

LUDLOW COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

June 11, 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

Presentation by Andy Wartman of the Ludlow Heritage Museum

Mr. Wartman advised that Dave Schroeder was appointed as the Vice President of the Ludlow Heritage Museum. Mr. Wartman provided an update on the renovation of the storehouse, which includes installing new windows, opening up the lower level of the building, and adding an amphitheater. Discussion on the possibility of having a farmers' market, festival, or concert series on the grassy area near the building.

Presentation by Nathan Thompson of Infinite Hills Productions

Mr. Hills advised that Infinite Hills Productions is a musical tourism non-profit organization. Arts Wave approved a grant to fund six concerts at the train viewing platform on the plaza in August, September, October 2026 and March, April, May 2027. The kickoff event will be held in conjunction with the farmers' market at the storehouse. The concerts will be a mix of genres and will be free to the public.

Ms. Eviston advised that Ms. Miller submitted her resignation from city council via email prior to the meeting; however, under KRS 83A.040(7) the resignation is required to contain a handwritten signature. Ms. Eviston contacted Ms. Miller requesting her signature on the resignation. **Motion by Mr. Chapman, seconded by Ms. Graszus, to approve Councilmember Abigail Miller's absence from the regular meeting on May 28, 2026. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

Motion by Ms. Guthrie, seconded by Ms. Graszus, to approve the minutes from the council meeting on May 28, 2026. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.

STAFF REPORTS

Fire Department

Chief Steward discussed his monthly report. The fire department is in the process of painting the fire hydrants throughout the city. Discussion on the increase in the number of calls. The fire department purchased a new ATV for use at festivals, on the bike trails, and the riverwalk.

Police Department

Chief Beck discussed the calls for service and advised that they negotiated a new contract with Ludlow Schools for the school resource officer. Chief Beck requested tasers in the budget and discussed how they have improved over the older versions the police used in the past. The five-year contract would include the tasers, eleven body cameras, and unlimited data storage. Discussion on a new camera for the interview room.

Code Enforcement

Mr. West advised that there are 160 active code enforcement cases. Ascension will begin weekly street sweeping on Highway Avenue near Cityview Station. Mr. West advised that stained glass has fallen out of the Trinity Presbyterian Church and he was looking for a contact for the owners. Discussion on the status of the rental license fee collection. There has been a reduction in the number of short-term rental applications in the past few years. Mr. West advised that residents are taking advantage of the sidewalk rebate program.

Public Works

Mr. Hamant thanked everyone who helped with Ludlow in Bloom on May 30, 2026, to mulch the flower beds in Ludlow Memorial Park. The ADA ramp at the park should be completed by the end of June. Street sweeping on Elm Street to Bromley will begin on the third Monday of every month.

City Treasurer

Wayne Harris was not in attendance at the meeting but submitted an updated balance sheet to council.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Thompson thanked everyone who attended the soft opening event at the River Stage on June 6, 2026. Mayor Thompson recognized the recent cleanup efforts by Ludlow in Bloom at Ludlow Memorial Park. Discussion on preparations for the Fireworks Festival and the official grand opening of the River Stage and ribbon cutting on June 27, 2026. Discussion on several items, including investments and improvements, included in the proposed budget for fiscal year 2026-2027. Mayor Thompson submitted a letter to Governor Beshear requesting consideration for Ludlow regarding the Municipal Road Aid extension and funding concerns. Shop Ludlow and the City Wide Yard Sale will be on Saturday, June 13, 2026. Coffee and Cocktails with the Mayor will be on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at Second Sight Spirits. Mayor Thompson is working with state and regional partners regarding transportation priorities.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Ruth Bamberger, 596 Riversbreeze Drive, advised that she recently sent an email to the mayor and council expressing her concerns about the continued absence of a city administrator and requested that the City hire a city administrator quickly. Mayor

Thompson discussed the roles of mayor and council and the effect on the hiring process. Mayor Thompson advised that the hiring of a new city administrator has been put on pause for now.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2026-7

Mr. Smith completed the reading of Resolution 2026-7 *A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Ludlow, Kentucky, Authorizing the Mayor or Her Designee to Enter Into an Interlocal Agreement for Employee Health Insurance Services*. **Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, seconded by Ms. Guthrie, to approve Resolution 2026-7. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

First Reading of Ordinance 2026-9

Ms. Eviston completed the first reading of Ordinance 2026-9 *An Ordinance Adopting the City of Ludlow, Kentucky's Annual Budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2026, Through June 30, 2027, By Estimating Revenues and Resources and Appropriating Funds for the City to the Full Extent Authorized by KRS 82.082 and Interpretative Case Law*. Ms. Guthrie advised that she would like to table discussion on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2026-2027 and schedule a special meeting because she still had questions and would like more time to review. Discussion on various budgeted items, fund balances, the projected revenue from property taxes, and concerns that the projected expenses exceed revenues. **Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, seconded by Ms. Guthrie, to table the discussion on the proposed budget for 2026-2027 until a special meeting. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.** The special meeting was planned for June 23, 2026.

Resolution 2026-8

At Ms. Eviston's request, motion by Ms. Guthrie, seconded by Ms. Terry Navarre, to allow Mr. Smith to read Resolution 2026-8 *A Resolution of the City of Ludlow, Kentucky, Authorizing the Mayor to Execute an Amendment to the Northern Kentucky Special Weapons and Tactics (S.W.A.T.) Inc. Interlocal Agreement*. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes. Mr. Smith completed the reading of Resolution 2026-8. Under the agreement, the City will pay \$4,500.00 annually. **Motion by Ms. Chapman, seconded by Ms. Graszus, to approve Resolution 2026-8. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

Discussion on Councilmember Abigail Miller's Multiple Absences

Council did not discuss the issue due to Ms. Miller's resignation from council.

Discussion on Alcoholic Beverage Control License Fee Schedule

Ms. Guthrie distributed a comparison of the City's alcoholic beverage license fees to other local cities. Ms. Guthrie advised that she would like to lower the special temporary

license to possibly \$50.00 for those who already have a license in the city. Discussion on the need to update the fees to correct the rates that should have been updated in 2017. Mayor Thompson asked council to consider crediting money back to businesses for a period of two to five years if they have been overcharged. Discussion on adding new types of licenses to the fee schedule. Mayor Thompson advised that she has been waiving the special event license fee for local businesses. Ms. Eviston advised that the City can only change the alcoholic beverage license fees every five years.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ms. Graszus announced that the Fireworks Festival will be on June 27, 2026, from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. The ribbon cutting for the River Stage will be at 6:45 p.m. with music beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- Mr. Ziegler advised that Hot Dogs in the Park will be on June 12, 2026, from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Ludlow Memorial Park. Mr. Ziegler thanked Mr. Hamant, Chief Steward, and Chief Beck for their assistance and thanked Ronald B. Jones Funeral Home for the donation of the hot dogs. Free lemonade will also be available, and C.P. Reeves Market will provide free ice cream. Mr. Ziegler thanked Jenny McMillen for making the Facebook post for the event.
- Ms. Terry Navarre announced that the Ludlow Historic Society Garden Walk will be on June 20, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. and feature twelve gardens. Tickets are \$15.00 and may be purchased online or on the day of the event.
- Ms. Guthrie reminded everyone about Shop Ludlow and the City Wide Yard Sale on Saturday, June 13, 2026. Ms. Guthrie also requested a presentation from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet on the impact of the bridge construction. In response to Ms. Guthrie's question, Mayor Thompson advised that the new City website should be up by the end of June.

Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, seconded by Mr. Ziegler, to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Sparks, City Clerk

Attest: _____
Sarah Thompson, Mayor