

The Berea City Council met in a regular business session, Tuesday, June 17, 2025.

Mayor Bruce Fraley presiding.

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

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

**COUNCIL ABSENT:** None

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Jerry Gilbert, Shawn Sandlin, Robin Adams, Daniel Brindley, Donna Angel, Priscilla Bloom, Amanda Haney, Jason Hays, Susan Helton, Kevin Howard, Nancy Conley

**INVOCATION:** Steve Davis

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Steve Davis

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Voice Vote: All ayes          Motion carried

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES - JUNE 3, 2025**

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

Voice Vote: All ayes          Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**RESOLUTION #10-2025 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, PROVIDING THAT COST OVERRUNS ON THE PROJECT FUNDED BY THE GRANT PROVISIONS FOR A GRANT FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$750,000 FOR THE "FARRISTOWN COMMUNITY CENTER," SHALL BE BORNE BY THE CITY OF BEREA AND NOT THE KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT.**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Resolution #10-2025 by title summary.

Caudill motioned; Startzman seconded motion to approve and adopt Resolution #10-2025.

Voice Vote: All ayes          Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #11-2025 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY, ADOPTING THE GUIDEFORM RESIDENTIAL ANTIDISPLACEMENT AND RELOCATION ASSISTANCE PLAN UNDER SECTION 014(d) OF THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1974, AS AMENDED, TO COMPLY WITH THE GRANT PROVISIONS FOR A GRANT FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$750,000 FOR THE "BEREA FARRISTOWN COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT," TO BE ADMINISTERED BY KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT.**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Resolution #11-2025 by title summary.

Payne motioned; Scenters seconded motion to approve and adopt Resolution #11-2025.

Voice Vote: All ayes          Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE #08-2025 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BERE, KENTUCKY, ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL PERIOD JULY 1, 2025 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026, BY ESTIMATING REVENUES AND RESOURCES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF CITY GOVERNMENT AND PROVIDING FOR A LONG-RANGE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND PUBLIC FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET AND PLAN. - 2<sup>ND</sup> READING**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Ordinance #08-2025 by title summary.

Upon recommendation by the Audit & Finance Committee, Caudill motioned to approve and adopt Ordinance #08-2025.

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

Nays - Little

Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE #09-2025 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BERE, KENTUCKY, REVISING THE AUTHORIZED POSITIONS' ASSIGNED PAY GRADE AND PAY SCALE TO INCLUDE A FOUR PERCENT (4%) COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA) AND TO CREATE AND INCLUDE A POSITION TITLED COMMUNICATIONS & COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR. - 2<sup>ND</sup> READING**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Ordinance #09-2025 by title summary.

Caudill motioned; Payne seconded motion to approve and adopt Ordinance #09-2025.

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

Nays - Little

Motioned carried.

**ORDINANCE #10-2025 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BERE, KENTUCKY, REVISING THE BERE MUNICIPAL UTILITIES ELECTRIC AND CONNECTION RATE SCHEDULE FOR ELECTRIC SERVICE. - 2<sup>ND</sup> READING**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Ordinance #10-2025 in entirety.

Little motioned; Wilson seconded motion to approve and adopt Ordinance #10-2025.

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

Nays - None

Motion carried.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

**Nancy Conley, Director, Tourism**

- Reminded everyone of the Berea Craft Festival, scheduled for July 11<sup>th</sup> – July 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - To show the value of Tourism for Kentucky and Berea, shared the following 2024 Economic Impact Statistics of Tourism in Kentucky, of travelers and/or visitors traveling more than fifty miles to their destination of Kentucky, the Bluegrass Region, or Madison County:
    - 80M travelers visited Kentucky in 2024, spending a total of \$10.1B across the state in which \$1B of this spending was contributed to state and local taxes.
    - Madison County's 2024 Tourism Economic Impact was at \$243.7M.
- Felt having a diversified economy and marketing approach was ideal for Berea. Intentions were to strengthen and diversify their marketing approach, being strategic about marketing and gain from all sectors of Tourism.
- In 2024, Berea Tourism welcomed and served 16,707 visitors.

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

A public survey would soon be sent out regarding the Berea Beyond 2025 Comprehensive Plan Project which would assist the consultants in gathering as much public information as possible.

Questions of interest would include local property owners, those who received their education in Berea, those who worked in Berea, and those who liked to visit Berea. The survey would assist in focus for the Comprehensive Plan for Berea, i.e., attention items, challenges, businesses, transportation improvement, changes vs. non-changes. The public would also be notified of additional upcoming opportunities for public input.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

- On behalf of all employees, thanked Council for passing the FY26 Budget.
- Reverse Salt Auction, held by the Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) had been completed. Bid had been accepted for Morton Salt at cost of \$112/ton, delivered to the City of Berea.
- Fire Chief, Russell, and Police Chief, Hays, had been working with Madison County School's Ignite South on a Career Pathway for firefighters and police officers.
- Bluegrass Recreation planned to begin installation of the shade structure in the Park System on June 23<sup>rd</sup>; weather pending.
- Berea Pool was approximately 50% complete.

**MAYOR'S REPORT / COMMENTS**

- Complimented Sandlin on the hard work and dedication on the FY26 Budget, nice job. Thanked all involved with the budget process.
- Construction had begun on installation of the Safe Haven Baby Box at Fire Station #2 on Glades Road.
- Bloom, Parks & Rec Director, was preparing for July 4<sup>th</sup> event/activities, scheduled for Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m., City Park located behind Berea Community School.
- The Smithsonian magazine had named Berea as one of the fifteen best small towns to visit in 2025. This spoke well of our entire City, especially Tourism and efforts in making Berea attractive.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Little** Agreed with Startzman's comments regarding in-person Department Head Reports.

**Caudill** Thanked Sandlin, Helton, and all Department Heads for putting together a thoughtful, complete budget as it reflects our values as a City Government. Encouraged everyone to view the online budget document. Tourism's information was fantastic and showed Tourism was a huge part of the industry for Kentucky. Although he did not like the fact of an electric rate increase, the positive was that there had not been an increase since 2013. No increase was due to important leadership decisions during that time period.

**Wilson** Helton, great budget. Conley, informative and great, glad to have her back. Haney, cannot wait for the Comprehensive Plan survey. Appreciated all City employees, they make our City. Thanked Little for the insight, five years ago, regarding electric savings.

**Terrill** No comment.

**Scenters** No comment.

**Startzman** Requested an update on Capital Projects, possibly in July. Although notified of a shift to a written Department Head Report, preferred in-person reports and had concerns of informing the public and lack of relationship.

**Payne** Thankful for the hard work on the budget, utilities planning, tourism information, and the hard work going forward. Loved hearing about the progress of projects throughout the City. While out this weekend, enjoyed seeing an active, engaged community. The library continued summer reading. Invited everyone to the library's upcoming events, i.e., storytelling performances, magic shows, animals, and more.

**Davis** Thanked everyone for the budget work, great job. Would like to see more budget work sessions. Nice to have Conley back. Interested in the Comprehensive Plan, exciting. Although he liked the Department Head Written Reports, he also missed the personal touch of in-person reports. Thanked everyone for coming out. Kevin, great job on the utilities. Although he disliked increases and fixed incomes, felt the City did the best they could do. Thankful Little and the group for thinking ahead a few years ago, keeping the rates as low as they had been.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Little motioned; Payne seconded motion to adjourn at 7:20 p.m.

Voice Vote: All ayes      Motion carried.

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Mayor Bruce Fraley

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City Clerk