

LUDLOW COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

September 12, 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: Lori Davenport, David Ziegler, Samantha Frank, Julie Terry Navarre, and Abigail Miller. Steve Chapman was absent.

ALSO ATTENDING: City Attorney Will Huber, City Clerk Laurie Sparks, Police Chief Scott Smith, Fire Chief Mike Steward, 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 meetings on August 8, 2024, and August 29, 2024. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.

STAFF REPORTS

Fire Department

Chief Steward advised that the fire department is now a collection center for lithium batteries. The fire department held a First Aid and CPR training class for the staff at Ludlow Schools.

Public Works

Mr. Hamant discussed the Urban & Community Forestry Assistance Grant in the amount of \$78,840.00, that was awarded to the City. As part of the grant, the council would need to pass a tree ordinance, and the City would take over responsibility for trees planted in the utility strip. Up to 80 trees will be planted from an approved list and the City will have access to a certified arborist for two years. Mr. Hamant advised that repairs to the Bobcat will cost \$7,000.00 and recommended that the City purchase a new Kubota skid steer at a cost of \$70,000.00. Discussion on the need to replace the 18 year old dump truck soon. Mr. Hamant asked council to choose the compensating tax rate to help cover the costs of equipment upgrades at Public Works and to allow more streets to be paved.

Code Enforcement

Mr. West discussed the number of open and closed code enforcement cases. The City has a 98% success rate on collecting rental licenses. Discussion on a recent meeting with representatives from Norfolk Southern regarding cleaning up the lots on Davies Street, Poplar Street, and the former lumberyard. No Certificate of Appropriateness applications were submitted last month. The Kenton County Clean Up Event will be on September 27th & 28th from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at Kenton County Public Works. The City will have a Fall Clean Up Event on October 12, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the corner of Ash & Traverse Streets. The property at 233 Oak Street has been sold and the City collected over \$20,000.00 in liens and abatement fees. There were three evictions processed last month due to criminal nuisance complaints.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Wright took part in litigation mediation on August 15, 2024, which will be discussed in executive session. On August 23, 2024, Mayor Wright interviewed Captain Bart Beck for the

Police Chief position. Mayor Wright hoped that everyone has a good time at the football game scheduled for Friday between Ludlow and Dayton.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – The Finance Committee did not meet.

Parks and Recreation – The Committee thanked everyone who helped with Hot Dogs in the Park and hopes to do it again next year. The Committee is working on ideas for a Halloween Event. Mayor Wright applauded the Committee for working with the Kenton County mobile library.

Public Works/Code Enforcement – The Committee met with Mr. West and discussed code enforcement issues, including a resolution to 233 Oak Street and a landlord with multiple citations who plans to fix up and sell his property. The Committee met with Mr. Hamant and discussed the need for the purchase of a new skid steer and dump truck. There will be no meetings in September due to scheduling conflicts.

CITY UPDATE/POLICE UPDATE

Chief Smith advised that he recently had a hip replacement, so he did not submit a written report. Chief Smith advised that he is still working with Will Weber at Southbank on the river walk. The police department did not have any major incidents to report last month. Chief Smith confirmed that the parking issues on Highway Avenue due to the Fischer development have been resolved. No date has been set for the groundbreaking of the next section of Riverfront Commons.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Nathan Wells, of Oak Street, requested that speed bumps be installed in the 400 block of Oak Street to deter speeding near the school. Discussion on a recent issue where a child walked into the street and hit a passing car.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Second Reading of Ordinance 2024-6

Mayor Wright advised that there were three first readings of the property tax ordinance at the recent special meeting. The three proposed property tax rates are \$.478 for real property and \$1.667 for personal; \$.499 for real property and \$1.667 for personal; and \$.534 for real property and \$1.761 for personal (per \$100 assessed value). Mr. Huber completed the second reading of Ordinance 2024-6 *An Ordinance of the City of Ludlow, Kenton County, Kentucky, Fixing the Tax Rate for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2024, and Ending June 30, 2025, Upon Real Estate, Personal, and Mixed Property in the City of Ludlow, Kentucky, and Fixing the Time for Payment and Penalty for Non-Payment of Same.* The ordinance sets the tax rate at \$.499 for real property and \$1.667 for personal and mixed property. **Following discussion, motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Ms. Frank, to adopt Ordinance 2024-6. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: four ayes (Ms. Davenport, Mr. Ziegler, Ms. Frank, Ms. Terry Navarre) and one nay (Ms. Miller).**

Second Reading of Ordinance 2024-7

Mr. Huber completed the second reading of Ordinance 2024-7 *An Ordinance of the City of Ludlow, Kenton County, Kentucky, Fixing the Tax Rate for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2024, and Ending June 30, 2025, Upon Real Estate, Personal, and Mixed Property in the City of Ludlow, Kentucky, for the Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services Special Ad Valorem Tax, and Fixing the Time for Payment and Penalty for Non-Payment of Same.* Mayor Wright advised that he would like council to consider raising the ad valorem tax and placing the issue on the ballot in the future since it has

been the same rate since 2002. **Motion by Ms. Frank, second by Ms. Terry Navarre, to adopt Ordinance 2024-7. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2024-11

Following a reading by Mr. Huber, motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Ms. Frank, to pass Resolution 2024-11 A Resolution Appointing Ruth Bamberger to Serve on the City of Ludlow Urban Design Review Board. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: four ayes (Ms. Davenport, Mr. Ziegler, Ms. Frank, Ms. Terry Navarre), and one abstention (Ms. Miller).

Resolution 2024-12

Mr. Huber read Resolution 2024-12 A Resolution Approving the Mayor's Appointment of Bartholomew Beck to the Position of Police Chief in the City of Ludlow, Kentucky. Motion by Ms. Frank, second by Mr. Ziegler, to pass Resolution 2024-12. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Terry Navarre announced that the Heritage Museum will host Railyard Heritage Days on October 5, 2024, from 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Ludlow Plaza. Ms. Frank announced that the last Walk 'n Talk 'n Trash of the year will be on October 9, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at Ludlow Plaza.

Motion by Ms. Davenport, second by Ms. Frank, to enter into executive session pursuant to KRS 61.810(c) Discussions of proposed or pending litigation against or on behalf of the public agency. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.

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Upon coming out of executive session, motion by Ms. Davenport, second by Mr. Ziegler, to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Sparks, City Clerk

Attest: _____
Chris Wright, Mayor