

Ludlow Caucus Meeting

Notes

February 28, 2019

7:00 p.m.

In Attendance: Mayor Josh Boone; Ludlow City Council Members Steve Chapman, Tiffany Grider, Bill Whitely, Chris Wright, Tom Amann, and Julie Navarre; City Administrative Officer, Elishia Chamberlain.

Mayor Boone opened the Caucus Meeting by updating Council and Visitors on the breed specific language within the Vicious Dog Ordinance, and let them know an amendment would be presented for first reading at the March Business Meeting. He informed everyone that PDS would be presenting at the March Business Meeting as well.

Discussion Topics

Mayor Boone asked Council Member Tom Amann to provide Council Members with a sample event permit request form to review. Discussion ensued. All Council Members had positive feedback on the proposed form. A fee structure for permits was discussed. The form will be developed and placed on the City website once a fee has been adopted through voice Resolution.

Mayor Boone addressed the previously discussed topic of Insurance Premium Tax. Council Member had questions as they would like to avoid assessing a tax increase if its unnecessary. Ms. Chamberlain explained it appears the City will have a budget shortfall of nearly \$200,000.00 next FY and that must be addressed. With cuts being made over the last four years, there is very little room to decrease spending as most expenses are now either mandatory or necessary. Mr. Amann requested consideration of a 12% rate (additional 2% on top of the current rate of 10%). Mr. Chapman stated he would be willing to have a first reading but does want to see some rough budgetary estimates to validate the increase before approving.

Mayor Boone provided an update on the Urban Design Review Board. The Façade program was discussed by Elishia Chamberlain. Ms. Chamberlain provided information on multifamily to single family conversion program. It was noted that there had been success with this program in other communities over the last decade, but for Ludlow to implement such a program they would need roughly \$100,000 designated.

Council Woman Navarre provided information to Council regarding Bee Gardens. This was in response to a Citizen Request for a zoning text amendment to allow for bee farming. Due to the dense housing and issues with swarming, staff has advised Mayor and Council this could be problematic, and to consider bee gardens. Ms. Navarre is calling the Kenton County Extension Office to see if we can get seeds to hand out to residents who are interested in planting pollinators. Council all had favorable comments to planting pollinators around Riverfront Commons. Ms. Grider brought it to Mayor and Council's attention the Shine program at the school had purchased bee boxes without consulting the Zoning Code to see if bee farming is permissible.

Mayor Boone asked that Ms. Chamberlain provide information to Council regarding pocket parks and cultural gardens with interest in having a temporary pocket park at 333 Elm (Ernie's) once the structure is demolished to assist with marketing of the property. It was also discussed as a way to beautify the small City owned property on Carneal.

Mayor Boone brought up the idea of a Spring Cleanup and City beautification. All Council seemed in favor of working towards this effort. This prompted a question regarding the rail trestle and pedestrian tunnel. Council has a desire to take artistic approaches to beautification of the tunnel through painting and installations. Ms. Chamberlain had to explain the City does not own this property and the rail is not interested in making these improvements. Ms. Chamberlain stated she would speak to them about granting the City permission to have Public Works staff paint the tunnel.

Public Comment

No members of the public addressed Council.

Announcements