

MINUTES OF A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
June 21, 2022 – 7:30p.m.

Council of the City of Berea, Ohio, met in regular session in the Council Chamber on June 6, 2022 and the meeting was called to order by President of Council Jim Maxwell at 7:43p.m. Present: Mary K. Brown, Erika Coble, Leon Dozier, Chris McManis, Rick Skoczen, Lisa Weaver and Gene Zacharyasz. Also present via Zoom: Director of Law and Public Safety Barb Jones and Director of Finance Andrea Morris.

The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

This meeting was held in compliance with all legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code and Chapter 109 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Berea. The certificate of compliance is on file in the Clerk's office.

Moved by Mrs. Brown, seconded by Mr. Skoczen, that the minutes from the June 6, 2022 Public Hearing be approved. Vote on the motion was all ayes and no nays. The motion carried.

Moved by Mr. Skoczen, seconded by Mr. Zacharyasz, that the minutes from the June 6, 2022 Regular Council meeting be approved. Vote on the motion was all ayes and no nays. The motion carried.

MAYOR'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT AND COMMENTS

Mayor Kleem was not present.

REPORT AND COMMENTS BY THE OFFICERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION:

Andrea Morris – Director of Finance:

Mrs. Morris had no report.

Barb Jones – Director of Law & Public Safety:

Mrs. Jones had no report.

Tony Armagno – Director of Public Service:

Mr. Armagno was not present.

Mr. Skoczen inquired about a watermain break on Prospect near the Shell station, and Mrs. Jones stated that it is her understanding that the source of the break was located, however the open hole repair was made over the weekend and the hole was closed today so that asphalt could be poured. Both Mr. Skoczen and Mr. Maxwell noted that the hole is open again and appears much larger, and so Mrs. Jones responded that she will gather additional information and let them know what she finds.

Mrs. Coble explained that the house at 147 E. Bridge Street is being advertised as a student rental, and wondered if this is a violation of any law. Mrs. Jones answered that it is not a violation of the Fair Housing Act, as they are just marketing toward a specific population. As long as they don't discriminate against others who might apply, there is no legal issue.

Mrs. Coble stated that the same house is being marketed as a 3-unit property, even though it is in a single family zoning district, and she found this concerning. Mrs. Jones said that the Zoning Administrator will get back to her with further information.

Mrs. Coble explained that, with regard to the Summer Concert series, she has received feedback that better wayfinding signage is necessary, specifically due to the fact that some drivers are not familiar with the one way streets around the downtown area. Mrs. Jones said that she will work with Mr. Armagno on this issue.

Mr. McManis thanked Mrs. Jones for the updated Coe Lake regulations, and Mrs. Jones added that there will be a heavier Police presence around the lake, as overtime has been authorized for Officers all week. The goal is to get the word out that the type of concerning conduct that has been occurring is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

Mr. McManis also thanked Mrs. Jones for the increased Police presence on Nobottom, with regard to speeding traffic.

Mr. McManis had additional questions for Mr. Armagno, and Mr. Maxwell suggested he send Mr. Armagno an email with all of his inquiries.

Mrs. Weaver referenced the City's Noise Ordinance with respect to Metroparks traffic and asked if the City can do anything to help address some issues with regard to car, motorcycle and radio sounds. Mrs. Jones stated that she will have Chief Clark put Bagley, Prospect, Barrett and Baker on special attention because the City does have an ordinance that addresses music from vehicles.

Mrs. Weaver questioned why the outdoor pool is not offering swim lessons this season, adding that Parents are disappointed because swimming lessons address a safety issue and help create a life skill. Mr. Maxwell asked her to reach out to the Recreation Director for more information.

Mr. Skoczen updated Council about an ongoing issue with the lights at Malone Park, noting that Mr. Compton will now have them turn off 15 minutes earlier, and monitor the situation to see if additional changes are necessary.

Marty Compton – Director of Recreation:

Mr. Compton was not present.

COMMENDATIONS: **NONE**

PETITIONS: **NONE**

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Holly Porter began by complementing the City on the first summer concert, adding that the Service Department did such a phenomenal job of clearing and cleaning the area that by the next morning, there was no evidence that any event had taken place.

Mrs. Porter next implored the Administration to follow through on commitments with regard to infrastructure, adding that they must be held accountable for promises made. While they do have a lot on their plates, she reminded the Administration of the 2010 Master Plan that said the City would encourage businesses to use clean energy and utilize empty lots as greenspace. She asked the Mayor to consider these concepts, once again, because the world needs to change, and these changes are for the better.

Mrs. Porter thanked Council for listening to her concerns and wished everyone a great summer!

Gail Grizzell asked for a response to a Cleveland.com article that referenced \$500,000 of County funds being used for park improvements in Berea, when there are significant infrastructure issues in the North End. Mr. Maxwell stated that he will ask the Mayor about these funds and Mr. Skoczen noted that the County ties some things in with the park because of the County library in the City.

Ms. Grizzell asked if ARPA funds can be used to help residents in Ward 1 and wondered if other funds are possibly on the table. She asked for help exploring these options and figuring out how to access them. Mr. Maxwell said that he would email Mayor Kleem and follow up with her. Mrs. Brown asked to be copied on the email, as well.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**Woodvale Union Cemetery Board of Trustees – Jim Maxwell**

Mr. Maxwell stated that the next quarterly meeting is July 20, 2022, noted that they lost 2 employees but hired 3 others, putting the staff in a better position, and added that the new plot box system is up and running and once the staff understands how to work with it, public access will become available.

Mr. Maxwell continued by noting that Joe Giaimo is working on the expansion project, but due to increasing construction costs, some wants had to be put on hold. The focus is now on developing land for plot sales.

General discussion commenced concerning equipment purchases and preventative maintenance, and Mr. Maxwell stated that they do not anticipate any necessary equipment purchases in the near future.

Mr. Maxwell reiterated the open invitation to all Council members, as well as members of the public, to come take a tour of Woodvale.

LEGISLATION – THIRD READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 5-9: AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BEREA BY ADOPTING CURRENT REPLACEMENT PAGES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

The Clerk read the title of the Ordinance.

Moved by Mrs. Brown, seconded by Mr. Skoczen, that Ordinance No. 5-9 be adopted. Vote on the motion was ayes: Brown, Coble, Dozier, McManis, Skoczen, Weaver and Zacharyasz. Nays: None. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 5-10: A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TAX BUDGET OF THE CITY OF BEREA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2023, AND SUBMITTING THE SAME TO THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY FISCAL OFFICER.

The Clerk read the title of the Resolution.

Moved by Mrs. Brown, seconded by Mr. Zacharyasz, that Resolution No. 5-10 be approved. Vote on the motion was ayes: Brown, Coble, Dozier, McManis, Skoczen, Weaver and Zacharyasz. Nays: None. The motion carried.

LEGISLATION – SECOND READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 6-5: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO CERTIFY TO THE FISCAL OFFICER OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY UNPAID WATER AND/OR SEWER RENTAL CHARGES AND/OR OTHER MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES FOR LEVY AND COLLECTION ACCORDING TO LAW, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

The Clerk read the title of the Ordinance.

Proposed Ordinance No. 6-5 stands on second reading.

LEGISLATION – FIRST READING: NONE

REPORT AND COMMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Mr. Maxwell stated that while Council will probably adjourn for the summer, special meetings are likely and notice will be provided as far in advance as is possible.

Mr. Maxwell thanked the Police, Fire and Service Departments for all of their hard work with regard to the summer concerts. He added that he was at the concert last Friday and he never saw so many people in Berea, but he also witnessed a visible Police presence and the Service crews did an amazing job with clean-up. He asked that all involved be commended for a job extremely well done.

REPORTS AND COMMENTS BY THE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Mr. McManis hoped that everyone had a great Father's Day and wished all a safe and enjoyable summer.

Mr. Skoczen echoed the comments from Mr. McManis and wished everyone a Happy Independence Day.

Mrs. Weaver wished everyone a great summer.

Mr. Zacharyasz wished everyone a wonderful summer.

Mrs. Brown stated that she attended the Unrun at Middleburg Heights Middle School, hosted by Miss Wheelchair Ohio, Krysta Alison, noting that the event raised \$1000 for charity. She added that the hope is to make this an annual event that will shift between Middleburg, Brook Park and Berea.

Mrs. Brown continued by explaining that she and Ms. Alison met with President Helmer to discuss sustainability and accessibility, as well as grant writing, noting that the University may be able to collaborate with the City for some grant funds for solar panels and accessibility endeavors.

Mrs. Brown stated that she also attended the Puzzles and Pints Chamber event at Tony K's.

Mrs. Brown concluded her report by wishing Mrs. Esson and her son, Chase, a Happy Birthday!

Mrs. Coble announced that she is working with the Berea United Methodist Church to get the word out about the construction of the frame of a Habitat House that will be occurring in Berea on July 15th and 16th. The frame will then be moved to Wayne County, and she encouraged volunteers to come out and help.

Mrs. Coble stated that on Saturday, the Berea Public Library is hosting a presentation regarding native trees and plants, which is a learning opportunity that could benefit the City, and stated that she and Councilman Dozier are hosting a neighborhood meeting with President Helmer at the Knowlton Center at the end of July.

Mr. Dozier provided a bit of background on the Juneteenth holiday, noting that while the Emancipation Proclamation was signed on January 1, 1863, it was not until June 19, 1865 that the people of Texas were informed of the proclamation by Union Army General Gordon Granger. In 1979, Texas was the first state to make Juneteenth a holiday, and both the nation, as well as this Council, recognized it as a national holiday as of 2021.

CORRESPONDENCE

The June 2, 2022 – June 14, 2022 Correspondence is available in the Clerk's office.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mrs. Esson asked that Council review the Southwest Community Health System sheet, and inform her of any changes.

Mrs. Esson wished all Dads a Happy Father’s Day, wished her stepson, Matthew, and son, Chase, a very Happy Birthday this week, and concluded by wishing everyone a Happy Summer!

Moved by Mr. Zacharyasz, seconded by Mrs. Skoczen, that Council recess for the months of July and August. Vote on the motion was ayes: Brown, Coble, Dozier, McManis, Skoczen, Weaver and Zacharyasz. Nays: None. The motion carried.

There being no further business before Council, it was moved by Mrs. Brown, and seconded by Mr. Skoczen, that the Regular Council Meeting be adjourned. Vote on the motion was all ayes and no nays. The motion passed and President Maxwell declared the meeting adjourned at 8:26p.m.

Jim Maxwell
President of Council

Alycia Esson
Clerk of Council

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

The regular meeting of Council of the City of Berea, Ohio, held on the 21st day of June, 2022, was conducted in compliance with Codified Ordinances Section 109 and Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22.

Alycia Esson
Clerk of Council