

LUDLOW COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

May 8, 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, and Julie Terry Navarre. Abigail Miller was absent.

ALSO ATTENDING: City Attorney Patrick Grote, City Administrative Officer Scott Smith, City Clerk Laurie Sparks, Fire Chief Mike Steward, Public Works Director Shane Hamant, Code Enforcement Officer Jamie West, Police Chief Bart Beck

Presentation by Andy Wartman on the Status of the Storehouse Renovation Project

Andy Wartman discussed the Ludlow Heritage Museum and the status of renovations to the Storehouse. Discussion on plans to have a Civil War reenactment on the storehouse property and the Railroad Heritage Festival in the fall.

Motion by Mr. Ziegler, second by Ms. Terry Navarre, to approve the minutes from the council meeting on April 10, 2025. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.

STAFF REPORTS

Fire Department

Chief Steward discussed his report, including the flood cleanup and two small fires that occurred in the past month. Discussion on the internship program.

Public Works

Mr. Hamant thanked the Fire Department for help with the flood cleanup. Public Works hired Todd Grubbs as a part-time seasonal laborer. The concession stand building in Ludlow Memorial Park was painted by Southbank at no cost to the City. Mr. Hamant is obtaining estimates for repairs to the war monument in the park. Public Works has been collaborating with the Ludlow School custodian to maintain the ball fields.

Code Enforcement

Mr. West advised that there has been progress made on sidewalk repairs throughout the city and included photos in his report. On April 12, 2025, approximately 25-30 people volunteered to help clean up Ludlow Memorial Park after the flood waters receded; Riverside Marketplace provided doughnuts and water. Ludlow Clean Up Day on April 12, 2025, was a success and the City will continue to have a clean up day twice a year in the spring and fall.

Police Department

Chief Beck discussed his report and advised that there were 598 calls for service last month.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Wright advised that he and Mr. Ziegler attended the Southbank Partners meeting on April 23, 2025. On April 30, 2025, Mayor Wright met with Tom Haggard of EducateNKY, part of

OneNKY, to discuss how cities can play a more active role in early childhood development and learning in conjunction with the school. EducateNKY will host a “Start Strong” Summit on May 21, 2025, which Mayor Wright plans to attend. Mayor Wright and Mr. Ziegler recently met with Andrew Brunsman of Be Concerned and visited every open space in town to discuss the possibility of finding a location for the organization to move to Ludlow. On May 16, 2025, Mayor Wright and Mr. Smith will attend an event with Southbank and other city leaders hosted by Senator Rand Paul. Mayor Wright will meet with Kenton County Judge Executive Kris Knochelmann on June 10, 2025, to discuss the City. Judge Executive Knochelmann will attend the council meeting on August 28, 2025, to provide an update on Kenton County. There will be a special meeting on May 22, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of a first reading of the reconciliation of the fiscal year 2024-2025 budget and the first reading of the ordinance with proposed changes to the noise ordinance. The caucus meeting will immediately follow.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – The Committee plans to meet next week to discuss the budget. Mr. Chapman discussed a one-page report of city revenue sources he provided to council.

Parks and Recreation – The Committee is still looking for donations for Hot Dogs in the Park. The Committee is finalizing plans for the Memorial Day Parade which will begin on Memorial Day at 10:30 a.m., proceed to Bromley, and end with the service at Ludlow Memorial Park. The Festival Committee is still looking for vendors for the Fireworks Festival. Anyone interested can contact Ms. Graszus, Mr. Ziegler, Mr. West, or Jenny McMillen. Discussion on the possibility of renting out the concession stand in the park for events. Mayor Wright advised that he would sponsor one of the Hot Dogs in the Park events. Mr. Ziegler advised that Riverside Marketplace offered to donate hot dogs and buns for the upcoming event on June 6, 2025.

Public Works/Code Enforcement – The Committee met with Mr. West and Mr. Hamant. Ms. Thompson discussed the fine for overgrown grass and advised that Mr. West is willing to work with property owners. Discussion on increasing the sidewalk rebate to 50% of the full replacement cost, up to \$500.00, and reimbursement for grinding sidewalks to repair minor damage. Ms. Thompson advised that she would like to discuss the proposed amended sidewalk ordinance at the next caucus meeting. Discussion on the possibility of placing an annual \$20.00 sidewalk repair fee on each property, which would allow the City to take over sidewalk repairs. Discussion on an issue of speeding, especially in the 400 block of Oak Street, and the possibility of installing speed humps in the 400 block and 500 block of Oak Street near the school. Discussion on Mr. West’s process for code violations and anyone who receives a notice of violation should contact Mr. West to discuss the issue. The tree grant is back and now the City will have funds to revitalize the park with trees. Ms. Terry Navarre advised that the Committee would like council to review and adopt a tree ordinance and hopes to begin planting trees in the fall.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

Mr. Smith thanked everyone who came together to help with the flood clean up. Discussion on the corridor assessment and working with Southbank to find grants to help the business district, especially with lighting and poles. The groundbreaking for the second phase of Riverfront Commons behind the stadium is tentatively scheduled for June 5, 2025. Ribbon cutting for the completion should be in mid-August. The new Community Center Event Coordinator Jenny McMillen has been working hard cleaning up the community center to bring it up to where it should be and has been planning new activities. Mr. Smith is working on the reconciliation of the budget for fiscal year 2024-2025, and it will be presented at the special meeting on May 22,

2025. Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Chapman for putting so many hours into the finances and thanked City Treasurer Steve Bodde for his assistance.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Rev. James Todd Smith, pastor at Wesley United Methodist Church, thanked council for banning vape shops and asked council to take over 100% of the sidewalk replacement and infrastructure in the city. Rev. Smith advised that by only focusing on paving streets it sends a message that only residents with cars are important. Mayor Wright advised that Rev. Smith will be leaving Ludlow in June and thanked him for all he has done for the community.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Second Reading of Ordinance 2025-3

Mr. Grote completed the second 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 he championed this ordinance as an educator because he has seen the predatory nature of the vape shops on children. **Motion by Mr. Chapman, second by Mr. Ziegler, to adopt Ordinance 2025-3. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2025-6

Mr. Grote read Resolution 2025-6 *A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Ludlow, Kentucky, Authorizing the Mayor or His Designee to Enter Into an Interlocal Agreement for Employee Health Insurance Services*. The City has been a part of the group for ten years and the agreement is for an additional ten-year period. **Motion by Ms. Graszus, second by Ms. Terry Navarre, to approve Resolution 2025-6. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Terry Navarre announced that the next Cars & Coffee at the Plaza will be on Sunday, May 11, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. until noon. The next Walk 'n Talk 'n Trash will be on May 14, 2025, beginning at the community center at 7:00 p.m. Lagoonfest will be on May 17, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the community center and will feature food trucks, lectures, and a walking tour. Ms. Thompson thanked Rev. Smith for his fervor in coming to council meetings and agreed that the community should be taking care of each other. Discussion on the \$20.00 fee for sidewalk repairs that could be placed on each property that would generate \$50,000.00 annually to put toward repairs. Mr. Ziegler asked everyone to keep Ms. Miller in their prayers because her mother is terminally ill. Ms. Graszus announced that the River Knights and Ludlow Vets will be hosting their annual car show on Saturday, May 10, 2025, beginning at 9:00 a.m. with trophies awarded at 2:00 p.m.

Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Ms. Thompson, to enter into executive session pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1)(b) deliberations on future acquisition of real property. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.

.....

Upon coming out of executive session, motion by Mr. Ziegler, second by Ms. Terry Navarre, to approve Resolution 2025-7 *A Resolution of the City Council of Ludlow, Kentucky,*

Authorizing and Directing the Purchase of Real Property Located at 734 Elm Street and 800 Elm Street in Ludlow, Kentucky. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.

Motion by Ms. Thompson, second by Mr. Chapman, to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Sparks, City Clerk

Attest: _____
Chris Wright, Mayor