

LUDLOW COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

April 11, 2024

Mayor Chris Wright called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Laurie Sparks called the roll, which showed the following council members present: Steve Chapman, David Ziegler, Samantha Frank, and Julie Terry Navarre. Abigail Miller arrived at 7:08 p.m.; Lori Davenport was absent.

ALSO ATTENDING: City Attorney Todd McMurtry, City Clerk Laurie Sparks, Interim Fire Chief Matt Chastain, Public Works Director Shane Hamant, Code Enforcement Officer Jamie West

Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Mr. Ziegler, to approve the minutes from the council meeting on March 14, 2024. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.

STAFF REPORTS

Fire Department

Chief Chastain advised that full-time firefighter/paramedic Brandon Brooks-Patton resigned to participate in a program at Harvard. Sam Pulliam was hired to fill the position. Discussion on a recent adopt-a-class at Ludlow Elementary led by members of the Fire Department with a focus on the Junior Firefighter program. Discussion on continuing education for members of the Fire Department and a recent meeting with the new owners of the property on Sandbank Road.

Public Works

Mr. Hamant advised that the City hired a part-time seasonal public works employee. Mr. Hamant worked with Cassandra Homan to apply for a \$78,000.00 tree grant through the Kentucky Division of Forestry, which, if awarded, would include funding for a tree inventory, planting approximately eighty trees around the city, and an on-call arborist for a period of two years. Discussion on a flooding incident on Highway Avenue on April 2, 2024, as a result of 1.68 inches of rain falling within a few hours. With the help of the police and fire departments, the area was cleaned up in an hour and a half. Discussion on the history of flooding in that area, including an event in 2019 that flooded part of the city building. Mr. Hamant advised that the City did not receive any calls from property owners reporting damage from the recent flooding. A resident in the 300 block of Hazen Street attending the meeting advised that he had water runoff issues on his property. Discussion on upgrading the cameras in Ludlow Park.

Code Enforcement

Mr. West provided an update on code enforcement cases and rental licenses. Rental licenses are due by April 15, 2024. The Urban Design Review Board did not meet in March because they did not receive any certificate of appropriateness applications. Kenton County will be hosting a clean up day at Kenton County Public Works and Piner Elementary on April 12th and April 13th. The City Clean Up Day will be on Saturday, April 20, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the corner of Ash and Traverse Streets. Mr. West thanked Ms. Terry Navarre, Ms. Frank, and Mr. Chapman for managing the event. Mr. West received an application from Mr. Noel at 539 Linden Street for a disabled parking space in front of his home. Per the ordinance, the application must be denied if there is off-street parking and Mr. Noel has a detached garage in the rear of the property. Mr.

West advised that Mr. Noel's truck will not fit in the garage and recommended that Council approve Mr. Noel's request. Mr. West will be sending out letters soon notifying property owners to mow their grass before a citation is issued.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Wright advised that there was an officer involved shooting earlier that morning. The officer is okay, and the incident is under investigation by Kentucky State Police, as required per Kentucky Revised Statutes. Discussion on a recent meeting with Joyce McMullin and Jeremy Warnock from Southbank Partners regarding downtown strategies for developing Elm Street. The manufacturing and selling of medicinal marijuana was discussed at the recent Mayor's Group meeting. Council does not have to allow the sale or manufacture of medicinal marijuana in the City but will have to vote soon on whether to allow or prohibit it. Mayor Wright advised that he hopes to have a new fire chief hired by next week. Mayor Wright is collaborating with the Northern Kentucky Area Development District (NKADD) on hiring for the city administrator position.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance—Ms. Miller expressed concern that the Finance Committee has not met in over two months. Mayor Wright advised that he would notify Chief Smith that a meeting needs to happen as soon as possible.

Parks and Recreation—The Committee met with Samantha Goldschmidt to discuss ideas for events at the park.

Public Works/Code Enforcement — Ms. Frank advised that the Committee has been working on a Facebook campaign to educate the public on code enforcement issues. Ms. Frank discussed the possibility of hiring an intern to post on social media. Discussion on the possibility of council considering putting a cap on the number of short-term rental properties in the city, similar to what Covington has done. Discussion on whether a vacant property ordinance would help. Ms. Terry Navarre advised that the Committee met with Mr. Hamant on April 9, 2024, and reviewed the status of installing the irrigation system in Jackson Park for the fruit orchard and discussed the possibility of adding or moving trash cans to areas where needed in the city.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Chief Smith's report was included in the council packet. Discussion on the status of the development on the west end.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS MAYOR AND COUNCIL

David Jones, 332 Hazen Street, complained about dust from the Fischer development getting on his house and cars. Mr. Jones advised that he has worked on construction projects, and they are usually required to spray water to keep dust down and use hay to prevent water runoff. Mayor Wright advised that he would provide Mr. Jones with a contact for Fischer Homes.

Jessica Elam, 332 Hazen Street, discussed an issue with noise from the Fischer development, which begins at 7:00 a.m. even on Saturdays, and the dust which has cost her more money for air purifiers and furnace filters. Ms. Elam advised that she has to spend hours cleaning her house because of the dust and can't even open her windows on a nice day.

John Leidy and Sarah Thompson, 330 Hazen Street, stated that they have also experienced issues with dust and water runoff from the Fischer development. Mr. Hamant advised that Fischer is installing a 42" storm water drain that will catch water runoff when it is finished. Mr. Hamant has been monitoring the storm drains on Highway and Hazen and requested that residents call if they see a backup.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and Vote on an Application for a Disabled Parking Space at 539 Linden Street

Mayor Wright recommended that Council approve the application. **Motion by Mr. Chapman, second by Ms. Frank, to approve the application for a disabled parking space in front of 539 Linden Street. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

First Reading of Ordinance 2024-2

Mr. McMurtry completed the first reading of Ordinance 2024-2 *An Ordinance of the City of Ludlow, in Kenton County, Kentucky, Adopting an Amended Comprehensive Pay Plan for the Non-Elected City Officers and Employees of the City of Ludlow, in Accordance with KRS 83A.070(2)*. Mayor Wright advised that the ordinance would allow employees to receive additional pay for additional duties. Mayor Wright gave an example of Matt Chastain who has been serving as Fire Chief for the last few months, but currently there is no mechanism that allows him to receive additional compensation for his service. The second reading of Ordinance 2024-2 will occur at the May council meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Miller met with Jerron Fischer, the construction manager for Fischer Homes, earlier that evening to show him the issues with her property as a result of water runoff from the development. Ms. Miller encouraged anyone experiencing issues from the Fischer development to contact the City and they will provide Jerron Fischer's contact information. Ms. Terry Navarre advised that Cars & Coffee will be held on April 14, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. in the parking lot of 1975. There will be a seed swap through the LiveWell coalition at noon on April 14, 2024, at the Community Center. There will be a LiveWell meeting on April 15, 2024, at the Ludlow Community Center at 5:45 p.m. Ms. Frank announced that the Walk 'n Talk 'n Trash for April was postponed to April 17, 2024, and will be a special afterschool program at 3:30 p.m. at Ludlow Park. Mr. Ziegler advised that there will be a reception at the Ludlow Community Center on Saturday, April 14, 2024, from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the CLASP program. Mr. Chapman reminded everyone that the City Clean Up Day will be on April 20, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the corner of Ash and Traverse Streets.

Derek Gaiser inquired about the outcome of the Attorney General's investigation on whether Scott Smith could be both police chief and city administrator. Mr. McMurtry advised that he researched the issue twice and the Attorney General did not have any objections to assigning the administrator duties. Chief Smith voluntarily resigned from the city administrator position. Mayor Wright advised that Chief Smith should have originally been assigned the duties of administrator with a stipend instead of being given the title of city administrator. Mr. McMurtry does not believe there was a violation of the law.

**Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second Mr. Ziegler, to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.
Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Sparks, City Clerk

Attest: _____
Chris Wright, Mayor