

**LUDLOW COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

**July 8, 2004**

Mayor Schroeder called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Laurie Sparks called the roll which showed the following Council members in attendance: Cindy Schachere, Joyce McMullin, Charlie Manning, Bill Froehle, Karen Gaiser and Gary Rolfsen.

*ALSO ATTENDING:* City Attorney Chris Mehling, City Engineer Dave Lorei, Building/Zoning Administrator Joe Schutzman, Clerk/Treasurer Paul Weekley, Police Chief Ray Murphy

**Motion made by Ms. Schachere to approve the minutes from the council meeting on June 24, 2004. Motion seconded by Mr. Manning. Motion carried all ayes.**

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Schroeder thanked Mr. Froehle and the Police Department for a great and successful golf outing.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Ms. Schachere—Parks*

- In response to Ms. Schachere's question, Mr. Weekley stated that sand had not been placed in the play areas of the park. Mr. Weekley stated that he had walked the park with Rod Lee earlier that day and examined the condition of the fields.
- Ms. Schachere asked about the status of the fountain at Elm Wood Park. Mr. Weekley stated that the fountain has been placed in the park and that he is looking into the cost of getting another pump to replace the one that was stolen.
- Mr. Weekley stated that Lemker Field will be filled in and Public Works will redo the field at Caple over the winter.
- Work to install the shelter roofs in the park will be contracted out due to liability reasons. Mr. Schutzman estimated that the cost to be under \$20,000.00. Mr. Schutzman stated that he has the plans and could send them to anyone who is licensed to do the work.

*Ms. McMullin—Riverfront Development*

- Ms. McMullin requested that the dead plants on top of the building in Elm Wood Park be removed because they look like twigs.
- Ms. McMullin inquired about the status of the replacement of the sidewalks that were installed after Cinergy's gas main replacement. Mr. Schutzman stated that Cinergy's contractors will fix the sidewalks when they come back to replace a gas main on Arcade Street.

*Mr. Manning—Finance*

In response to Mr. Manning's question on the status of the codification, Mr. Schutzman stated that he is still reviewing the ordinances but has been busy. Mr. Manning thanked Mr. Schutzman for the Code Enforcement Board (CEB) status list. Mr. Schutzman stated that 302 Linden Street is going back up for action and the City will request that the building be torn down. In regards to 635 Church Street, Mr. Schutzman stated that the owner is trying to sell it, but the inside is uninhabitable in its present condition.

Mr. Froehle—Public Works, Police, Fire Department

Mr. Froehle had no report. Ms. Schachere requested that Mr. Froehle advise her of the date for next year's golf outing as soon as possible so the date could be set for the Fireworks Festival.

Ms. Gaiser—Community Relations

Halloween Fest will be held on Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup> or Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. Chief Murphy stated that he would rather not have Halloween Fest on cabbage night, October 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Rolfsen—Economic Development

- Mr. Mehling stated that he would try to get an answer on hard billing versus soft billing for TransCare.
- Mr. Rolfsen stated that he met with Mr. Lorei and others at Brandstetter-Carroll last week. Mr. Rolfsen stated that Brandstetter-Carroll is well qualified to assist in the riverfront development project, but needs direction and a long-term strategy. Mr. Rolfsen asked if color copies could be made of the U.C. student projects. Mr. Weekley stated that he determined that the cost of color copies would be about \$50 per set. Mr. Rolfsen stated that he would stop by the City Building Friday to decide what documents he would like copied for Brandstetter-Carroll. Ms. McMullin stated that she would like to be included in the riverfront development planning process.
- Mr. Rolfsen asked if there has been any interest in the sidewalk repair rebate. Mr. Weekley stated that the City voluntarily provides the rebate information when owners come in to fill out a building permit. Mr. Rolfsen stated that Mr. Schutzman and Angie Lee are doing an excellent job with handling blight issues.

Building/Zoning Report

- The City has collected between \$15,000 and \$20,000 in CEB fines that will go back into the General Fund to use toward rehab projects, such as the Davies Street sidewalk replacement.
- Fischer Homes has a public hearing at the Planning Commission to discuss the addition of 42 units to the River's Breeze subdivision. Someone purchased the fire damaged house in the 400 block of Hazen Street to tear it down and build two homes on the property. The Board of Adjustment approved plans to construct a substantial house behind Batoray. Discussion on the building's height requirements.
- Mr. Schroeder discussed several complaints he received regarding the paving. Mr. Weekley stated that he completed the final walkthrough with Dave Stenger of Brandstetter-Carroll.
- Ms. McMullin stated that she noticed that several bad curbs in the 300 and 400 blocks of Elm Street would need to be replaced in addition to those on the Highway. Mr. Schutzman stated that the State would not look at the curbs because they are not part of the roadway. Mr. Mehling stated that the State is immune from liability and the City cannot make the State replace the curbs. Mr. Lorei stated that he was not sure of the cost to replace the curbs. Ms. McMullin stated that she believed that the City should do something to repair the curbs. Discussion on the possibility of using money from the TEA-21 grant, if awarded, to replace curbs in the downtown area. Mr. Schutzman stated that the curbs go under the asphalt and if the City tears them out, the asphalt will be torn up and the City would be liable for any damage.

Engineer's Report

- Barrett Paving, the company who completed the paving project, does not do street sealing. Mr. Schutzman suggested using Riegler for street sealing because they have done work for Villa Hills. Mr. Lorei stated that Dave Stenger recommended that the City have Hazen Street milled and resurfaced, Arcade Street patched and Forest Avenue crack sealed. Mr. Lorei stated that he would

like to get a pavement management study started in December or January. The study would help determine the conditions of streets in evaluating them for paving.

- Mr. Lorei stated that he met with Mr. Schutzman to study the intersection of Hazen and River's Breeze and discuss possible solutions. Mr. Lorei stated that removal of the trees at the [northwest] corner would be the best solution to improve sight distance. Discussion on possibly moving the three existing pine trees back, trimming the blue spruce trees, or replacing the trees with smaller shrubs to eliminate the sight distance problem. Mr. Schutzman stated that he would not want to do anything that would inconvenience the homeowners. Mr. Lorei suggested that anyone interested should go sit near the intersection and observe the flow of traffic. After discussion, Mr. Lorei stated that putting the stop sign back up on southbound River's Breeze would not help the sight distance problem. Mr. Lorei recommended that the City install a "stop ahead" sign on southbound River's Breeze near the intersection with Hazen Street.
- Discussion on the status of the Barker property. Mr. Schutzman stated that the State is looking at the building on the left side of the underpass coming into the city. The City has requested that the State clean up the property.

Mr. Froehle asked about the status of obtaining the City's information from Foppe. Foppe wants to charge the City a per hour clerical fee to put the City's records together. Mr. Mehling stated that he is going to call Larry Foppe and tell him that the City does not want to pay for records that it has already paid for.

#### Police Chief's Report

- The Police Department made a \$2,000 profit from the golf outing that will help with community youth programs. The radar trailer is currently on Elm Street near the park and will be moved to several locations throughout the city until the end of the month. A citizen from 25 River Road complained about cars drag racing down River Road. Chief Murphy stated that the issue would be addressed and the radar trailer could be placed in that area. A resident suggested that the radar monitor be placed on Highway Avenue. Chief Murphy stated that the goal of the monitor is to gain compliance.
- A meeting between Mayor Schroeder, Chief Murphy, and Bromley's mayor has been scheduled for Monday at the City Building to discuss the contract for police services in Bromley. The amount of the current contract is \$46,800 per year while the proposed contract would be \$72,000 per year for police coverage.
- There are 11 police agencies in Kenton County that participate in the Citizens' Police Academy. Starting with the next session in September, it is Ludlow Police Department's turn to host the program. The program is funded through a one-time grant that is of no cost to the City. **Ms. Schachere motioned to allow the Police Department permission to apply for a grant through RCI for the Citizens' Police Academy. Motion seconded by Mr. Froehle. Motion carried all ayes.**
- Chief Murphy requested Council's permission to apply for a grant through the State of Kentucky that would provide equipment and an officer trained to handle weapons of mass destruction. The only cost to the City would be equipment maintenance. Chief Murphy stated that he is asking for two 4-wheel drive vehicles (Ford Explorer), one pickup truck to bring contaminated debris away from an area, three bicycles specially equipped to access areas that a truck could not reach, haz-mat suits and biohazard cleaning solution. The total cost is \$182,501 (\$125,535 for equipment and \$62,966 for the officer). Chief Murphy was not sure whether a new officer would need to be hired as part of the grant requirement. One benefit of the grant would be that the vehicles could be used routinely. All money for the grant comes from the federal government and 80% of it will be

distributed to local governments by the State. **Mr. Rolfsen motioned to allow the Police Department to apply for a grant, pending Mr. Mehling's approval, for an officer and equipment to handle weapons of mass destruction. Motion seconded by Mr. Froehle. Motion carried all ayes.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

Mary Jo Kersting of 336 Highway Avenue requested the City's permission and grant money to put a driveway on her property since her parking space was eliminated when the turn lane was added for River's Breeze. Ms. Kersting stated that parking in the rear of her property is not possible because a curb had been added in the alley that blocks her garage. Mr. Mehling stated that City funds could not be used to build Ms. Kersting a driveway. Mr. Schutzman stated that he would review the plans that Ms. Kersting submitted and suggested that Ms. Kersting contact Fischer Homes about possible financial assistance for installing a driveway. Bill Kissinger, a friend of Ms. Kersting, stated that Ms. Kersting has lived in the home for 18 years and had never contested the curb in the alley. Mr. Schutzman stated that a curb cut would require permission from the State of Kentucky and would need to be done at the owner's expense.

**Ms. Schachere motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. and enter into executive session. Motion seconded by Mr. Manning. Motion carried all ayes.**

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**Ms. Schachere motioned to come out of executive session and adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Ms. McMullin.**

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**Ed F. Schroeder, Mayor**

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**Laurie Sparks, Admin. Asst.**