

LUDLOW COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

October 10, 2019

Mayor Josh Boone 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, Tiffany Grider, Bill Whiteley, Chris Wright, Tom Amann, and Julie Terry Navarre.

ALSO ATTENDING: City Attorney Todd V. McMurtry, City Administrator/Police Chief Scott Smith, Fire Chief Mike Steward, Public Works Director Shane Hamant, and Code Enforcement Officer Tom Garner.

Mayor Boone administered the Oath of Office of Police Officer to Terry Eshman.

Motion by Mr. Wright, second by Ms. Terry Navarre, to approve the minutes from the council meeting on September 12, 2019. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes. Motion by Mr. Amann, second by Ms. Grider, to approve the minutes from the council meeting on September 19, 2019. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.

STAFF REPORTS

Fire Department

Chief Steward discussed his monthly report. Chief Steward discussed the recent incident at the Ludlow Bromley Yacht Club and thanked the agencies and volunteers who assisted.

Public Works

Mr. Hamant discussed his monthly report and advised that the City recently hired Michael Dunaway as a public works laborer. Discussion on a tree that was recently cut down in the park and plans to plant more trees in the park.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Boone thanked the Catalytic Fund for the recent Beyond the Curb in Ludlow, which was attended by approximately 525 people. Jill Morenz will give a presentation about the event at the next caucus meeting. The Christmas Parade will be held on December 7, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. Paula Graszus is heading up the committee, which will be meeting soon to discuss plans for the parade and plans for decorating the downtown for the holidays.

Code Enforcement

Mr. Garner discussed his monthly report. Notices have been sent to the tenants of the seven delinquent rental properties advising that they have 45 days to vacate unless the owner purchases a rental license. Discussion on the process involved in revoking a rental license for owners who haven't purchased a license. Following a discussion, Chief Smith advised that the City could not inspect every rental property each time it is rented because the work load would be overwhelming. Mr. Garner advised that he stresses to tenants to let him know if there is an issue with a rental unit, such as no smoke alarm, and he will inspect it. Mr. Garner advised that he inspected the exterior of rental properties several years ago and most were up to code. Discussion on how issues with problem properties are handled by the police.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – The Committee met on September 24, 2019 to review the August bank statements and everything appeared to be in order. The City is following the plan set in March and finances are continuing to improve because tax revenues are coming in. Mr. Chapman advised that the City will need to determine how much money to save each month to put toward the cost of the Adela Street Paving Project.

Public Works – The Committee hasn't met recently, but she and Ms. Grider met with the Park Board to review plans to beautify the park. Discussion about the possibility of getting funding for improvements to Lemker Field.

Safety – The Committee did not meet last month but plans to meet with the chiefs next month. Mr. Wright thanked the Police and Fire Departments for their response to the event at the Ludlow Bromley Yacht Club. Ms. Grider thanked Chief Steward for bringing the fire trucks to SHINE.

Police

Chief Smith advised that the police had 30 fewer calls than the previous month, for a total of 514 calls. Officer Samuel Hodge is still on light duty and Terry Eshman has been hired to replace Officer Jeff Hord, who will retire at the end of the month. Chief Smith invited everyone to attend a retirement party for Officer Hord at the Ludlow Community Center on October 20, 2019, from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

City Administrative Officer's Report

Chief Smith thanked Mr. Chapman for coming in for several hours to help fold and stuff tax bills for mailing. Chief Smith discussed the recent incident at the Ludlow Bromley Yacht Club. Discussion on the status of Ernie's (333-335 Elm Street) since the developer is not moving forward with the project. Chief Smith advised that the building may have to be demolished if it becomes a detriment to safety. Discussion on possible ways to preserve the building until an investor is found. The property at 227 Elm Street has been sold and will be a wine tasting place. There are three small properties that the City that will likely sell and put the money back into capital improvements.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS MAYOR AND COUNCIL

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Attorney Updates

Mass Foreclosures – Mr. McMurtry discussed the possibility of filing mass foreclosures. The City currently has liens on 225 properties. Discussion on creating a land bank, which would be an entity within the City, and how the process works. A land bank would create a clear title for the properties and the City could then sell them. Initial proceeds from a land bank would benefit the school system. The City's liens would be paid from the sale of the properties.

Ludlow Youth Football Lawsuit – Mr. McMurtry advised that the City submitted a claim to its insurance company, but it will likely not be paid. The City approved the dismissal of the lawsuit, but the counter claim still stands. The City has a deductible of \$10,000.00 on the insurance policy.

MCI/Verizon Metro Franchise Agreement – Mr. McMurtry advised that they have made a lot of progress in developing the franchise agreement. Mr. McMurtry recommended that the agreement be put on the agenda to pass a 3% franchise fee and a minimum fee for rent if it is

below a certain amount. Discussion on which companies would be responsible for paying the franchise fee.

AER Property (317-321 Linden Street)—Mr. McMurtry advised that they are looking into the terms of the agreement between the City and AER.

NEW BUSINESS

Vote to Revoke the Rental License at 309 Elm Street

Mr. Garner explained the issues with the property involving the police and that the owners did not purchase a rental license. If the license is revoked, steps must be taken before the owner can purchase a rental license in the future. The tenants at 309 Elm Street have been given a notice to vacate the property. Discussion on the appeals process. **Motion by Mr. Amann, second by Mr. Chapman, to revoke the rental license for the property at 309 Elm Street based on the recommendations by Mr. Garner and Chief Smith. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.** Mr. Amann requested that all supporting documentation, including a list of police and fire runs, be attached to the minutes.

First Reading of Ordinance 2019-15

Motion by Mr. Wright, second by Ms. Terry Navarre, to introduce Ordinance 2019-15 An Ordinance of the City of Ludlow, in Kenton County, Kentucky, Amending the Ludlow Code of Ordinances Title III, Chapter 33, Section 33.62 to Provide for the Payment of Attorneys' Fees Incurred by the City in Collecting Delinquent City Taxes for a first reading. Mr. McMurtry completed the first reading of Ordinance 2019-15.

Emergency Reading of Ordinance 2019-16

Mr. McMurtry completed the emergency reading of Ordinance 2019-16 *An Emergency Ordinance of the City of Ludlow, in Kenton County, Kentucky, Amending Ordinance 2019-9 to Provide a New Effective Date*. The ordinance sets the effective date for the payroll and gross receipts tax increases as January 1, 2020. **Motion by Mr. Amann, second by Mr. Chapman, to pass Ordinance 2019-16. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Terry Navarre announced that the Curveball Classic will be on Saturday, October 12, 2019, at the Ludlow Vets beginning at 10:00 a.m. with music beginning at 3:00 p.m. Mr. Chapman inquired about posting signage about cyclists crossing in the area near Sleepy Hollow Road. Chief Smith advised that the issue would need to be addressed by the State.

Motion by Mr. Amann, second by Mr. Wright, to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. Motion carried, all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Sparks, City Clerk

Attest: _____
Joshua A. Boone, Mayor