

LUDLOW COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

February 8, 2024

Mayor Chris Wright 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, Lori Davenport, David Ziegler, Samantha Frank, Julie Terry Navarre, and Abigail Miller.

ALSO ATTENDING: City Attorney Steven Taylor, City Administrative Officer/Police Chief Scott Smith, City Clerk Laurie Sparks, Interim Fire Chief Matt Chastain, Public Works Director Shane Hamant, Code Enforcement Officer Jamie West

Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Mr. Ziegler, to approve the minutes from the council meeting on January 11, 2024. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.

STAFF REPORTS

Fire Department

Chief Chastain discussed his monthly report. Five members of the Ludlow Fire Department have started State Firefighter classes; eight members have enrolled in the Kentucky Emergency Medical Responder training course. The blessing ceremony was held for the Safe Haven Baby Box and it is now in service.

Public Works

Mr. Hamant discussed his monthly report. Public Works employees will attend a tree safety seminar in March. Discussion on the status of renovations at Hollingworth Field.

Code Enforcement

Mr. West discussed the status of code enforcement cases and rental licenses. The next City Clean Up Day will be on Saturday, April 20, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the corner of Ash and Traverse Streets. The City will provide dumpsters for residents to dispose of yard debris, mattresses, furniture, tires, etc. No hazardous materials will be accepted. Ms. Miller requested a report showing the month-to-month changes in the number of code enforcement cases and rental licenses.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Wright, Chief Smith, and Mr. West recently met with Derek Sublette from the railroad, and it was a productive meeting. Shop Ludlow will be on Saturday, February 10, 2024. Cabin Fever Music & Arts Festival will be on February 24, 2024, beginning at 2:00 p.m.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – The Committee met on Wednesday, February 7, 2024, and signed off on the December statements and everything appeared in order. Mr. Chapman advised that the City is beginning to see payroll tax revenue from the workers at the Cityview Station project.

Parks and Recreation – The Committee is working on plans for a community picnic in the summer and may bring back Hot Dogs in the Park.

Public Works/Code Enforcement – The Committee met with Mr. West on January 24, 2024. The Committee met with Mr. Hamant, Josh from ReNewport, and Cassandra from Urban Canopy Works, to discuss the possibility of a tree ordinance and grant opportunities. The Committee and Mr. Hamant also discussed playground equipment in Caple Park and money for paving. Mayor Wright confirmed that the City no longer has a Park Board.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Chief Smith advised that the City collected approximately \$112,000.00 in payroll tax revenue from the Cityview Station project last month. There haven been no major incidents of flooding from the Cityview Station project. Discussion on the status of the Hollingsworth Field renovation. Discussion on the status of the west side development. Chief Smith discussed the monthly police stats and several attempted car thefts on Euclid Street and Carneal Street. Discussion on the status of the vacant property ordinance. By April, the City will need to pay \$77,146.50, which is 50% of its portion of the engineering costs, for Riverfront Commons. The other half will be due in August or September. Once the engineering phase is complete, the City can work toward grants for construction costs. Ms. Miller requested a copy of the Cityview Station plans as presented by City Engineer Greg Sketch at a recent meeting.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS MAYOR AND COUNCIL

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading of Ordinance 2024-1

Mr. Taylor completed the first reading of Ordinance 2024-1 *An Ordinance of the City of Ludlow, in Kenton County, Kentucky, Adopting an Amended Comprehensive Pay Plan for the Non-Elected City Officers and Employees of the City of Ludlow, in Accordance With KRS 83A.070(2)*. Mayor Wright advised that the ordinance would create a full-time fire chief position and adjust the Public Works pay scale. Following discussion, Mayor Wright advised that Chief Smith's salary is above the range for Police Chief because he took on the city administrator responsibilities in addition to being police chief. Ms. Davenport inquired about the impact of a potential merger of the police department with another city. Mayor Wright advised that if the police department merged with another city, it would be years before it could happen. Following discussion on the ordinance, Chief Smith advised that the adjustment in the employee pay scale will make the City comparable with other cities our size for approximately the next three years. Chief Smith advised that amending the pay scale does not mean that anyone is getting a raise tomorrow. Mayor Wright stated that in addition to being competitive with other cities, the City must also compete with businesses for employees, too. Ms. Miller encouraged Council to be cautious. Discussion on the revenue sources to fund employee salaries. Mayor Wright advised that in addition to the Fischer Development, a west end development and development of railroad property could be potential revenue sources in the future. There will be a special meeting on February 22, 2024, at 6:45 p.m. for a second reading of Ordinance 2024-1 to allow the City to advertise for the full-time Fire Chief position.

Resolution 2024-2

Mr. Taylor read Resolution 2024-2 *A Resolution Appointing Scot Dewitz to Serve on the City of Ludlow Urban Design Review Board*. Mr. Dewitz is filling a vacancy on the Board created by the resignation of Aleta Bergsman. **Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Ms. Frank, to approve Resolution 2024-2. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Terry Navarre announced that on February 13, 2024, the Ludlow Historic Society will be hosting “Railyard to Bar Yard” at the Buffalo Bar, which is a fundraiser for the Ludlow Storehouse project. The Ludlow Historic Society will also be hosting a talk about entertainment in Ludlow and the history of the Lagoon on March 7, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at Bircus. Ms. Davenport advised that Terry Keller of the Ludlow Vets requested that someone contact him.

Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second Ms. Frank, to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Sparks, City Clerk

Attest: _____
Chris Wright, Mayor