

LUDLOW SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

September 12, 2017

Attorney Fred Johnson called the Public Hearing to order at 5:45 p.m. for the purpose of hearing comments from the public regarding the institution of proposed tax rates for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year. Mr. Johnson read the Public Hearing Notice. With no comments from the public, the public hearing was closed at 5:55 p.m.

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Mayor Kenneth Wynn called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Laurie Sparks called the roll, which showed the following council members present: Bill Whiteley, Jordan Scheid, Josh Boone, Matt Williams, and Tom Amann. (John Gaiser was out of town.)

ALSO ATTENDING: Attorney Fred Johnson, City Administrator Elishia Chamberlain, City Clerk Laurie Sparks

Ms. Chamberlain discussed the upcoming City expenses for the next year, including the purchase of new police and fire radios and an increase in CERS contributions. Duke Energy and Sanitation District No. 1 are also planning increases, which will impact the City.

Discussion on the amount of revenue generated from taxes last year. Mr. Amann expressed concern for residents of River's Breeze whose property values are higher. Ms. Chamberlain advised that the City's tax rates are still generating less revenue than other cities that charge lower rates. Ms. Chamberlain advised Council to pass the compensating tax rate plus 4% in order to generate enough revenue to cover the cost of rising expenses and, hopefully, prevent a reduction in city services. Mr. Boone advised that the City needs to focus on how to increase the property values long term. Mr. Williams advised that the City needs to do what it can to help lower flood insurance rates. Mr. Scheid expressed concern over the CERS contribution increases and advised that, while he doesn't want to take the compensating rate plus 4% increase, he believes it is the most responsible decision to prevent cutting services in the future. Mayor Wynn advised that he believes the City needs to stay the course and take the compensating rate plus 4% increase this year to prevent a cut in services.

Discussion on increasing the fire tax rate. Mayor Wynn advised that he would like to form a committee of three people to determine what the fire tax rate should be to generate enough revenue for the Fire Department.

First Reading of Ordinance 2017-5

Motion by Mr. Williams, second by Mr. Whiteley, to introduce Ordinance 2017-5 An Ordinance Fixing the Tax Rate for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2017, and Ending June 30, 2018 Upon Real Estate, Personal, and Mixed Property in the City of Ludlow, Kentucky, and Fixing the Time and Payment and Penalty for Non-Payment of Same for a first reading. Mr. Johnson completed the first reading of Ordinance 2017-5.

First Reading of Ordinance 2017-6

Motion by Mr. Scheid, second by Mr. Boone, to introduce Ordinance 2017-6 *An Ordinance Fixing the Tax Rate for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2017, and Ending June 30, 2018 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* for a first reading. Mr. Johnson completed the first reading of Ordinance 2017-6.

Motion by Mr. Boone, second by Mr. Amann, to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. Motion carried, all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Sparks, City Clerk

Attest: _____
Kenneth Wynn, Mayor