

The Berea City Council met in a regular business session, Tuesday, August 19, 2025.
Mayor Bruce Fraley presiding.
A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

WORK SESSION

5:45 PM – 6:15 PM

Ordinance #12-2025 Property Valuation Tax Rate

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

COUNCIL ABSENT: Steve Caudill

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Jerry Gilbert, Shawn Sandlin, Daniel Brindley, Donna Angel, Priscilla Bloom,
Casey Botkin, Susan Helton, Nancy Conley, Charlie Russell

INVOCATION: Katie Startzman

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Teresa Scenters

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Voice Vote: All ayes Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - AUGUST 5, 2025

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

Voice Vote: All ayes Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kathy Williams, Berea

Expressed concern regarding continued healthcare for Bereans and closure of local healthcare facilities, especially facilities in which offer vital services to those receiving Medicare or Medicaid. Closures and/or reductions would negatively impact local healthcare and providers. Proposed City Council research potential healthcare access issues in our City.

ORDINANCE #11-2025 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BERE, KENTUCKY, REMOVING SYCAMORE STREET FROM CITY MAINTENANCE. - 1ST READING

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Ordinance #11-2025 in entirety.

ORDINANCE #12-2025 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BERE, KENTUCKY, PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR CITY PURPOSES UPON ALL PROPERTY, NOT OTHERWISE EXEMPT, IN THE CITY OF BERE, KENTUCKY. - 1ST READING

Corporate Counsel, Gilbert, read Ordinance #12-2025 by summarizing.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

None

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Recognized Parks Department for a commendable weekend with an eighteen-team softball tournament, soccer games, and youth football league beginning their season. The upcoming weekend included a twenty-team tournament, soccer games, and Berea Community School's first home game on Friday night.
- Ellipse Street Shared Use Path Project had begun with an approximate ninety-day completion date.
- Received notice to proceed with the Trailhead Restroom Project. Bid proposals were scheduled to be published next week.
- Pickleball Courts construction had begun. Brian Reed, Assistant Codes Administrator, had done an exceptional job implementing the project. The pickleball courts were added to the budget this year and fifty percent of cost had been sponsored by Tourism.
- The annual Berea Spoonbread Festival was scheduled for September 19th – September 21st. The Chamber of Commerce had requested his presence, along with City Council's presence, to serve Spoonbread on Saturday, September 20th. He assured them they would be there in support of the Chamber and the Festival.
- Thanked and recognized the Berea Police Department for the work they do. They were doing a lot of good work behind the scenes, which he hoped to share in the future. Really proud of them.
- Berea Pool Renovation Project was moving along well. Concrete had been poured, slide had been installed, liner had been installed, and pool was currently being filled to get liner protected and start the pumps, and complete any final testing.

MAYOR'S REPORT / COMMENTS

- Glad to see projects getting underway.
The Ellipse Street Shared Use Path Project involved Federal Funding and had taken some time to get started.
The Pickleball Courts (6) were included in the annual budget without any outside funding. Looking forward to getting those completed.
The Pool Project, a difficult project, had become a safety issue as most equipment wears out overtime. The outcome was plans for the pool to last another thirty-plus years. Also appreciated Parks Director, Bloom, for assisting in getting the pool completed.
Appreciated City Administrator, Sandlin, and Codes Assistant Administrator, Reed, for their due diligence in getting these projects over the finish line. Proud and grateful for the work of all involved.
- Challenged Council Members to promote the Spoonbread Festival by coming to serve spoonbread. They always have a good time, a good way to support the Chamber of Commerce and be involved. Saturday, September 20th, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Invite friends and family.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Wilson Appreciated everyone who came tonight. Excited about the spoonbread, she loved it. If you had never tried it, get some butter and try it! Have a great month.

Terrill Challenged Mayor Fraley and City Administrator, Sandlin, to play the first game on the pickleball courts. Mayor Fraley commented it was on the board for Terrill and Little to play the first game.

Davis Thanked Kathy Williams for tonight's comments. As a Board Member at White House Clinic, he was aware of issues that were before us. Berea Home Village and Room in the Inn had fundraisers scheduled for September. Support the non-profits in our community that do so much good work.

Payne Echoed Davis' sentiments. This is the season of events, from now until Christmas. The recent Celtic Festival went well this year with great attendance. Battle of Richmond was coming up this weekend. The Spoonbread Festival was in four weeks. Encouraged everyone to visit berea.com, checking back often for events.

Startzman Thanked those who came and spoke about the healthcare issues facing our community. Hard to believe Berea could exist without the institutions/organizations that were mentioned. Appreciated the work they were doing. As they continued to research the issue and challenges, hoped they would return and share more.

Scenters Thanked those for coming regarding the healthcare issues, appreciated the input. This month's Department Head Reports were very good. Congratulated Eric Baker, Street Department, on his retirement. Would try to get to the Spoonbread Festival to serve spoonbread.

Little No comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Terrill motioned; Payne seconded motion to adjourn at 7:02 p.m.

Voice Vote: All ayes Motion carried.

Mayor Bruce Fraley

City Clerk