

LUDLOW COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

December 12, 2013

Mayor Kenneth Wynn 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: Tom Amann, Joyce McMullin, Bill Mullins, Amy Clary, and Josh Boone. (Randy Wofford was absent.)

ALSO ATTENDING: City Administrator Brian Richmond, City Clerk Laurie Sparks, Fire Chief Rob Dreyer, Public Works Foreman John Knuf, Code Enforcement Officer Rob Himes, and Police Chief Steve Jarvis

Motion by Mr. Amann, second by Mr. Boone, to approve the minutes from the council meeting on November 20, 2013. Motion carried: all ayes.

STAFF REPORTS

Fire Department

Chief Dreyer's report was included in the council packets. Ms. Clary thanked Chief Dreyer for participating in the recent Tree Lighting.

Public Works

Mr. Knuf's report was included in the council packets. Mr. Amann and Ms. McMullin complimented Public Works for keeping the streets clear during the recent snow days.

Code Enforcement

Mr. Himes submitted his monthly report to Council. The report is a list of properties with issues being addressed by the Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission (NKAPC). Discussion on several specific cases on Deverill Street.

Police Department

Chief Jarvis submitted his monthly report to Council. Discussion on Chief Jarvis' visits to the local businesses, which he hopes to complete by mid-January. Discussion on the state accreditation process.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Wynn invited Council to attend the Mayors' Group Meeting on Saturday, December 14, 2013, at Crestview Hills where they will be discussing the local option sales tax.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

No reports.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Richmond congratulated Chief Dreyer on being selected to receive the Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs' "Fire Chief of the Year" award. The award will be presented at the Fire Chiefs annual conference in the spring. The City is preparing for the 150th Anniversary celebration, which will kick off in February and culminate in a large event in September. Mr. Richmond advised that he would need Council's assistance in finding sponsors to fund the event. Mr. Richmond recently met with a marketing firm about creating a website to promote the events.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Lefty Pegg of 468 Elm Street, President of the Ludlow Business Association, expressed concern over the fact that there is no cap on the gross receipts tax. Mr. Richmond advised that the tax revenue would go back into the City's infrastructure, such as street repairs from the large trucks that travel over the streets to the businesses in the city. Discussion on the status of the rental property inspection ordinance. Mr. Richmond advised that he is still working on it and developing a plan to offer a discount on the rental license fee if the owner completes a one hour class on the City's expectations of their properties. Discussion on the status of the properties on the blight list from NKAPC.

Vic Dawn, owner of Riverside Marketplace, discussed how the gross receipts tax will impact his grocery store and fuel sales. Mr. Dawn distributed copies of the City of Dayton's gross receipt tax application and ordinance, which caps the tax at \$1,500.00. Mr. Himes advised that Erlanger's cap on gross receipts is \$40,000.00 and Florence's cap is \$10,000.00. Mr. Dawn encouraged Council to consider a cap on the gross receipts tax or pass a net profits rather than a gross receipts tax. Discussion on how the City's property tax rate is calculated and the revenue generated. The gross receipts tax will be based on the gross receipts amount that a business files on its federal tax return.

John Gaiser of Ideal Supplies expressed that he believes that not having a cap on the gross receipts tax is unfair.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Second Reading of Ordinance 2013-18

Motion by Mr. Amann to table the second reading of Ordinance 2013-18 *An Ordinance Amending Chapter 111 of the City of Ludlow Code of Ordinances Relating to Occupational License Tax* and form a committee to see whether the City could put a cap on the gross receipts tax and still meet its needs. Mr. Richmond advised that the gross receipts tax ordinance is already in place and that Ordinance 2013-18 only corrects an error in the calculation. Discussion on the research collected from the Northern Kentucky Area Development District prior to passing the gross receipts tax earlier in the year. Mr. Amann advised that he would like time to review everything and ensure

that the City comes up with a fair and equitable solution to generate revenue from the businesses. Mayor Wynn advised that if Council passes Ordinance 2013-18, it only amends the rate for the existing ordinance and that Council could amend the gross receipts tax ordinance at a later time. **Motion by Ms. McMullin to call up Ordinance 2013-18 for a second reading to correct the rate, effective January 1, 2014, and then obtain a list of all businesses and review an estimate of their gross receipts to determine the possibility of a cap. (There was no second because Mr. Amann's motion was still on the floor.) Mr. Amann's motion to table the second reading of Ordinance 2013-18 was seconded by Ms. Clary. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: 3 ayes, 2 nays (Ms. McMullin, Mr. Mullins).**

NEW BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Boone advised that the Ludlow Historic Society's Historic Home Tour went well and at least 2/3 of those who attended lived outside of Ludlow.

**Motion by Mr. Amann, second by Mr. Mullins, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.
Motion carried, all ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Sparks, City Clerk

Attest: _____
Kenneth Wynn, Mayor