

## LUDLOW COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**March 9, 2023**

Mayor Chris Wright called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. City Clerk Laurie Sparks called the roll, which showed the following council members present: Lori Davenport, Brie Banks, Samantha Frank, Julie Terry Navarre, and Abigail Miller. Steve Chapman was absent.

*ALSO ATTENDING:* City Attorney Todd McMurtry, City Administrative Officer/Police Chief Scott Smith, City Clerk Laurie Sparks, Public Works Director Shane Hamant, Code Enforcement Officer Jamie West

**Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Ms. Banks, to approve the minutes from the council meeting on February 9, 2023, and February 23, 2023. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

### STAFF REPORTS

#### Fire Department

Chief Mike Steward's report was included in the council packet.

#### Public Works

Mr. Hamant advised that the truck bed should be installed on the new utility truck by the end of the month. Discussion on the cost of replace the backstop fence at Hollingsworth Field to match Lemker Field. Mr. Hamant recently attended a tree seminar hosted by the Northern Kentucky Urban and Community Forestry Council. Discussion on clearing out the brush at Ohio Avenue and installing recycled fencing that was taken from Lemker Field before the renovation.

#### Code Enforcement

Mr. West discussed the status of open and closed code enforcement cases. The Urban Design Review Board issued a Certificate of Appropriateness for 52 Ringgold. Rental license applications were mailed out and are due April 15, 2023. There are approximately 350 long-term rental properties and 27 short-term rental units in the city. Mr. West asked for Council's assistance in helping to educate people about the short-term rental license requirement.

### MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Wright thanked everyone who attended Coffee with the Mayor on February 16, 2023, and invited everyone to attend Coffee with the Mayor on the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at Ludlow Coffee. Mayor Wright attended the Mayor's Group meeting on February 18, 2023, where the recent issue at East Palestine, Ohio, was discussed with ORSANCO, Norfolk Southern, and Northern Kentucky Water District. Mayor Wright advised that he is confident in our City's preparedness should there be an emergency involving a train. Kenton County Clerk Gabrielle Summe also attended the Mayor's Group meeting to discuss ADA issues with various polling places throughout the county. On February 25, 2023, Mayor Wright met with Sharmili Reddy, Director of Planning and Development Services of Kenton County (PDS). Mayor Wright thanked Matt Williams and everyone involved in planning Cabin Fever held on February 25, 2023, and

thanked the police for their presence during the event. Mayor Wright advised that he would attend the Southbank meeting on March 15, 2023. Senate Bill 50 was not voted on this session and House Bill 50 appears that it will not go through.

### **COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Finance* – The Committee recently met to review the finances and everything looks good.

*Parks and Recreation* – Ms. Davenport and Ms. Banks met with Melissa Morandi with the City of Bellevue to discuss city event planning. Ms. Banks would like to utilize the parks more.

*Public Works/Code Enforcement* – The Committee met with Public Works on Monday, February 13, 2023, and discussed several items, including the new truck and how streets are prioritized for snow removal. The Committee met with Code Enforcement on March 6, 2023, and discussed plans for a city cleanup day for large items and plans to start the Walk & Talk & Trash event next month. A flyer with more information about the events will be available soon.

### **CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

Chief Smith advised that Mayor Wright signed the agreement to participate in the RAISE grant for the riverwalk. Chief Smith is still working with the City of Bromley to see if they are willing to contribute toward the cost of a new ambulance. There were no incidents or arrests during the Cabin Fever event. Police calls were up to 770 for the month, but this reflects an increase in proactive foot patrol and business checks. Chief Smith recently attended a joint Police Chiefs and Fire Chiefs meeting with Kenton County Emergency Management to address emergency management protocols. Discussion on how Ludlow's police activity compares to other local cities. Discussion on working out an agreement with the owner of the property at Oak and Davies Street to allow him an extension to clean up the property.

### **CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

Andy Wartman, Allied Rail Corporation, 317 Linden Street, presented information to council and discussed a proposal by Railstream to install a livestream camera and two 50" television monitors on the train viewing platform at no cost to the City. One television would contain train information and the other would contain videos of the city and local business information. As part of the proposal, Allied Rail Corporation would donate an old signal box to house the electronics. Railstream charges a subscription service to view the video feed. Following discussion, Mayor Wright advised that he would like to review the proposal and discuss it at the caucus meeting before a decision is made on how to proceed.

Cindy Born Walker, is in the process of purchasing the property at 209 Kenner Street, which is owned by her ex-husband. Ms. Walker's son plans to fix up the house and live in it. Ms. Walker requested any assistance the City could provide in reducing the liens and fines on the property, which is currently \$36,063.09. Chief Smith advised that he offered to waive the interest on the liens filed by PDS, but could not reduce the taxes or garbage fees. Following discussion, Chief Smith advised that he would review the liens with Mr. West and see if it would be possible to reduce the liens that were filed by the City.

Matt North, 847 Elm Street, thanked Council for their consideration about the chicken ordinance. Chief Smith advised that the issue was discussed at the last meeting and he is waiting to see if Council would like to move forward. Discussion on the possible requirement that chickens could not be housed within 25 feet of the property line.

Ben Goldschmidt, 34 Euclid Street, begged Council to please keep the requirement that chickens could not be housed within 25 feet of the property line. Mr. Goldschmidt advised that he is not anti-chicken, but the yards are very close together in his neighborhood.

Cindy Jones, 143 Highway Avenue, advised that she has been reading about the chicken issue and stated that she likes chickens in barns where they belong. Ms. Jones is concerned about the police officers spending time collecting loose chickens around the city.

Alisa Lee, 238 Park Avenue, discussed the issue with stray cats running loose on her street and expressed concern that if people are allowed to have chickens, it would make the situation even worse. Ms. Lee stated that her yard is small and she does not want to live next to chickens.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-2**

Mr. McMurtry completed the second reading of Ordinance 2023-2 *An Ordinance of the City of Ludlow, in Kenton County, Kentucky, Repealing the City's Civil Service Ordinance*. Mayor Wright advised that at the time the Civil Service was implemented, it protected police officers, but now it is redundant. The police officers are not opposed to eliminating Civil Service. Chief Smith advised that Civil Service is no longer needed because it is outdated and police officers are protected under the Kentucky Revised Statute's Police Officer Bill of Rights. **Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Ms. Davenport, to adopt Ordinance 2023-2. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **First Reading of Ordinance 2023-4**

Mr. McMurtry completed the first reading of Ordinance 2023-4 *An Ordinance of the City of Ludlow, in Kenton County, Kentucky, Authorizing the Conveyance of Real Estate*. Mr. McMurtry advised that the ordinance would convey property to Ludlow Schools to allow them school to obtain funding for improvements. Mayor Wright discussed the bonding process for schools and advised that there was an issue with the deed that should have been resolved years ago. The new deed conveys the land where the school currently sits to the school.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**Motion by Ms. Davenport, second by Ms. Frank, to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Laurie Sparks, City Clerk

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Wright, Mayor