

LUDLOW COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

May 11, 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: Steve Chapman, Lori Davenport, 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, Public Works Director Shane Hamant, Code Enforcement Officer Jamie West

Mayor Wright reminded meeting attendees that public comment is only permitted during that section of the agenda with a three-minute limit to speak.

Presentation by Jim Parsons on the Industrial Revenue Bond Structure for Cityview Station

Jim Parsons, bond counsel for the Cityview Station Project, provided an update on the process of the Industrial Revenue Bonds for the Project that were approved by the City, Kenton County, and Ludlow Schools in 2022. The City will receive 75% of the tax revenue from the properties at Cityview Station for the next 30 years. The bonds are issued by the City, but the City will be under no obligation for the payment of the bonds. \$7 million will be generated by the bonds, which will help pay for the infrastructure of the costs of the Project.

Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Ms. Davenport, to approve the minutes from the council meetings on April 13, 2023, and May 1, 2023. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.

STAFF REPORTS

Fire Department

Chief Steward's monthly report was included in the council packet. Mayor Wright discussed the Community Connect program through the Ludlow Fire Department.

Public Works

Mr. Hamant thanked the Fire Department for assisting in clearing brush off the hillside near the train viewing platform. Public Works will plant groundcover and wildflowers in the area. Discussion on projects in the parks and filling potholes around the city streets and alleys. Montclair Avenue will be paved at the end of May or early June.

Code Enforcement

Mr. West advised that there are 177 active code enforcement cases. The Urban Design Review Board was contacted by the owners of 437 Hooper Street and 454 Elm Street regarding future improvements to their properties. Rental Licenses are due by April 15, 2023. The City has issued 320 long-term and 27 short-term rental licenses. Mr. West reminded everyone that, according to the City's ordinances, grass cannot exceed eight inches in height and grass clippings cannot be blown onto the city sidewalks or streets. Discussion on the upcoming Paint the Town event on

June 9th & 10th where nine homes will be painted by volunteers. Chief Smith played a profanity-laced voicemail that Mr. West received from a rental property owner in response to a courtesy notice regarding overgrown grass at the property. Mayor Wright advised that the voicemail was played because that is what City employees have to put up with and advised that this type of abuse will not be tolerated. Ms. Miller inquired about what the City could do to assist in mowing lawns for elderly residents. Following discussion, Chief Smith advised that the City could not mow grass on private property and, due to liability reasons, could not recommend a lawn care business.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Wright thanked Ms. Miller and Ms. Davenport for their work with Ludlow Vets. Mayor Wright congratulated the Ludlow PTO on a successful May Festival. The Memorial Day Parade will begin at 10:30 a.m. on May 29, 2023. The parade route is on the City's website. Mayor Wright discussed the recent notification of a vacancy on council and discussed the process for filling the vacancy. **Motion by Mr. Chapman, second by Ms. Davenport, to appoint Ari Knight to fill the council vacancy created by the resignation of Brie Banks, who moved out of the city. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.** Mayor Wright will not be able to attend the next caucus meeting because he will be attending the Ludlow High School graduation. Following discussion, Mayor Wright advised that the caucus meeting will continue as planned and if it is cancelled, the notification will be posted on the City's website.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – The Committee recently met to review the finances, and everything was in order.

Parks and Recreation – Ms. Banks advised that the Committee did not meet.

Public Works/Code Enforcement – Ms. Terry Navarre advised that the Committee met with Mr. Hamant on April 24, 2023, to discuss Public Works matters, including ongoing issues with the Bobcat. Ms. Frank advised that they keep receiving inquiries about the status of the old fire truck that was in Ludlow Park and discussed the possibility of auctioning it off. Mayor Wright advised that it was deemed potentially dangerous by the City's insurance company and this needs to be considered. Following discussion on alternative uses, Mayor Wright acknowledged that the fire truck has sentimental value for some people, but the City must do the safe and responsible thing.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Chief Smith discussed items in his report and advised that the City is in a better position crime wise compared to other local cities.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Dave Ziegler, 300 Highway Avenue, inquired whether the vacant position on council was posted. Mayor Wright advised that last fall, there were seven people who ran for six seats on council and Council chose to appoint Ari Knight because she was the seventh person who ran. Following discussion, Mr. Taylor advised that Kentucky law is clear on how to fill a council vacancy and all the laws were followed by the City.

John Gaiser, 314 Poplar Street, inquired if Council knew whether the City was in debt and asked about the purpose of the Industrial Revenue Bonds.

Lisa Conley, 38 Ash Street, inquired what could be done about an issue with drug activity at 32 Ash Street and 34 Ash Street. Ms. Conley advised that the police are there at least once a week, and something needs to be done. Chief Smith advised that he understands Ms. Conley's frustration and discussed the issues and restrictions that make it difficult to remove someone from a property permanently. Chief Smith advised people to call the police emergency number if they witness any illegal activity and capture video, if possible, that could help the police build a case. Ms. Conley also inquired why the property at 46 Ash Street has not been condemned and Chief Smith advised that it is in the works.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading of Ordinance 2023-5

If passed, Ordinance 2023-5 would allow chickens in the city with restrictions. Mr. Taylor completed the first reading of Ordinance 2023-5 *An Ordinance of the City of Ludlow, in Kenton County, Kentucky, Amending Sections 95.04 and 95.05 of the City's Code of Ordinances*. Mayor Wright advised that the City had an issue earlier in the week with a resident harboring chickens and believes the ordinance would invite more issues, especially from people who would obtain chickens and ignore the restrictions. Mayor Wright has rallied against Ordinance 2023-5, ad nauseum and strongly urged Council to vote no at the second reading.

Resolution 2023-9

Mr. Taylor read Resolution 2023-9 *A Resolution of the City of Ludlow Declaring Property [2004 Chevrolet 3500 Utility Truck] as Surplus and Authorizing the Sale or Disposition of Such Surplus Property*. **Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Mr. Chapman, to pass Resolution 2023-9. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Miller had several questions regarding City issues and encouraged everyone to get out and vote in the primary election. Ms. Terry Navarre advised that the Memorial Day Parade will be on Monday, May 29, 2023, followed by a service at the Veterans' Memorial at Ludlow Park. Ms. Frank thanked everyone who participated in the recent Walk 'n Talk 'n Trash and advised that it will be held on the second Tuesday of each month at the Plaza. Mr. Chapman recommended that it might be wise to have a session on how tax rates are set, and Mayor Wright requested that Mr. Chapman get a presentation together.

Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Ms. Frank, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Sparks, City Clerk

Attest: _____
Chris Wright, Mayor