

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

**April 11, 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 Justin Whittaker, Police Chief/Interim City Administrator Scott Smith, City Clerk Laurie Sparks, Fire Chief Mike Steward, and Public Works Foreman Rob Begnoche

**Oath of Office of Fire Chief**

Mayor Boone administered the Oath of Office of Fire Chief to Mike Steward.

**Presentation by Senator Chris McDaniel**

Sen. McDaniel discussed the new legislation that resulted from the recent Legislative Session.

**Presentation by Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) Finance Representative**

Mayor Boone removed the scheduled presentation by KLC Finance from the agenda because the representatives could not attend the meeting. No rescheduled date has been set.

**Motion by Mr. Amann, second by Ms. Terry Navarre, to approve the minutes from the meetings on March 14, 2019; March 20, 2019; and March 21, 2019. Motion carried.**

**STAFF REPORTS**

**Fire Department**

Chief Steward discussed the monthly Fire Department report. As of April 3, 2019, the Ludlow Fire Department will provide fire protection and first response services to the City of Bromley. According to calculations, the rate charged for Bromley will be virtually the same as what is charged to Ludlow residents. The City will also collect \$250.00 from Bromley for each EMS run.

**Public Works**

Mr. Begnoche and Public Works Laborer Caleb Clayton will attend training at the Campbell County Detention Center on the Community Work Program in preparation for using inmates to assist with grass cutting and maintenance.

**Code Enforcement**

Chief Smith advised that Tom Garner is out on medical leave and Planning and Development Services of Kenton County (PDS) is assisting with code enforcement. Officer John Dorman is working with PDS to compile a list of properties to review and PDS will issue a citation, if necessary. Chief Smith asked that residents please be patient if they make a complaint about a property.

### Police Department/City Administrator

Chief Smith advised that there are no real issues to report in the Police Department. Chief Smith has been serving a dual role as Interim City Administrator and Police Chief. Chief Smith thanked Mr. Amann and Mr. Chapman for meeting every Tuesday morning to review finances and report the progress to Mayor Boone. All development in the City, including the Riverwalk and Adela paving project, has been put on hold. Elishia Chamberlain and two public works employees were let go. The public works employees were let go due to financial reasons. The City has also cut reimbursement of employee cell phones and cancelled bottled water delivery and cleaning service for the Municipal Building. Employees will begin contributing to the cost of their health insurance and the City hopes to save money by switching to KLC for health insurance. A police officer will be retiring in October and there are no plans to replace him at this time. The City is working with KLC to develop a sound financial plan. Discussion on working to close the gap in the budget and pay off debts, which will take approximately two years to complete. The City will be fine in the long run, but the employees will pay the price in the process. Discussion on the status of the audit and hiring a new accountant. Discussion on the possibility of increasing the payroll tax and gross receipts tax to generate additional revenue. Discussion on the status of collecting delinquent taxes and fees, of which \$236,000.00 is delinquent taxes. Franchise taxes have not been collected in the past ten years; Ms. Sparks tallied the amounts and sent out bills for the last five years, which could generate \$540,000.00 in revenue. Going forward, the City should collect approximately \$96,000.00 in franchise tax fees every year. Ms. Sparks, Alice Margolen, and Sharon Whiteley have been working on multiple records requests. Ms. Terry Navarre and Mr. Amann thanked Chief Smith for the information and working together to make the City much better.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Boone thanked Chief Smith and the staff for their hard work over the past month. Mayor Boone thanked the volunteers who participated in the first Walk, Talk & Trash event of the year and advised that they are still looking for more volunteers. Last week, Mayor Boone met with Judge Executive Kris Knochelmann to discuss the implementation of emergency radios and the possibility of Kenton County becoming a PACE district for financing. Mayor Boone expressed condolences to the family of Ed Schroeder, who served two terms as Mayor of Ludlow and was elected at a time with the City needed a steady hand. The Council Chambers were named the Ed F. Schroeder Meeting Hall in his honor.

### **COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Finance*—Mr. Amann and Mr. Chapman are meeting every Tuesday and will review checks on the third Tuesday of the month. The Finance Committee is dedicated to getting the City out of the financial situation it is in. By making the cuts discussed by Chief Smith, the City will save \$30,926.00 per month, or \$371,000.00 per year. With these cuts, the 2% increase in insurance premium taxes, and the contract with Bromley for fire protection and first response services, it will produce \$412,000.00 in additional revenue in the next fiscal year. Mr. Chapman advised that going forward, the Committee would like to put an itemized statement of revenues and expenditures on the City's website.

*Public Works*—The Committee plans to schedule a meeting soon.

*Safety*—Ms. Grider congratulated Mike Steward for being sworn in as Fire Chief and thanked him for his service.

## CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Paul Miller thanked Mr. Chapman, Chief Smith, and Mr. Amann for attending the PDS meeting regarding the marquee on the Ludlow Theater. The sign could be installed in a month or two.

A resident, who did not identify himself, discussed the pit bull ordinance and requested that Council vote to remove the ban on pit bulls in the City.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### Second Reading of Ordinance 2019-1

Mayor Boone advised that PDS approved the requested text amendment that would allow for a marquee at Bircus. Mayor Boone noted a clarification to the ordinance that should read that the maximum height of the sign should not exceed 17 feet. **Motion by Mr. Amann, second by Mr. Chapman, to call up Ordinance 2019-1 An Ordinance Amending Ludlow City Ordinance Number 2018-1 Allowing for Additional Types of Signage in the City of Ludlow, Kentucky as Proposed by the Text Amendments and Recommendations of the Kenton County Planning Commission. Said Recommendations are Attached Hereto as Exhibit "A" for a second reading.** Mr. Whittaker completed the second reading of Ordinance 2019-1 in summary. **Following a roll call vote, motion carried: 5 ayes, 1 abstention (Ms. Terry Navarre).**

### Second Reading of Ordinance 2019-2

**Motion by Ms. Grider, second by Ms. Terry Navarre, to call up Ordinance 2019-2 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2004-10 to Provide that Chapter 95.10 "Pit Bull Terriers Prohibited" Shall be Repealed for a second reading.** Discussion by Mr. Chapman and Mr. Wright on whether breed specific legislation is effective or enforceable. Mr. Wright advised that he hopes the current vicious dog ordinance and leash laws will be strictly enforced. Mr. Whittaker completed the second reading of Ordinance 2019-2. **Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

## NEW BUSINESS

### Resolution 2019-5

**Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Mr. Wright, to pass Resolution 2019-5 A Resolution of the City of Ludlow, Kenton County, Kentucky, Adopting the Interlocal Agreement Between the City of Ludlow, Kentucky and the City of Bromley, Kentucky Relating to Fire Protection and Emergency Service 1<sup>st</sup> Response.** Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.

### Resolution 2019-6

**Motion by Mr. Amann, second by Mr. Whiteley, to pass Resolution 2019-6 A Resolution Appointing Mayor Josh Boone as the City's Agent for State and Federal Emergency Management Applications.** Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Amann advised that there will be a change in coffee shops. On Saturdays, Second Sight Spirits will sell coffee, including lattes and steamed coffee, and baked goods from 7:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Folk School Coffee Parlor will have basic coffee available but will focus more on the music lessons. Mr. Chapman advised that a lot of items from the Ludlow Hall of Fame will be displayed at the Behringer Crawford Museum on May 4, 2019, from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

**Motion by Mr. Amann, second by Mr. Wright, to enter into executive session at 7:52 p.m. pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1)(g) for discussions between a public agency and a representative of a business entity concerning a proposal and KRS 61.810 (1)(b) deliberations on the future acquisition or sale of real property. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

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**Motion by Ms. Grider, second by Mr. Wright, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried, all ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Laurie Sparks, City Clerk

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Joshua A. Boone, Mayor