

LUDLOW COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

August 11, 2005

PUBLIC HEARING – 6:45 P.M.

Mayor Ed Schroeder opened the floor for public comment on how to spend the \$125,000.00 the City expects to receive through the Department of Rural and Municipal Road Aid for fiscal year 2005-2006. The majority of the Municipal Road Aid money will be used for streets. The Pavement Management Study from Brandstetter Carroll will be used as a basis in determining which streets to pave. Mr. Graven asked if the money could be used toward the purchase of a new stoplight at Oak and Adela. Ms. Schachere asked about the status of correcting the drainage problem in the 400 block of Hazen Street. Mr. Brandstetter discussed possible funding that may be available through the Sanitation District because the problem is a stormwater issue. Discussion on options for replacing the higher curbs on Highway Avenue.

REGULAR MEETING – 7:00 P.M.

Mayor Ed Schroeder called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Laurie Sparks called the roll, which showed the following council members present: Cindy Schachere, Joyce McMullin, Bill Froehle, Karen Gaiser and Ken Wynn. (Charlie Manning was on vacation.)

ALSO ATTENDING: City Attorney Chris Mehling, City Engineer Bruce Brandstetter, City Administrative Officer Brian Dehner, City Clerk Laurie Sparks, Building/Zoning Administrator Joe Schutzman, Police Chief Ray Murphy and Fire Department Chief Terry Bandy

It was moved by Mr. Froehle and seconded by Ms. Schachere to approve the minutes from the council meeting on July 28, 2005. Motion carried, all ayes.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- TANK is hosting three meetings in Kenton, Boone and Campbell County to give the public an opportunity to comment on bus service in their area. The meeting for Kenton County will be at the Kenton County Library in Covington on September 1st from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. TANK is considering running the Southbank Shuttle through Ludlow on Saturdays and Sundays.
- The Route 8 project won't be finished until the first of October. According to Rep. Arnold Simpson, the sidewalk near the retaining wall will be ADA compliant and handicap accessible once it is completed.
- Mr. Schroeder thanked the Fire Department for cleaning out the walkway through the underpass.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Schachere—Parks

- Discussion on the status of cleaning up the area around Changing Paradigms. Mr. Schutzman distributed a copy of a letter he sent to Changing Paradigms notifying them to change the downspouts on the building. They will be fined \$100.00 per day if the issues are not corrected by the deadline.
- Discussion on the possibility of creating an ordinance requiring that sidewalks be kept clear of grass and weeds or owners would be subject to a fine. Discussion on the City's liability if such an ordinance would be passed. Discussion on possibly drafting an ordinance requiring brick sidewalks to be kept clear of grass and weeds.
- Mr. Schutzman stated that he would check into whether the hole in the street in the 400 block of Highway Avenue had been repaired.

- Ms. McMullin stated that she is not satisfied with the speed humps installed by Barrett Paving. Mr. Brandstetter stated that he would look at whether the speed humps meet standards.
- Ms. Schachere thanked Ray Graven for making the ice balls this year for Hot Dogs in the Park.

Ms. McMullin—Riverfront Development; Public Works

Ms. McMullin thanked Mr. Graven and everyone involved in the Hot Dogs in the Park this year. There is usually a great turnout each week. Ms. McMullin requested that the City send out a thank you to the Interfaith Committee for their hard work.

Mr. Froehle—Public Works, Police Department, Fire Department

Mr. Froehle stated that he would like to look into the possibly of allowing people to purchase a permit to post “for sale” signs in vehicles. Sign regulations prohibit the display of such signs. Someone who sells more than five vehicles a year must have a business license.

Ms. Gaiser—Community Relations

- Ms. Gaiser thanked the City for sending her flowers during her recent illness.
- Ms. Gaiser stated that she has been approached by several people about the possibility of having a Citywide Yard Sale in the fall. **After discussion, it was moved by Ms. Schachere and seconded by Ms. McMullin to have a Citywide Yard Sale on September 24th.**
- Halloween Fest will be held on October 30th from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the Firehouse. Ms. Gaiser stated that she would work on getting donations for punch and cookies. Mr. Wynn stated that Tabatha Davis is organizing a haunted house for Halloween. The Christmas Parade will be on Sunday, December 4th at 2:00 p.m. Anyone who would like to help with either event should contact Ms. Gaiser. Ms. McMullin volunteered to help with both events.

Mr. Wynn—Renaissance; Finance

Discussion on the status of the signs at Elm Food Mart, formerly known as Dairy Mart. Mr. Schutzman stated that he plans to meet with the owner and should know something by the next council meeting.

Engineer’s Report

Mr. Brandstetter stated that he met with Northern Kentucky Water District about their plans for future work in the city and he would give them a list of the City’s priorities for paving. Mr. Brandstetter requested that Council advise him on how to proceed with the church property. In regards to the incinerator property, Mr. Brandstetter recommended that the City require the buyer to pay for the costs of a geotechnical study of the property. The property could not be sold without putting it up for bid.

Building/Zoning Report

- Mr. Schutzman thanked Mr. Schroeder for visiting several properties on Alberta with him recently.
- Public Works will board up the openings of the KDI property because it is a safety issue. The bid the City received to fence up the openings was twice as high as expected.
- Mr. Schutzman stated that he had spoken with Paul Weisner’s office about the property in the 700 block of Elm. Beginning tomorrow, the owner will be getting fined up to \$100.00 per day by the Code Enforcement Board (CEB) until the property is cleaned up. Mr. Schutzman stated that he plans to meet with Mr. Weisner next week to discuss plans for the property and the fence along Elm Street.
- Fischer’s request for emergency access to River’s Breeze from Montague Road has been approved.
- Mr. Mehling stated that the stop sign on River Road at Louise Court could be removed now that the road is no longer being used as a detour route. Discussion on a problem with the pavement at the bottom of Post Place that causes the area to fill up with water when it rains.

- Mr. Schutzman stated that he and Angie Lee met with Mr. Mehling and his staff to discuss the process used for foreclosures by the CEB.
- In response to Sue Harney's question, there are currently 183 units completed or under construction at River's Breeze. There will be a total of between 292 and 313 units once the development is completed.
- Discussion on the list of abandoned properties that was submitted to the PVA at the beginning of the year. Those properties will be subject to a higher tax rate. Discussion on whether a property must meet all or just several of the criteria to be considered vacant or abandoned. Discussion on the process used when dealing with abandoned properties.

City Administrative Officer's Report

- Mr. Dehner thanked Council and the City staff for welcoming him to the City. Mr. Dehner stated that he would try to be in the office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays each week and adjust his schedule for ½ days.
- Mr. Dehner discussed his recommendation to raise the rates for garbage collection from \$31.75 to \$34.20 per quarter for a single-family residence and from \$41.75 to \$44.75 per quarter for a commercial unit. Mr. Dehner requested that Mr. Mehling amend the garbage collection ordinance to reflect the changes in the fees as a result of the new waste collection contract that went into effect on July 1, 2005.
- The City's membership with the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce is up for renewal and the City needs someone to serve as its representative.
- Mr. Dehner stated that he would get a memo out to council of the recommended tax rates. A public hearing will be held at 6:45 p.m. prior to the next council meeting to discuss the tax rates.
- Mr. Dehner stated that he is in the process of hiring a full-time temporary person for Public Works. Mr. Schroeder thanked Mike Woodward for doing a great job.

Fire Chief's Report

The fire hydrants throughout the city are being painted one of four colors to indicate the water pressure of each hydrant. NKWD is still continuing work on Victoria Street. The Fire Department is going to begin a program of inspecting buildings again. Chief Bandy stated that the Fire Department is going to require some members who live out of the city and work at night to stay at the Firehouse.

Police Chief's Report

Chief Murphy stated that he checked into the complaint about dump trucks coming off the hill at River's Breeze and found that all of them were covered with tarps as required. Mr. Schroeder thanked Chief Murphy for the police stats report.

Mr. Mehling stated that the City of Elsmere used Ludlow's CEB as a model for setting up their own CEB. Mr. Schutzman and Ms. Lee met with Elsmere's city officials to establish the CEB. Mr. Schroeder thanked all the CEB members for their time and expressed appreciation for all of their hard work.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Executive Order 2005-7 Appointing Laurie Sparks as City Clerk

It was moved by Ms. McMullin and seconded by Mr. Froehle to authorize Mayor Schroeder to appoint Laurie Sparks as City Clerk. Motion carried all ayes.

Executive Order 2005-8 Appointing Alice Margolen as City Treasurer

It was moved by Ms. Gaiser and seconded by Ms. Schachere to authorize Mayor Schroeder to appoint Alice Margolen as City Treasurer. Motion carried all ayes.

Resolution to Authorize Mayor Schroeder to Enter into Contract with NKADD

It was moved by Ms. McMullin and seconded by Mr. Froehle to authorize Mayor Schroeder to enter into a one-year contract with NKADD to fill the position of city administrative officer. After roll call, motion carried: 5 ayes, 1 absent. Brian Dehner will fill the position of city administrative officer.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Donald Goff of 252 Forest Avenue expressed his dissatisfaction with Council’s passage of the ordinance to ban pit bull dogs. Mr. Goff stated that he has epilepsy and his pit bull is trained to notify him when he is going to have a seizure. Mr. Schroeder stated that Council had discussed the issue since September 2004 and it was their decision to ban pit bull terriers in the city.

Bob Jordan of 233 Deverill Street stated that child services placed four children in his home after inspecting it and seeing that he has a pit bull. Mr. Jordan stated that he has insurance on his dog and doesn’t take him out. Discussion on the amount of notice given to the public about the council meeting where Council voted to ban pit bull terriers. Mr. Schroeder stated that the date for the meeting was set at the prior council meeting and was also advertised in the local papers. Ms. McMullin stated that Council made the decision that they felt was in the best interest of the citizens.

Charlie Hartman of Elm Street inquired about the status of 450-52 Elm Street. Mr. Schutzman stated that the property was on the CEB’s violation list and the owners will have approximately 60 days to abate the problem. If the problem is not resolved, the CEB will likely place a lien on the property at the October meeting. Mr. Mehling recommended that Mr. Hartman attend the CEB meetings at the City Building on the second Tuesday of each month to express his concerns.

It was moved by Ms. McMullin and seconded by Mr. Froehle to adjourn the meeting to executive session at 8:50 p.m.

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It was moved by Mr. Froehle and seconded by Mr. Wynn to adjourn the meeting.

Ed F. Schroeder, Mayor

Laurie Sparks, City Clerk