

The Berea City Council met in a regular business session, Tuesday, August 5, 2025.

Mayor Bruce Fraley presiding.

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

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

**COUNCIL ABSENT:** Katie Startzman, Teresa Scenters

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Jerry Gilbert, Shawn Sandlin, Robin Adams, Tommy Horn, Donna Angel,  
Priscilla Bloom, Jason Hays, Kevin Howard, Charlie Russell, Stacy Quinley,  
Nancy Conley

**INVOCATION:** Cora Jane Wilson

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Cora Jane Wilson

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Voice Vote: All ayes          Motion carried

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - JULY 15, 2025**

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

Voice Vote: All ayes          Motion carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

### **CHEMICAL WEAPONS DISPOSAL PROGRAM**

Craig Williams, Program Director, Kentucky Environmental Foundation, & Chair, Governor's Commission on Chemical Weapons Demilitarization, provided an update on the Chemical Weapons Disposal Program Economic Impact, Safety, Static Detonation Chamber, and the Main Plant.

Current employment was at 906, down from 1460, in which 50% were local hires of the current workforce and local payroll paid to date was at \$1.439 billion. From acquisitions, \$122 million had been spent in Madison County and surrounding counties.

Safety was a strong focus with a zero-accident goal continuing through the closure phase. Recordable incident rate for the last twelve months was 0.16.

Two Static Detonation Chambers (SDC) were currently being used to dispose of the remaining surety material, i.e., any materials that had been exposed to agent. Completion date for this disposal was projected by November 2025 which would eliminate all chemical contaminated materials that had been stored at the Richmond Depot.

The Main Plant closure, where weapons were destroyed, had been cleared as 'agent free,' and preparation had begun for demolition. Igloos were also being carefully monitored in preparation for closure. Although igloos would be used in the future, it would not be for chemical warfare material. There would not be any more chemical warfare material brought to Kentucky, ever again.

As it is a complicated process, no completion date(s) had been announced at this time.

Bechtel Parsons Bluegrass had scheduled an in-person job fair for August 12<sup>th</sup>, Madison County Fair Grounds, for anyone interested in available jobs in the local industrial base.

**RESOLUTION #14-2025 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BERE, KENTUCKY CITING THE NEED FOR THE KENTUCKY TRANSPORTATION CABINET TO EVALUATE THE SPEED DESIGNATION ON KY HIGHWAY 2874 (PEGGY FLATS ROAD), KY HIGHWAY 595 (WALNUT MEADOW ROAD), AND KY HIGHWAY 956 (BEREA BYPASS) TO DETERMINE IF THE SPEED LIMIT SHOULD BE LOWERED ON THOSE ROADS.**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Resolution #14-2025 in entirety.

Resolution was subject to a Work Session on July 15, 2025.

Payne motioned; Terrill seconded motion to approve and adopt Resolution #14-2025.

Voice Vote: All ayes Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #15-2025 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERE, KENTUCKY, AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A KENTUCKY HOUSE BILL (HB) 1 PROJECT GRANT APPLICATION FOR UP TO \$1,000,000 IN HB 1 FUNDS WITH THE DEPARTMENT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DLG); AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BERE, KENTUCKY TO EXECUTE ANY DOCUMENTS WHICH ARE DEEMED NECESSARY BY DLG TO CARRY OUT THIS PROJECT; AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACT AS THE AUTHORIZED CORRESPONDENT FOR THIS PROJECT.**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Resolution #15-2025 in entirety.

Wilson motioned; Terrill seconded motion to approve and adopt Resolution #15-2025.

Voice Vote: All ayes Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #16-2025 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL THE CITY OF BERE, KENTUCKY AUTHORIZING THE PARTICIPATION OF THE CITY'S FIRST RESPONDERS IN THE STATEWIDE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MUTUAL AID AND ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT.**

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Resolution #16-2025 in entirety.

Sandlin stated Resolution #16-2025 provided opportunities for the City to be reimbursed by FEMA, providing FEMA declared an event an emergency, and supported our first responders (Police & Fire) in their ability to send first responders out of our City to help others.

Payne motioned; Davis seconded motion to approve and adopt Resolution #16-2025.

Voice Vote: All ayes Motion carried.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

**Kevin Howard, General Manager, Berea Municipal Utilities (BMU) – Water Department**

**Capital Projects**

- Per America's Water Infrastructure Act, currently working on the Risk & Resilience Assessment & Emergency Response Plan which was required to be updated every five years.
- After all Lead & Copper Service Line Inventory submittals, the Division of Water (DOW) had approved the plan which would involve physical inspections of the 370 meters in BMU's service area, identifying the service lines. Completion required within five years.
- BMU had completed portions of the B-Lake Corrective Action Plan and now looking at a project profile to complete remaining concrete work. Looking to get this underway this Fiscal Year.
- A lot of progress had been made on the Owsley Fork Project.
  - The Graveyard Relocation Plan and the Supplemental Environmental Plan had been completed and approved by Cultural Resource Associates (CRA) and Kentucky Natural Resources Conservation Service (KYNRCS). The next step was to petition the courts for permit issuance to move the graveyard location.

- Utility Relocates would be moving forward, i.e., Bluegrass Energy owned power poles, an existing water line in the staging area, and a couple of meters.
- Contractor Pre-Qualification Process was moving forward with plans to schedule contractor site visits in October in preparation for a competitive bid process.
- Verbal approval had been received, from KYNRCS, for 100% design, contingent on Kentucky Division of Water (KYDOW) issuing the construction permit. The construction permit involved the office of Floodplain Management, Division of Dam Safety, and water quality involving the Army Corps of Engineers.
- The next steps would be to work on obtaining construction funding and acquiring easements from affected property owners.

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

Thanked City Council for their support on Resolution #16-2025 as to be able to help our neighbors. Russell recognized Stacy Quinley as the new Assistant Fire Chief. Quinley was a twenty-six-year veteran at Berea with a total of thirty-two years in fire service which included Berea Volunteer Firefighter, Battalion Chief (10 yrs), and Lieutenant (11 yrs). Quinley's leadership was second to none, trustworthy, and a mentor. Excited to have Quinley by his side.

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

Requested approval for overage of budget line item #010-2005-54520, Vehicle Repair & Maintenance, from \$30,000 to \$45,000. There had been collisions in the last fiscal year in which garages were unable to schedule repairs.

Caudill motioned; Wilson seconded motion to approve overage for budget line item #010-2005-54520, Vehicle Repair & Maintenance, to increase from \$30,000 to \$45,000.

Voice Vote: All ayes      Motion carried.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

- Requested approval for overage of \$5,920 in FY25 Administration budget line item #010-1005-54100, Advertising, for a budget line item total of \$12,920.

Caudill motioned; Terrill seconded motion to approve overage of \$5,920 for Administration budget line item #010-1005-54100, Advertising, for a budget line item total of \$12,920.

Voice Vote: All ayes      Motion carried.

- Shared update on the status of the 911 Collection Fee.  
The City of Richmond had chosen to pull out of the funding agreement for one year and fund their portion of 911 out of their general fund. This placed Madison County and Berea in a position to find the remaining portion, either by moving forward with the Landline Use Fee, adjusting to fit Madison County's and Berea's remaining portion of the budget or to leave within the two separate governments to find their own method of payment for their portion of the 911 fees. Madison County Fiscal Court decided to repeal Ordinance #2024-07 and revive / reinstate Ordinance #07-11 which described funding would be back on the landline phone system until a new funding model was identified and a new ordinance agreed upon and passage. A team had been put together to determine how we, as a City, should move forward in funding 911. Key staff were currently working on collecting data, evaluating how the 911 fee could fairly be distributed across all users of 911. A Resolution would soon be submitted repealing Berea's previous Resolution that supported both, the prior funding model and Interlocal Agreement.

All three governments were committed to having a viable and efficient 911 Center. The mission remained the same, i.e., Dispatching the Right Responder, to the Right Location, at the Right Time.

It was important to work through the details for an agreeable solution and fairly assess throughout our City.

- Asphalt Request for Proposals (RFP) had been received for the pickleball courts. Pending schedules with other contractors for grading, rock, electric, fencing, etc., plans were to hopefully begin within next couple of weeks.
- Ellipse Street Shared Use Path plans were to begin within the next couple of weeks.
- Berea Pool was moving along well with plans to have testing complete by mid-October.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT / COMMENTS**

- Regarding the 911 Fee, reiterated all three governments agreed we had to have a strong 911 Communications Center. Simply a matter of how we pay for it, as there was no longer grant-based funding. Confident all would come to a resolution for funding that was in the best interest of our citizens. It was critical that we have a rapid response to citizens who call 911, to our first responders, and for dispatchers as they are the eyes and ears of our first responders. Looked forward to a City Council Work Session for possible options in determining what was best for Berea.
- Congratulations to Stacy Quinley, well deserved. Thanked the firefighters in attendance for their support.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Payne** No comment.

**Davis** Thanked Bloom and her crew for keeping things active this summer in absence of the pool. A great attempt to keep people outdoors was appreciated.

**Little** No comment.

**Caudill** Congratulated Assistant Fire Chief Quinley. To continue to see people excel and move up was a great example of the culture the City had built over the years and a testament of the leaders before. In the past, the City had a lot of great leaders who took the time to mentor and put into the next generation. Commended all in the organization who had created that environment.

**Wilson** Thanked Howard for his report, everything was sounding positive. Congratulated Quinley and support shown was wonderful. Thanked everyone for coming. Get ready for school to start. Have a great night.

**Terrill** Reminded everyone that school was starting next week. Be visual regarding the buses, kids, and the college students. Keep your eyes open.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Caudill motioned; Payne seconded motion to adjourn at 7:32 p.m.

Voice Vote: All ayes Motion carried.

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Mayor Bruce Fraley

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City Clerk