

LUDLOW COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

February 24, 2005

Mayor Ed Schroeder 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: Cindy Schachere, Joyce McMullin, Charlie Manning, Karen Gaiser and Ken Wynn. (Bill Froehle was absent.)

ALSO ATTENDING: City Attorney Chris Mehling, City Engineer Bruce Brandstetter, Building/Zoning Administrator Joe Schutzman, Clerk/Treasurer Paul Weekley, Police Chief Ray Murphy and Fire Chief Terry Bandy

Ms. McMullin motioned to approve the minutes from the council meeting on February 10, 2005. Motion seconded by Mr. Wynn. Motion carried: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

Presentation of Audit by John Walker of Van Gorder, Walker & Co., Inc.

John Walker introduced Michelle Herrman, a CPA who assisted with the audit. Mr. Walker discussed the audit for fiscal year 2003-2004 including the addition of the Management's Discussion and Analysis that allows the administration to comment on the financial statements and discuss what's going to happen in the future. General Revenues went up 14% last year, but expenditures went up 19%. Mr. Walker recommended that the City create excess cash by increasing revenues or decreasing services. After further discussion, Council agreed to wait until the Management's Discussion and Analysis is inserted in the audit before finalizing it and voting on it at the next meeting.

Discussion on Applying for a Grant Through the Kentucky Heritage Council

Lena Sweeten of the Historic Preservation Board (HPB) discussed a grant through the Kentucky Heritage Council that would cover the cost of a survey and guidelines for establishing another historic district in Ludlow. The HPB plans to go ahead with designating another historic district, but the grant would free up resources for other things. **Ms. McMullin motioned to allow the HPB to apply for a \$1,000.00 grant through the Kentucky Heritage Council that would pay for a consultant to write the guidelines and for photography. Motion seconded by Ms. Schachere. After roll call, motion carried: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.**

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mr. Schroeder encouraged everyone to call Senator Westwood and support the bill for TANK funding and support the budget passed by the House that includes extra money for Renaissance.
- Jeremy Dobbs and Rick Young recently received a heroism award from Shriner's Burns Hospital and Gold Star Chili for rescuing a child from a burning building on Carneal Street in August.
- The Kenton County Spring Clean-Up will be on March 18th-20th at three locations. Appliances will be accepted at the Kenton County Public Works garage.
- There will be a meeting next Wednesday in Ft. Wright to discuss the status of ALS service. Ludlow, Bromley, Park Hills, Ft. Wright, Ft. Mitchell, Crestview Hills and Lakeside Park are working together to try to stay with TransCare for ALS services. If Edgewood joins in, the cost for each city could be lowered. Chief Bandy stated that he has not experienced any problems with TransCare. The current contract for ALS service ends June 30, 2005.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Schachere—Parks Committee

- Discussion on the possibility of removing the stoplight at the intersection of Oak and Adela and replacing it with a four-way stop sign. Mr. Manning stated that he knows someone who could probably find replacement parts for the old stoplight.
- In response to Ms. Schachere's question, Mr. Schutzman stated that either he or the police could cite people who park in their front yards on unpaved surfaces. Discussion on cars parked in a yard in the 300 block of Highway Avenue across from River's Breeze Drive. Mr. Schutzman stated that if the CEB handled it, the owners could be fined \$100 per day versus a one-time fine of \$25 if a ticket is issued by the police.
- Discussion on the status of the railroad bridge. Mr. Schutzman stated that he contacted Norfolk-Southern when a piece of wood fell off of the bridge and they removed all loose pieces and secured the area. Railroad representatives requested that no on post signs on the rails of the bridge.
- In response to Ms. Schachere's question, Mr. Weekley stated that hydrant flushing will be during the weeks of April 4th and August 8th.

Ms. McMullin—Riverfront Development Committee

- Ms. McMullin requested that action be taken to remove shoes hanging on wires in front of a home in the [400 block] of Elm Street. Mr. Schutzman stated that he would contact Cinergy.
- Ms. McMullin stated that she and Mr. Froehle need to set up an appointment with Mr. Brandstetter to discuss options for council chambers. Ms. McMullin stated that they are also looking into development projects with Mr. Brandstetter.
- Discussion on Cinergy and the Sanitation District working on Deverill Street. Mr. Brandstetter stated that he had not received any responses from any of the utility companies regarding plans for projects over the next few years that would impact the street paving program.
- Ms. McMullin stated that she would contact Barb Martin of Ludlow Schools to get an update on the status of meeting to discuss plans for increasing student enrollment.

Mr. Manning—Finance Committee

- Mr. Manning discussed the need to address the issue cars being parked in yards and cars blocking the sidewalks. Mr. Manning suggested that the police issue a warning to first time offenders and then a citation the next time. Mr. Schutzman stated that he took photographs of parking violations, brought them before the CEB and the CEB began taking action on abandoned vehicles at the first of the year. The police would need to cite someone who parks across a sidewalk. Chief Murphy stated that if there are more than two delinquent citations on a vehicle, it can be towed. Ms. Schachere suggested that the police cite vehicles first and then if there is no response it should be turned over to the CEB.
- In response to Mr. Manning's inquiry about the status of repairing the street lights in the 300 block of Elm Street, Mr. Weekley stated that Cinergy is researching for a wiring diagram and an agreement to determine who is responsible for repairing the lights. Discussion on the cost of operating the lights. Mr. Schutzman stated that if Cinergy won't repair the lights, the City could contract with someone like Bluegrass to repair them.
- Mr. Manning suggested that Council review the audit and be prepared to vote on it at the next meeting. Discussion on why the City is losing money on the garbage billing. Mr. Weekley stated that the contract with Bavarian ends on June 30th and the City will put it out for bid in the next several months. Mr. Manning stated that all departments need to stay under budget and if someone goes over budget, it should go before Council for approval before the money is spent. Mr.

Schroeder stated that the City needs the budget for 2005-2006 by April 1st. Discussion on the money the City receives from River's Breeze.

Ms. Gaiser—Community Relations Committee

- The school assembly to present trophies to the Christmas parade float winners has been postponed until April 8th at 2:00 p.m. Money for the trophies was donated from the Police Community Fund.
- The Easter bunny will be at the Firehouse on March 26th from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Hammel Miscellaneous Metal will donate some of the film for photos with the Easter bunny.
- Ms. Gaiser stated that she is working with Officer Dave Hampton on to set up a D.A.R.E. booth at the May Festival. Pepsi has agreed to donate 2-liters for the ring toss game. Volunteers are still needed to work the booth.

Mr. Wynn—Renaissance, Finance Committees

- Mr. Wynn stated that he and Mayor Schroeder recently visited many of the businesses on Elm Street to ask whether they would like parking meters in front of their business. Discussion on Hair Millennium's request for a handicap parking space or 15 minute parking space in front of the business. Tom Gaither requested a loading zone on Kenner Street alongside his gallery. Mr. Wynn stated that approximately 20 meters would be needed, but he would need to walk the area again to determine the exact number of parking spaces available. The meters would be enforced Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and will cost \$.25 for 30 minutes. No meters will be placed in front of any residences. There are 38 working meters in the city. Discussion on whether customers will want to pay to park at a meter. Mr. Wynn stated that he would like to have limited parking on part of Davies Street to prevent people from parking in the same space all day. Mr. Mehling stated that he could have an ordinance ready by the next meeting to amend the parking schedule once he receives a list of the new locations of the meters from Mr. Wynn.
- Mr. Wynn discussed possible safety hazards on Laurel Street and Adela Street where Cinergy is working to replace gas lines. Mr. Schutzman stated that he would contact the contractor if a similar situation occurs again. Mr. Schutzman explained the process that AMS goes through to temporarily patch a sidewalk until they can permanently repair it. Construction on the gas lines throughout the City is planned to continue through 2007.

Engineer's Report

- Mr. Brandstetter discussed the bids that were received for the street paving program and recommended using Barrett Paving. Mr. Schroeder requested that Council review the bids and be prepared to award the paving project at the next meeting. Discussion on plans for Forest Avenue.
- Discussion on the status of a collapsing wall behind 207 Montclair Avenue. Mr. Schutzman stated that the City apparently had something to do with building a wall 25 years ago in Johnson Alley, but it is a paper alley that the City doesn't maintain. Mr. Brandstetter stated that he would like to make an appointment to meet with the homeowner to look at the wall. The owner, Natalie Ross, stated that she and her husband have installed a curb to divert the water that runs off of the houses on Highway Avenue, but the water erodes the area underneath the curb usually every 2-3 months. Ms. Ross stated that she is more concerned about the water drainage than the wall. Utility companies still use the alley to access poles in the alley.

Building/Zoning Report

Mr. Schutzman stated that he met with AMS, Cinergy's contractor, and sent them a list of properties where sidewalks need to be replaced. Mr. Schutzman stated that he would like to use the money collected from CEB fines to pay AMS if homeowner's don't pay for sidewalk replacement on Euclid,

Forest, Butler and a small portion of Carneal. Ms. Gaiser expressed concern for the replacement of a portion of her sidewalk that was torn up by Cinergy during gas main replacement.

Clerk/Treasurer's Report

Mr. Weekley stated that he is still reviewing the codification for changes. Mr. Mehling stated that he contacted American Legal regarding changes in the codification and would like to have the second reading of the ordinance at the next meeting.

Fire Department Report

Chief Bandy discussed a problem with basketball goals hanging over into the street and explained that one of the fire truck mirrors was damaged by a basketball goal. Mr. Mehling suggested that Public Works be instructed to pick up any basketball goals that are in the right-of-way and take them back to the garage because they are a serious safety hazard. Discussion on the squad run report for January.

Police Chief's Report

Chief Murphy had no report. In response to Mr. Schroeder's question, Chief Murphy stated that they are still working on adopting a troop overseas.

Ms. Schachere motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. Motion seconded by Ms. Gaiser. Motion carried: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

Ed F. Schroeder, Mayor

Laurie Sparks, Admin. Asst.