signage to promote tourism within the City and QR Codes on the signs to assist lost hikers in finding their way back.
- Two shift personnel would be attending free EMT classes this month, provided by State Fire Rescue Training.
- Promoted a new Lieutenant, Waylon Clemmons.
- New equipment, Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), had been ordered.
- Currently, 91 calls had been received for service for 2025.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- To update Council, Sandlin notified Council that the City had removed Affordable Towing from the wrecker list. The request came from the 911 Dispatch Center as they had not been able to contact the owner for several months, the phone had been disconnected. To remove someone, the decision was to be made by the Police and Fire Chiefs. Although he did not expect an appeal, as part of the ordinance, the appeal process fell on the Council.
- This past weekend, he had heard a song with the lyrics, "**Forgive Like Crazy & Love Like Crazy.**" Sandlin thought for us to overcome all division, hatred, and negativity in this world, it was going to take all of us choosing to forgive like crazy and love like crazy to build a better Berea, Madison County, Commonwealth of Kentucky, and United States of America. He knew that choice could start with him, but asked – "**Could it start with us?**"

MAYOR'S REPORT / COMMENTS

- Speaking for the City as a whole, our hearts went out to the family of the citizen who was killed on Baldwin Street last night. Violence was not the answer. Anytime there were problems or disagreements, look for other ways other than violence. Thanked the Berea Police Department for the way in which the situation was handled, their investigation, and the apprehension of the suspect. Another example of how a world class Police Department operates. Thanked everyone involved.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Caudill Had been quite the Council meeting. Appreciated Abiline for talking to the Council. She had such a fighting spirit, loved people, and challenged everyone to be more like her as we needed a little bit more of that.

Wilson Thanked everyone for attending. For those who had lived in Berea for years, Abiline was Frances and Jeanie Boggs great granddaughter. She was an inspiration to anyone she came in contact with, a trooper. Thanked everyone who spoke. Appreciated Sandlin for making everyone think, we needed it.

Terrill There was a problem at Boone Tavern's crosswalk with students not looking when crossing. Requested the Police Chief to meet with Berea College to discuss the safety of the students, if there was anything that could be done.

Davis Be sure to support the DanceBlue event for Abiline. What a wonderful presentation she gave and such a brave, beautiful girl. Such a blessing and hoped her health continued to improve. Appreciated those who attended the Council meeting, encouraging. Appreciated Sandlin's remarks, a good thought. Be blessed.

Payne Thanked everyone for coming out. Thanked Abiline for speaking to them. Wished everyone a good February.

Startzman Thanked Russell for his report. Great to hear about what the Fire Department was doing and that they were fully staffed for the upcoming year.

Scenters Meeting had left her emotional. Thanked everyone for coming.

ADJOURNMENT

Startzman motioned; Caudill seconded motion to adjourn at 7:18 p.m.

Voice Vote: All ayes Motion carried.

Mayor Bruce Fraley

City Clerk