

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

**April 10, 2025**

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, Paula Graszus, David Ziegler, Sarah Thompson, Julie Terry Navarre, and Abigail Miller.

*ALSO ATTENDING:* City Attorney Patrick Grote, City Administrative Officer Scott Smith, City Clerk Laurie Sparks, Fire Chief Mike Steward, Code Enforcement Officer Jamie West

**Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Ms. Graszus, to approve the minutes from the council meeting on March 13, 2025. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

**STAFF REPORTS**

Fire Department

Chief Steward discussed his report, including training updates. The Fire Department recently hosted a 2-day fire academy training event that was attended by our firefighters as well as those from other local agencies. Hydrant testing is tentatively scheduled to begin on May 5, 2025, and the dates will be posted on social media. Mayor Wright thanked the Fire Department for the work they have done to help clean up flooded areas of the city.

Public Works

Mr. Hamant's report was included in the council packet.

Code Enforcement

Mr. West discussed the recent focus on locating damaged sidewalks throughout the city and working with property owners to get them repaired. Mr. West reminded everyone about the City's current sidewalk rebate program, which will reimburse property owners 20% of the cost of the sidewalk replacement, up to \$200.00. Discussion on the possibility of increasing the rebate to \$500.00. The City Clean Up Day will be on Saturday, April 12, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the corner of Ash and Traverse Streets. The City is looking for volunteers who can meet at Ludlow Park on Saturday, April 12, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. to help clean up the park after the flood.

Police Department

Chief Beck's report was included in the council packet.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Wright advised that he declared a state of emergency in the city on April 5, 2025, to help receive funding from FEMA for the flood clean up. Discussion on recently attending the Kenton County Planning Commission meeting where the Z-21 project was approved. Mayor Wright expressed appreciation that the City Clean Up days have become a bi-annual event. Discussion on a survey, which is open until April 18, 2025, to get feedback from residents about what events they would like to see at the Ludlow Community Center. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt at

the Ludlow Community Center on Saturday, April 19, 2025. Mayor Wright advised that he and Mr. Ziegler will attend a meeting at Southbank on April 23, 2025.

### **COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Finance* – The Committee did not meet, but did receive a report from City Treasurer Steve Bodde.

*Parks and Recreation* – The Committee met to discuss planning the fireworks festival and working on the Memorial Day Parade. The parade will begin on Memorial Day at 10:30 a.m. at Oak and Carneal Streets, proceed through Ludlow to Bromley, and end with the ceremony and refreshments at Ludlow Memorial Park. Hot Dogs in the Park will return in June.

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

Mr. Smith advised that he has been working on the budget, including the possibility of creating a line item for event donations. Discussion on working with the school on the corridor assessment to ensure everyone is on the same page. Mr. Smith recently met with Will Weber of Southbank and hopes to have plans for the next phase of Riverfront Commons soon. The residents of River's Breeze have been updated on the status of the Cityview Station project, which is on schedule. Jenny McMillen has been hired as the Ludlow Community Center Event Coordinator. Discussion on the status of working with the director of Be Concerned about the possibility of moving their facility to Ludlow. Mr. Chapman requested that the purchase of a digital sign be included in the next budget. Mayor Wright gave a special thank you to the Ludlow School Board for granting an easement for Phase II of the Riverfront Commons project. Phase II of the project is largely funded by a donation from St. Elizabeth.

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

Garren Colvin, President of St. Elizabeth Healthcare, thanked the City for considering the smoke-free air ordinance and offered support if the City needed it.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Second Reading of Ordinance 2025-1**

Mr. Grote completed the second reading of Ordinance 2025-1 *An Ordinance of the City of Ludlow, Kenton County, Kentucky, Enacting the "Smoke-Free Air Ordinance" That Prohibits Smoking in Places Open to the Public, Places of Employment and Certain Public Places in the City of Ludlow, Kentucky.* **Following discussion, motion by Mr. Chapman, second by Ms. Thompson, to adopt Ordinance 2025-1. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

#### **Second Reading of Ordinance 2025-2**

Mr. Grote completed the second reading of Ordinance 2025-2 *An Ordinance Amending the City of Ludlow, Kentucky, Code of Ordinances Sections §70.65 Through §70.99 Golf Cart Regulations.* **Following discussion, motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Mr. Chapman, to adopt Ordinance 2025-2. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

#### **Second Reading of Ordinance 2025-4**

Mr. Grote completed the second reading of Ordinance 2025-4 *An Ordinance of the City of Ludlow, Kentucky, Addressing Excessive Absences by City Council Members.* **Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Ms. Thompson, to adopt Ordinance 2025-4. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: five ayes, one nay (Ms. Miller).**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Resolution 2025-4**

Mr. Grote read Resolution 2025-4 *A Resolution of the City of Ludlow in Kenton County, Kentucky Authorizing an Application to the Kenton County Planning Commission for the Repeal of the Current Ludlow Zoning Code and Zoning Map and the Adoption of a New Zoning Code and Zoning Map.* Mayor Wright advised that Kristen Martin of Planning and Development Services of Kenton County (PDS) gave a presentation at the last council meeting about the proposed Z-21 Project that will simplify zoning codes and be adopted by all cities in Kenton County. **Motion by Mr. Chapman, second by Ms. Graszus, to pass Resolution 2025-4. Following a voice vote, motion carried: five ayes, one abstention (Ms. Miller).**

### **First Reading of Ordinance 2025-3**

Mr. Grote completed the first reading of Ordinance 2025-3 *An Ordinance Amending the City of Ludlow Code of Ordinances, Chapter 156 Zoning Code, for the Purpose of Prohibiting the Establishment and Operation of Vape Shops Within the City of Ludlow.* Mayor Wright advised that currently, there are not any vape shops in the city and discussed how vaping is targeted at children.

David Blank, owner of the Buffalo Bar, has been working with Chief Beck and Mr. West about potentially making changes to the City's noise ordinances to allow a television and amplified music in the outdoor patio area of the bar. Discussion on setting reasonable hours to allow the amplified music and the impact it could have on surrounding neighbors. Any changes made to the noise ordinance to accommodate the Buffalo Bar would apply across the entire city. Mayor Wright advised that the City would continue to work with Mr. Blank on the issue to try and arrive at a solution that is fair to everyone.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Terry Navarre thanked Matt and Mary Williams for organizing the recent Ohio River Sweep. Walk 'n Talk 'n Trash is cancelled for April; the next event is scheduled for May 14, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at Ludlow Plaza. Cars and Coffee will be at the Ludlow Plaza on April 13, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. until noon. The Ludlow Heritage Museum is open on Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. LiveWell Ludlow will meet on April 14, 2025, at Jackson Park to discuss plans for the orchard expansion.

**Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Ms. Miller, to enter into executive session pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(c) discussions of proposed or pending litigation against the City and KRS 61.810(1)(f) discussions which might lead to the discipline or dismissal of an individual employee or member without restricting that employee's or member's right to a public hearing. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

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**Upon coming out of executive session, motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Mr. Chapman, to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Laurie Sparks, City Clerk

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Chris Wright, Mayor