

The Berea City Council met in a regular business session, Tuesday, July 1, 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, Jerry Little,
Steve Caudill, Ronnie Terrill

COUNCIL ABSENT: Cora Jane Wilson

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Jerry Gilbert, Shawn Sandlin, Robin Adams, Tommy Horn, Priscilla Bloom,
Brian Reed, Jason Hays, Josh Gabbard, Nancy Conley

INVOCATION: Jerry Little

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Jerry Little

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Payne motioned; Caudill seconded motion to approve agenda as presented.
Voice Vote: All ayes Motion carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - JUNE 17, 2025

Caudill motioned; Scenters seconded motion to approve minutes as presented.
Voice Vote: All ayes Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Miriam (Mim) Pride, Berea, thanked the City and all involved in making the Juneteenth event happen. A remarkable event. As a past volunteer for the City, noted that if we work together, the City could work together to do anything it makes up its mind to do. If you were not able to attend this year, be there next year. We need to be thinking about what is best in the big picture.

RESOLUTION #12-2025 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BEREA ACCEPTING THE GRANT, APPROVING THE GRANT ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT, AUTHORIZING THE EXTENSION OF KENWAY STREET, AND AUTHORIZING A REPRESENTATIVE TO SIGN ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS.

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Resolution #12-2025 in entirety.

Terrill motioned; Caudill seconded motion to approve and adopt Resolution #12-2025 with editorial change from '2022 Regular Session' to '2024 Regular Session.'

Voice Vote: All ayes Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Josh Gabbard, Assistant General Manager, Berea Municipal Utilities (BMU) Sewer Department

Gabbard stated most of their time/resources had been spent on combatting Inflow & Infiltration (I&I), i.e., groundwater, stormwater, and other water sources entering the sewer system that was non-municipal wastewater. They had also been focusing on projects to help maintain the integrity of the City's sewer system and to help meet Berea's current and future growth.

- Had begun thorough inspections of the sewer system with a focus on identifying direct discharges into the collection system (lateral cleanout caps, sump pump connections, storm sewer connections), paying close attention to customer-maintained lateral line cleanouts with missing or damaged caps. During rain events, this was a direct connection of storm water into the collection system that strained the overall capacity and ultimately increased treatment cost, as well as pump and motor R&M costs at our pump stations. BMU would be sending letters to any customers that were found to be in non-compliance and issue a 30-day period to correct any deficiencies.
- In-house sewer line cleaning and camera work continued in the Brushy Fork Sewer Shed.
- Flow Monitoring and Evaluation continued in the Brushy Fork Sewer Shed as well. Through this monitoring, they identify sections of sewer mains that receive the most I&I. Flow monitors were placed in these specific areas for a more targeted approach to narrow down precise areas of lines that receive the most I&I. Based on this information, they would be designing a project to be bid out this Fiscal Year that would include manhole and pipe relining in several of these sections. This project was partially funded through the Cleaner Water Grant Program.
- Bell Engineering was completing the design of the HWY 595 Pump Station Expansion and Force Main Upgrade Project. This project would be ready to bid by the end of the Calendar Year and was also partially funded through the Cleaner Water Grant Program. Once complete, the project would add additional capacity to the collection system at the north end of their coverage area, where they were currently seeing the most growth.
- Soon to issue an RFP for upgrading the WWTP SCADA Panel and computer. The existing panel was 20 years old. The existing computer was over 10 years old and a Windows 7 machine. The wastewater plant operates 24/7/365, and the SCADA system performs alarm callouts to staff, providing a graphical interface to monitor and check plant conditions, incorporate operational controls, and provide daily reporting for use in compliance documents.
- Received and evaluated treatment chemical bids for the new Fiscal Year. Had a good response from vendors with competitive pricing. Pending upcoming jar tests to ensure adequacy, they would make selections in the coming week.
- Two employees recently upgraded their operator certification levels in June. Frank Carrier, now a Class 3 Wastewater Collection System Operator, and Josh Bell, now a Class 2 Wastewater Collection System Operator. Tests for these certifications require a lot of time and commitment to study. They appreciated Carrier and Bell and their willingness to obtain their license and grow in their profession.

Brian Reed, Assistant Codes Administrator, Codes & Planning Department
Capital Projects Update

- The pool was approximately 70% complete. The deck was currently being formed and poured and when finished, the pool liner could be installed. Slide plumbing installed this week, the last section of the deck drainage was in progress, and the manufacturing of the slide/slide structure

was complete and expected to be delivered within the next couple of weeks with installation shortly after delivery.

- In the 2026 Fiscal Year budget, the City had budgeted for a six court pickleball complex. Estimates had begun for construction and preparing Request for Proposals (RFP) for various trades. Hoped to begin construction in late summer.
- The design was complete for the Trailhead Restroom Project. Waiting on the Department for Local Government (DLG) to give notice to proceed with the procurement phase. When notified, the architect was ready to issue bid documents.
- BMU had been moving light poles to prepare for construction of the Ellipse Street Shared Use Trail. The contract for construction of this project had been signed with The Allen Company. The contractor was expected to mobilize within the next couple of weeks.
- The Scaffold Cane Shared Use Trail was funded through a Federal Highway Association Grant, which was also funding the Trailhead Restroom Project. The Federal Highway Association would only fund one grant at a time per local government. Once the Trailhead Restroom Project was complete, the Scaffold Cane Shared Use Trail Project would begin. Jacob Marsh, Bluegrass Area Development District (BGADD), was completing the final paperwork/documentation to send to DLG when the Trailhead Restroom Project was nearing completion.
- Resolutions for cost overruns and anti-displacement had been approved for the Farristown Community Center. A resolution for the procurement code should be prepared by the next Council meeting. The resolutions were required to proceed with the project. The architectural plans had been submitted for review and conditionally approved, with a revised set of plans expected to soon be submitted. A submittal for the development plan had also been submitted and reviewed. More information had been received regarding Mayde Road with requested revisions to the development plan to better coordinate the site plan with the new road. Revised plans had been received and scheduled to begin review within the next week.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Thanked Reed and Gabbard for the excellent work they do. It was great to have this kind of staff on hand each day.
- Noted to Council that the first Council meeting of each month would include a department presentation and the second Council meeting of each month the Council would be provided a written department report.
- Regarding the 911 Fee, Sandlin stated he had lived the Emergency Service Life for 31 years. He knew firsthand the importance that 911 dispatch provided our first responders. Each call of service that everyone expects them to be at, began with 911 Dispatch and the Radio System used to get them there. The dispatch center and the infrastructure were the first in line of safety for our first responders. It is very important and comes with a cost. Although our staff did not make the decision, staff were here to help through the appeal process. Please be patient. If there was no access to a computer/internet, for assistance, our IT Team could be reached through a designated line at (859) 228-1048. Please share the contact information with any neighbor/friend who needs help.

MAYOR'S REPORT / COMMENTS

- Shared July 4th flyer/events with the Parks & Recreation Department, i.e., concert, fireworks, etc. Fireworks at 10:00 p.m. Thanked Bloom and her Team for planning a traditional 4th of July celebration.
- Shared the upcoming 911 Fee information. Explained and provided information as it was determined the 911 fee was needed due to the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) funding, related to the discretion of chemical weapons stockpile at the Bluegrass Army Depot, ends in 2025. The federal funds had been subsidizing our County's joint 911 system for several decades. It was essential to have one county-wide 911 system due to our Police and Fire Departments having Mutual Aid Agreements with the City of Richmond and Madison County. It was more cost effective to have one joint 911 system in lieu of multiple 911 centers. For public safety, it was important to have a well-staffed 911 center with the best technology available to answer calls and provide immediate response to emergency calls as every second mattered.
In the fall of 2023, a Post CSEPP Task Force was created working to keep a 911 dispatch center after federal funds ended.
Collectively, all decision makers should take feedback and concerns into consideration and take action as the 911 Fee Process is improved over time.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Terrill No comment.

Davis Thanked those who had been on Council for a long time, particularly Terrill and Little for pushing the Kenway Street Extension Project. Hoped that for current and future subdivisions that it was kept in mind of how long it has taken to get a second access/outlet for Kenway.

Scenters No comment.

Little Regarding the Public Works Department, with all the rain, the grass had gotten out of hand and the drainage ditches had grown up. Hoped everyone would bear with the City as this fall and winter would be the time to clean out the drainage ditches. It was going to take a few months to get under control. It was important to keep the waterways and streams cleaned out.

Wished the 911 Fee square footage had been discussed. Did not feel like it had to be set in stone and adjustments could be made as it was a new program. Although CSEPP had covered a lot of costs over the years, asked if we could afford to keep the same level of equipment/service. Hoped it could get worked out, may take awhile.

Payne Regarding the 911 Fee assessment, if you received an assessment letter and do not agree, get the appeal done as quickly as possible. Links were provided on several local websites and/or media pages. Hoped everyone had a safe and happy Fourth of July. Had a temporary neighbor, a black bear in the vicinity of Walmart. Although considered to be a wild animal and cute, please do not pet that dog.

Startzman Regarding the budget and 911 Fees and relating to Little's thoughts, asked if the 911 budget could be reviewed at about six months. A lot of projections had been presented at the joint meeting with Richmond and Madison County.

Caudill The joint 911 meeting was one of the most collaborative opportunities he could recall. He had learned our communication could not be through just traditional models. Although this had been discussed for about a year, people still did not know. As government, how can we better communicate moving forward? Give the County an opportunity to look at the appeals. As this had been a difficult time for a lot of people, realize that no one was doing this for "money grabs." They were trying to make sure that when you call 911 that first responders would show up quickly.

ADJOURNMENT

Caudill motioned; Payne seconded motion to adjourn at 7:35 p.m.

Voice Vote: All ayes Motion carried.

Mayor Bruce Fraley

City Clerk