

LUDLOW COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

May 14, 2026

Mayor Sarah Thompson 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, Meagan Guthrie, Julie Terry Navarre, David Ziegler, and Paula Graszus. Abigail Miller was absent.

ALSO ATTENDING: City Attorney Michelle Eviston, City Attorney Zach Smith, City Clerk Laurie Sparks, Fire Chief Mike Steward, Police Chief Bart Beck, Code Enforcement Officer Jamie West, Public Works Director Shane Hamant, City Treasurer Wayne Harris

Motion by Mr. Chapman, seconded by Ms. Guthrie, to approve Councilmember Abigail Miller and Councilmember David Ziegler's absence from the special council meeting on April 23, 2026. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: four ayes (Mr. Chapman, Ms. Guthrie, Ms. Terry Navarre, Ms. Graszus). Mr. Ziegler did not vote.

Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, seconded by Ms. Graszus, to approve the minutes from the council meetings on April 9, 2026, and April 23, 2026. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.

STAFF REPORTS

Fire Department

Chief Steward advised that the Fire Department is continuing hydrant testing through the end of the month and will paint the hydrants at a later time. Ms. Guthrie advised that she was looking forward to attending the intern graduation ceremony at the Firehouse on Friday, May 15, 2026, and expressed her condolences over the recent loss of employee Greg Aylor.

Police Department

Chief Beck announced that K-9 Danny has retired, at the advice of the veterinarian, due to heat injury. The City received a \$30,000.00 grant for a K-9 to replace Danny. Chief Beck advised that they are looking into purchasing an e-bike for the department. Discussion on the route for the K-9 5K fundraiser which will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2026. Chief Beck discussed the City's participation in the Adopt-a-Class program working with a third-grade class at Ludlow School each month for the past three years and the benefits of the program. Chief Beck advised that Police Clerk Amanda Grubbs does a fabulous job organizing activities and ordering items for the kids.

Public Works Department

Mr. Hamant discussed work at Ludlow Memorial Park on the River Stage. The ADA compliant ramp at the park should be completed by June 20, 2026. New benches and trash cans will be installed along the downtown area during the week of May 18, 2026. The new digital sign should be installed by the first week of June. The new water line at Jackson Park should be installed by the first week of June. Discussion on an issue with people riding bikes and skateboards on the River Stage and the possibility of installing signs advising people to keep off the stage. Mayor

Thompson advised that she has been looking at the possibility of limiting e-bikes and skateboards in the business district, similar to a recent ordinance passed by the City of Ft. Thomas.

Code Enforcement

Mr. West advised that the Spring City Clean Up was a success and thanked Mr. Chapman, Ms. Terry Navarre, Mr. Ziegler, and Mayor Thompson for working the event. Ms. Terry Navarre suggested changing the hours of the event next time because there were only three people who participated during the last hour. Mr. West attended the Riverwalk Ribbon Cutting earlier that evening and thanked Mr. Hamant and his team for their hard work. The Urban Design Review Board meeting was canceled in April because no Certificate of Appropriateness applications were received. The owners of 21 Kenner Street have begun renovating the property. Mr. West advised that people are utilizing the sidewalk rebate program.

City Treasurer

Mr. Harris discussed the current bank balances. Discussion on closing out the revolving loan after distributing the final checks. The City will open a new account for the opioid settlement funds. Discussion on the budget to actual report. The City recently received a reimbursement from a grant to cover Don McKay's salary for the past two years. Chief Beck advised that the City committed the first three years of opioid settlement funds to Kenton County for the Law Enforcement Navigator program.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Thompson thanked everyone for their continued support and involvement in the community. The Ribbon Cutting for Phase II of the Riverwalk was held earlier that evening and helps to continue reconnecting the community to the riverfront. There are continued improvements in Ludlow Memorial Park and the River Stage area. Depending on the weather, the opening event at the River Stage scheduled for May 16, 2026, may be rescheduled to May 30, 2026. The Fireworks Festival will be on June 27, 2026, and will include music, food trucks, family activities, rides and more. The new digital sign has arrived and will be installed in the first week of June. Additional flower pots have been placed along the business district and new benches and trash cans will be installed next week. Mayor Thompson thanked Ludlow in Bloom volunteers for helping plant the flower pots and clean out the tree beds along the business district. The City is looking at long-term solutions for parking to help businesses. Discussion on looking at future operational needs across the City departments. The proposed budget for 2026-2027 will be presented at the council meeting on May 28, 2026. There will be no Coffee and Cocktails with the Mayor in May due to a scheduling conflict, but the event should resume in the future.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Dave Seibert discussed his family's involvement in the community over the years and discussed a letter his mother received regarding an issue with a bush and leaning wall in the rear of her property. Mr. Seibert advised that he corrected the issue. Mr. Seibert's mother applied for a disabled parking space in front of her property, but it was denied because she had off-street parking. Mr. Seibert advised that his mother is unable to access the house if she parks in the rear of the property because of the steps. Mayor Thompson advised that council would be voting on the disabled parking space later in the meeting. Mr. Seibert also discussed the issue with the height of the speed hump in the 400 block of Oak Street. Mr. Seibert expressed his concern about

concrete sticking up at the bottom of the stairs outside the community center, which could be a trip hazard. Mr. Hamant advised that he would repair the concrete next week.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Second Reading of Ordinance 2026-6

At Ms. Eviston's request, motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, seconded by Ms. Graszus, to proceed with the second reading of Ordinance 2026-6 *An Ordinance Amending the Time and Place for the Regular Legislative Meetings of the City of Ludlow Council*, in summary. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes. Following the second reading by Ms. Eviston, motion by Mr. Chapman, seconded by Ms. Guthrie, to adopt Ordinance 2026-6. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.

Second Reading of Ordinance 2026-7

At Ms. Eviston's request, motion by Ms. Guthrie, seconded by Ms. Graszus, to proceed with the second reading of Ordinance 2026-7 *An Ordinance of the City of Ludlow, in Kenton County, Kentucky, Establishing a Non-Exclusive Franchise for the Use of the Public Streets, Alleys, and Other Public Grounds of the City for the Transmission and Distribution of Either or Both Natural Gas and Electricity Through and for Consumption Within the City; and Providing the Terms Thereof*, in summary. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes. Following the second reading by Ms. Eviston, motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, seconded by Mr. Ziegler, to adopt Ordinance 2026-7. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.

Second Reading of Ordinance 2026-8

At Mr. Smith's request, motion by Ms. Graszus, seconded by Mr. Chapman, to proceed with the second reading of Ordinance 2026-8 *An Ordinance of the City of Ludlow Amending Chapter 76: Parking Schedules, Schedule II. Limited Parking for Additional 30-Minute Parking Spaces on Helen Street*, in summary. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes. Mr. Smith completed the second reading of Ordinance 2026-8. Motion by Mr. Ziegler, seconded by Mr. Chapman, to adopt Ordinance 2026-8. Mr. Hamant confirmed that the curbs would be marked yellow on both sides of Helen Street 30 feet back from the intersection with Elm Street and that the City would install new parking signs. Ms. Guthrie discussed an email council received from a resident regarding concerns about Reeves' Market recently blocking off the alley and inquired about the process. Mayor Thompson advised that Reeves' Market requested permission to block off the alley for Mothers' Day. Ms. Guthrie suggested the possibility of making Helen Street one-way toward Elm Street and placing diagonal parking spaces on both sides. Mayor Thompson advised that the issue could be addressed in the future, but that does not prevent council from taking action on the ordinance now. Mr. Ziegler advised that he spent time with Mr. Reeves and was blown away by the sales he made over the weekend. Mr. Ziegler expressed concerns about customers from out of town who will drive by if there is not a parking space available. Mayor Thompson advised that Reeves' Market brings business in from out of town and it has become a destination. Ms. Eviston advised that the summary of Ordinance 2026-8 that Mr. Smith read for the second reading was a different version than what was read for the first reading. Council will need to strike the second reading of Ordinance 2026-8 and have a new second reading of the correct version. At Ms. Eviston's request, motion by Mr. Chapman, seconded by Mr. Ziegler, to strike the second reading of Ordinance 2026-8. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes. Motion by Ms. Graszus, seconded by Mr. Ziegler, to proceed with the second reading of Ordinance 2026-8, in summary. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes. Following the second reading by Mr. Smith, motion by Mr. Ziegler, seconded by Mr. Chapman, to adopt

Ordinance 2026-8. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: three ayes (Mr. Chapman, Mr. Ziegler, Ms. Graszus) and two nays (Ms. Guthrie, Ms. Terry Navarre).

NEW BUSINESS

Disabled Parking Space Appeal – 434 Oak Street

Discussion on the need for a disabled parking space at 434 Oak Street. Ms. Guthrie inquired about how the City keeps track of the disabled parking spaces throughout the city. Ms. Sparks explained that the disabled parking spaces are renewed annually at the end of the year. If a disabled parking space is not renewed, the sign is removed. Disabled parking signs will also be removed when someone moves or a property is sold. **Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, seconded by Ms. Graszus, to approve the disabled parking space for 434 Oak Street. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ms. Guthrie inquired about the flashing stop sign at the intersection of Laurel and Helen Streets that was requested by a resident at a previous meeting. Mayor Thompson advised that they are still evaluating it. Ms. Guthrie inquired about why the bus stop bench in front of the Buffalo Bar was moved. Mayor Thompson advised that the bench was moved up to the corner of Locust and Elm Streets because the bus stop in front of the Buffalo Bar was closed. Ms. Guthrie requested a presentation from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) on the phases of the Brent Spence Bridge project and what residents can expect. Mayor Thompson advised that she had contacted KYTC and would follow up with them. Discussion on available federal housing dollars managed by Covington through the Northern Kentucky Housing Investment Partnership that impacts other local cities, including Ludlow. Millions of dollars will be available to use to expand affordable housing, street and sidewalk improvements, recreational facilities, and reducing crime. Ms. Guthrie wanted to make sure that Ludlow is engaged in the conversations when distribution of the funds is discussed. Mayor Thompson advised that she would reach out to them. Ms. Guthrie reminded everyone that Primary Day is May 19, 2026, and early voting is available through Saturday, May 16, 2026. Ms. Guthrie gave a shout out to all the Ludlow High School graduates.
- Ms. Terry Navarre announced that Northern Kentucky History Day will be on Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Kenton County Public Library in Erlanger. Orchard work has been postponed due to the weather. Primary Day voting will be at the First Baptist Church at Linden and Kenner Streets. On Friday, May 15, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., there will be a ceremony at the Firehouse to honor the high school seniors who finished their internship.
- Mr. Ziegler announced that the first Hot Dogs in the Park will be on June 12, 2026. Ronald B. Jones will provide the hot dogs. A petting zoo is planned for the Hot Dogs in the Park on June 26, 2026. Mr. Ziegler thanked people for sending in their donations.

Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, seconded by Mr. Ziegler, to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Sparks, City Clerk

Attest: _____
Sarah Thompson, Mayor