

The Berea City Council met in regular session, Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

Mayor Bruce Fraley presiding.

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

**WORK SESSION**

6:00 PM – 6:20 PM

Resolution #04-2025

Opposing Mandated Centralized Collection of Local Occupational Fees

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Steve Davis, John Payne, Teresa Scenters, Jerry Little, Cora Jane Wilson,  
Ronnie Terrill

**COUNCIL ABSENT:** Katie Startzman, Steve Caudill

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Jerry Gilbert, Shawn Sandlin, Robin Adams, Daniel Brindley, Priscilla Bloom,  
Amanda Haney, Jason Hays, Susan Helton, Kevin Howard, Charlie Russell, Dani Gift

**INVOCATION:** Jerry Little

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Jerry Little

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Payne motioned; Little seconded motion to approve agenda as presented.

Voice Vote: All ayes Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES - FEBRUARY 4, 2025**

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

Voice Vote: All ayes Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #04-2025 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, OPPOSING ANY  
BILLS BROUGHT FORTH DURING THE 2025 KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION BY  
ANY MEMBER OF THE KENTUCKY LEGISLATURE, IN FULL OR IN PART, THAT PROVIDES FOR  
THE MANDATED CENTRALIZED COLLECTION OF LOCAL OCCUPATIONAL FEES/TAXES BY  
THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY OR OTHER THIRD PARTIES.**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Resolution #04-2025 in entirety.

Payne motioned; Davis seconded motion to approve and adopt Resolution #04-2025.

Voice Vote: Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE #01-2025 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEREA, 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 BEREA, 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. - 2<sup>ND</sup> READING**

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

Little motioned; Wilson seconded motion to approve and adopt Ordinance #01-2025

Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Davis, Payne, Scenters, Little, Wilson, Terrill

Nays - None

Motioned carried.

**ORDINANCE #02-2025 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, AMENDING THE 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF BEREA, ORDINANCE #13-2024 REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES. - 1<sup>ST</sup> READING**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Ordinance #02-2025 in entirety.

**ORDINANCE #03-2025 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN AND REFERRED TO AS 599 RICHMOND ROAD NORTH AND OWNED BY JERRY LITTLE FROM R-3 (MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) TO B-2 (MAJOR BUSINESS DISTRICT). - 1<sup>ST</sup> READING**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Ordinance #03-2025 in entirety.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

**Jason Hays, Chief, Berea Police Department**

Shared the following current and upcoming events:

- Spring Firearms Training Qualifications
- Completed Taser Training
- Completed CPR/ First Aid Recertifications
- Special Needs Prom, partnering with Parks and Tourism
- Currently in the Reaccreditation Process; accredited since 2006 with this year being their fifth accreditation.

Current statistic updates included the following:

- 2024 included 19,056 service calls.
- Crime statistics had reduced from 620 total crimes in 2021 to 402 crimes in 2024.
- 2024 citations totaled 1,829.
- 2024 collisions totaled 488; 43 were injury collisions, 2 fatality collisions.
- 2024 speeding citations totaled 233.

**Flock Cameras**

Currently, the Department had a total of nine Flock Cameras. As of January 1, 2025, there had been six arrests (4 warrants, 2 stolen vehicle recoveries). As the cameras did not provide specific information on arrests, they were working on a system to provide more accurate statistics.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

John Eipert, Certified Public Accountant, Berea, expressed his disappointment regarding the vote on Resolution #04-2025 as he felt our tax system for occupational and net profit taxes was antiquated, inefficient, and in need of modernization. According to his professional opinion, regarding the City's Audit, felt the GASB 68 Reporting calculations should be reviewed before the next audit.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

- Sandlin made the public aware that the City was monitoring the incoming weather. Public Works, Police, Fire, and Utilities, were on standby.
- Due to weather, the City would contact City Staff later this evening regarding any delays in opening schedule(s). Information would also be posted on the City's media platform.
- Although we had plenty of salt for the current snow, Public Works Director, Roy Curtis, had additional salt on order.

**MAYOR'S REPORT / COMMENTS**

- Thanked everyone involved in tonight's Work Session discussion. An excellent discussion.
- Compliments to the City's Public Works Team, they always come through. Thought Berea's roads were in better condition than any he knew of compared to photos and conditions in other cities. He had full confidence in Curtis and his Team to keep us safe and traffic moving. The Public Works Team does not operate alone as they also require Police, Fire, First Responders, City Administrator, and others within the City in decision making. Compliments to all.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Terrill** During Department Head Reports, Terrill expressed his continued concern regarding Berea College's pedestrian crossings for the safety of students and staff.

**Wilson** Thanked everyone who came out tonight in the cold weather. Thanked and appreciated John Eipert for his report. Although the Council was not disagreeing with him, she felt the occupational fees / taxes were something they should look into before approving.

**Little** Thanked John Eipert for coming and giving his view. Hoped everyone stayed safe, making it through the incoming snow, hoped it did not get as bad as reported.

**Scenters** Echoed Little and Wilson regarding Eipert's report. Points were valid and very well taken. Although she had not read Kentucky House Bill 253, she always wanted to err on the side of keeping things local as she felt that was better. Sent condolences to Katie Startzman and family in the loss of her father-in-law. Everybody stay safe.

**Payne** Concurred that Eipert spoke well tonight. Hoped in the event that HB 253 was not passed in the state, the state would spend the next cycle working more closely with local municipalities for when it came back around next year there would be more consensus with less whiplash. Thanked everyone for coming out. Stay warm, stay safe.

**Davis** No comment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Scenters motioned; Little seconded motion to adjourn at 7:03 p.m.

Voice Vote: All ayes Motion carried.

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Mayor Bruce Fraley

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City Clerk