

The Berea City Council met in a special called business session, Thursday, May 22, 2025.

Mayor Bruce Fraley presiding.

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

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** John Payne, Katie Startzman, Teresa Scenters, Jerry Little, Cora Jane Wilson,

**COUNCIL ABSENT:** Steve Davis, Steve Caudill, Ronnie Terrill

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Jerry Gilbert, Shawn Sandlin, Robin Adams, Tommy Horn, Donna Angel, Priscilla Bloom, Roy Curtis, Casey Botkin, Charlie Russell, Nancy Conley

**INVOCATION:** Teresa Scenters

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Teresa Scenters

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Voice Vote: All ayes          Motion carried

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - MAY 6, 2025**

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

Voice Vote: All ayes          Motion carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

### **PARK LEASE SIGNING BETWEEN BEREA COLLEGE & THE CITY OF BEREA**

Mayor Fraley stated while in the process of reviewing Park Leases, improvements, etc., it was noticed that two leases with Berea College had expired. A 25-year lease extension renewal, for Memorial Park and the Berea Park Expansion (Skate Park), had been worked out with Berea College at no cost to the City. The City was very appreciative of Berea College extending the leases which improved the quality of life for the community and those who visit.

Chery Nixon, Berea College President, stated she was honored and shared how important it was to be engaged in moments about continual renewal in the partnership with the City of Berea. It was nice to extend the land we shared and to connect to the idea of a park as it was a symbol of community. Hoped this was a small reminder of how much could be accomplished when we work together.

### **APRAXIA AWARENESS DAY PROCLAMATION**

Mayor Fraley read Proclamation and presented to Cassity McCool-Solis.

McCool-Solis thanked the City of Berea for recognizing Apraxia Awareness Day. Her son, Caiden, was diagnosed with Apraxia of Speech at age three. She then made it her mission for him to live in a world that recognized everyone communicated differently. Apraxia Awareness Day existed to honor the hard work of those individuals who work hard daily to achieve intelligible clear speech.

**NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK PROCLAMATION**

Mayor Fraley read Proclamation and presented to Andy Kilgore, Assistant Director, Madison County EMS.

Kilgore thanked the City of Berea for their support and appreciated being a part of one another's community. He hoped the EMS did not take the support for granted as they worked hard every day to earn and keep it.

**NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK PROCLAMATION**

Mayor Fraley read Proclamation and presented to Roy Curtis, Director, Public Works Department, on behalf of all Public Works professionals.

Curtis thanked the City of Berea for their support. He had a great and dedicated crew, able to accomplish a lot by working together. Honored to accept the Proclamation on their behalf.

**ORDINANCE #07-2025 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BERE, KENTUCKY, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 20-2024, CORRECTING THE FRANCHISE FEE AMOUNT FOR THE FRANCHISE FOR THE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE WITHIN THE CITY OF BERE, KENTUCKY AWARDED TO WASTE CONNECTIONS OF KY, INC., IN ORDINANCE NO. 20-2024. -****1<sup>ST</sup> READING**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Ordinance #07-2025 in entirety.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS****Roy Curtis, Director, Public Works Department**

Curtis shared an update on the following projects:

- Due to storm damage in the past couple of weeks, the Department had been hit hard with brush pick-up among other storm damage issues.
- The shooting range was now usable on the front side with minor work still in progress for the remaining back area.
- All roadside and short grass mowing had been completed.
- Street resurfacing was complete with a total of 16,653 feet of street repair (18 streets).
- Bridge Avenue curb, gutter, and street repairs completed.

Current projects included:

- Returned to short grass mowing for the spring.
- This week was brush pick-up.
- Responding to complaints, i.e., storm water issues, etc.
- Repair and Maintenance on Boone Trace Trail.
- Ginger Drive drainage issue; culverts were too small, causing overflow.
- Street sign repairs.
- Vehicle & Equipment repairs.
- Repair & Maintenance on City buildings.
- Working on replenishing salt supply.

Future projects included:

- Baugh Street repair; curb and street.
- Boone Street & Jackson Street sidewalk repairs.
- Elm Street curb repairs.

Continued normal duties and call-in responses.

**Charlie Russell, Fire Chief, Berea Fire Department**

Russel introduced the following recent graduates of Class 6 of the Kentucky Fire Academy, a thirteen-week program:

- Hayden Jakubowski
- Cody Sparks
- Ryder Short

Russell thanked the Berea Fire Department Team and the graduates' families for their encouragement and support through this journey.

Russell recognized the following Berea Fire Department firefighters who volunteered their time in response to London, Kentucky during the wake of the tornado that hit Somerset and London:

- Gavin Shanks
- Shelby Bryant
- Ryan Gretz
- Daniel Cobb
- Stacy Quinley
- Waylon Clemmons
- Brent Billings

Russell also thanked all who had called and/or sent text from Berea Fire & Rescue who wanted to support the recovery efforts. The team showed how much they cared for Berea and others, always willing to go above and beyond to lend a helping hand in time of need. Please keep first responders and their families in your prayers during the disaster recovery. Thanked everyone for their support as without it, the team could not do their jobs.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

- Thanked guests and first responders in attendance.
- Noted EMS also responded to the disaster recovery sending trucks and personnel to London.
- Requested approval of overage for Capital Projects line item #010-1035-56130, Other Land Improvements, in the amount of \$5,284.00, which was related to the Shooting Range Construction.

Little motioned; Payne seconded motion to approve overage for Capital Projects line item #010-1035-56130, Other Land Improvements, in the amount of \$5,284.00, related to the Shooting Range Construction.

Voice Vote: All ayes      Motion carried.

- The recent heavy rain had shown the City's vulnerability in a couple of locations. Along with Public Works Director, Curtis, and his Department, concerns had been addressed and plans were in the process for moving forward to assist in resolving issues.
- The Ellipse Street Shared Use Path contract had been signed. A preconstruction meeting was scheduled for June 2nd, with a start date approximately mid-July and completion in the fall.
- The contract had been signed with the Safe Haven Baby Box. The box had been paid for with funds raised by Sarah Roof, Executive Director, and her team at Affirm Women's Health (formerly Pregnancy Help Center). Roof had secured funds for the installation of the box in Fire Station #2. Plans were to have box and training in place through the Fire Department and secured phone line to the Dispatch Center.
- Welcomed Nancy Conley back to Berea as Tourism Director.

- The Berea Comprehensive Plan update was underway. The Comprehensive Plan was a long-range road map that guided how our community would grow and thrive over the next twenty years. A public meeting was scheduled for Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, at the Berea Gallery & Event Center. Encouraged all citizens to be involved in the process as it was their opportunity to speak regarding the City's future growth.

**MAYOR'S REPORT / COMMENTS**

- This year was the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Boone Trace. As of April 2025, hikers had been hiking from Kingsport, TN, where the pioneers began in 1775, and would be hiking through to Fort Boonesborough, Richmond, KY. They would be hiking through Berea as it was along Boone Trace Trail. A reception/program was planned for the hikers at Berea Municipal Utilities, on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, approximately 10:00 a.m., as the hikers passed through Berea.
- Thank you to all responding and volunteering to the London/Somerset tornado disaster. The tornado was an EF-4 at 170 mph and the strongest tornado to hit Kentucky since 1974.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Payne** Thanked everyone for attending. Thanked Emergency Responders and Public Works for all they do in helping to make Berea whole through the weather events.

**Startzman** Grateful for McCool-Solis and her family attending as she was not aware of Childhood Apraxia. Hoped they could find more ways to support Apraxia as a community.

**Scenters** Agreed with Payne's and Startzman's comments. Regarding the Comprehensive Plan public meeting scheduled for May 29<sup>th</sup>, the theme for the Comprehensive Plan was 'Your Town, Your Plan, Berea's Future.' Hoped everyone concerned would make an appearance and let their voice be heard. There was a Youth Survey on the FaceBook page regarding the Comprehensive Plan, encourage your youth to fill out the survey. A public viewing was scheduled for Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 10:00 a.m., for the renovation of the Madison County Courthouse in Richmond. Thanked everyone for attending. To the Berea Firefighters who reported to London, God Bless You. Have a good week.

**Little** As there was an inquiry regarding Johnson Road, rights-of-way had been purchased by/annexed into the City prior to the bypass. It was going to be a costly project to fix. The City would do the best they could do. Thanked Dr. Nixon, Judge Wilson, and Berea College for working with our City. Working together was for the betterment of Berea.

**Wilson** Thanked everyone for coming. As a child, she spent a lot of time at Memorial Park and appreciated the City and Berea College working together. Thanked all EMS and firefighters for the job they do every day. Thanked and appreciated those who assisted in London.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Payne motioned; Little seconded motion to adjourn at 7:28 p.m.

Voice Vote: All ayes      Motion carried.

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Mayor Bruce Fraley

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City Clerk