

LUDLOW COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

June 12, 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, Public Works Director Shane Hamant, Code Enforcement Officer Jamie West, Police Chief Bart Beck

Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Mr. Ziegler, to approve the minutes from the council meetings on May 8, 2025, and May 22, 2025. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.

STAFF REPORTS

Fire Department

Chief Steward discussed his report, including the status of equipment and replacement costs, and a request to hire three additional full-time Firefighter/EMTs. Discussion on the possibility of adding the issue of an increase to the special ad valorem Fire & EMS tax on the ballot.

Public Works

Mr. Hamant discussed his monthly report. Southbank painted the shelter roofs and concession building at Ludlow Memorial Park and plans to repaint the basketball court. Riversbreeze Drive was paved between Highway Avenue and Hazen Street. Discussion on the cost of speed humps, which is \$3,000.00 each for blacktop and \$5,500.00 each for concrete.

Code Enforcement

Mr. West advised that there are 138 open cases. Discussion on the status of sidewalk improvements around the city, which is slowly improving. Mr. West discussed issues with the property at 38 Euclid Street.

Police Department

Chief Beck discussed his monthly report. Last month, the police had 676 calls of which 487 were community oriented. Sergeant John Dorman recently completed Advanced Police Supervision (APS) training in May. Several officers recently completed scenario-based training at a facility in the south end of Kenton County.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Wright met with Judge Executive Kris Knochelmann on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, and discussed the Kenton County redevelopment fund. Judge Executive Knochelmann will attend a council meeting soon. Mayor Wright will meet with Dr. Steffen at Ludlow Schools on Monday, June 16, 2025, to discuss how the City, with EducateNKY, could be more involved in early childhood education. Mayor Wright gave a major bravo to all those involved in the Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony, including Ms. Graszus, Ms. Terry Navarre, the Police, Fire, and

Public Works departments. Mayor Wright thanked those who donated to Hot Dogs in the Park and thanked Mr. Ziegler for organizing the event. Mayor Wright thanked Southbank Partners for painting the concession building at Ludlow Memorial Park at no cost to the City and for facilitating a recent meeting between Senator Rand Paul and local city leaders.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – The Committee did not meet.

Parks and Recreation – The Committee is planning the Fireworks Festival and is still accepting vendors. Ms. Graszus advised that they are looking for volunteers to supervise the bounce houses at the festival; anyone interested can sign up online through the City’s website. Mr. Ziegler thanked Mr. Hamant, Chief Steward, and Mr. West for their assistance with Hot Dogs in the Park; thanked those who donated to the event; and thanked Ms. Terry Navarre for donating the leftover hot dogs from the Memorial Day cookout. The next Hot Dogs in the Park will be on Friday, June 20, 2025. Mr. Chapman inquired if the City would begin using Carlisle Field. Mr. Smith advised that the City is working on details to obtain access to the property and should have an answer soon.

Public Works/Code Enforcement – The Committee advised that Mr. West and Mr. Hamant covered most of the items in their report that were discussed at their recent meetings.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

Mr. Smith discussed the possibility of installing a Fitness Court at Caple Park. The City has been awarded a \$50,000.00 grant from the National Fitness Campaign toward the cost. The City has until the middle of July to determine whether it can afford to accept the funds. Mr. Smith has a meeting next week with Will Weber of Southbank Partners to discuss when construction will begin on the second phase of Riverfront Commons. Discussion on the status of installing new lighting in the park.

Mayor Wright advised that there is a vacancy on the Kenton County Joint Board of Adjustment and the City is accepting applications through the end of next week for anyone interested in serving. Mayor Wright advised that he would interview all interested candidates. The City has received one application for the Board.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Lori Davenport, 109 Deverill Street, expressed concern that the Finance Committee is not meeting. Following discussion, Mr. Smith advised that City Treasurer Steve Bodde could meet with the Finance Committee.

Alice Hulley, 228 Deverill Street, discussed an issue with parking on Deverill Street, including several property owners who park on the street instead of parking in their driveways. Ms. Hulley advised that she has contacted the police on three occasions regarding a particular neighbor who has a car that does not move for several days. Chief Beck explained the process involved in marking a car and waiting for an additional forty-eight hours after receiving the complaint before a ticket could be issued. Discussion on the possibility of creating a designated residential parking area on the street. Mr. Smith advised that the issue with designated residential parking areas is that some residents may have three cars and only one and a half parking spaces in front of their property, so mathematically it does not work. Ms. Hulley advised that she has applied for a parking pad twice and it was denied both times.

Ray Browning, 115 Hay Street, inquired about when the potholes would be filled at each end of Hay Street. Mr. Browning discussed an issue of people driving the wrong way on the one-way street.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Second Reading of Ordinance 2025-5

Mr. Grote completed the second reading of Ordinance 2025-5 *An Ordinance Amending the Budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 Through June 30, 2025 for the City of Ludlow, Kentucky, Calling for Revenue of ~~\$4,849,000.00~~ \$4,867,500.00 and Expenditures of ~~\$4,421,440.00~~ \$4,705,100.00.* **Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Ms. Thompson, to adopt Ordinance 2025-5. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: 4 ayes, 2 nays (Mr. Ziegler, Ms. Miller).**

Second Reading of Ordinance 2025-7

Mr. Grote completed the second reading of Ordinance 2025-7 *An Ordinance Amending the City of Ludlow Code of Ordinances, Chapter 94: Noise Regulations, for the Purpose of Permitting Certain Artificially Amplified Noise at Bars and Restaurants Within the City of Ludlow.* Mr. Smith confirmed that the City would purchase a sound meter. **Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Ms. Graszus, to adopt Ordinance 2025-7. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: 5 ayes, 1 abstention (Ms. Miller).**

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading of Ordinance 2025-6

Mr. Grote completed the first reading of Ordinance 2025-6 *An Ordinance Setting the Budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 Through June 30, 2026 for the City of Ludlow, Kentucky, Calling for Revenue of \$5,678,100.00 and Expenditures of \$5,097,840.00.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Graszus announced that the Fireworks Festival will be on June 28, 2025, at Ludlow Memorial Park from 4:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. with the fireworks at 10:00 p.m. Movie Night, featuring *Moana*, will be on June 27, 2025, at 9:00 p.m. in Ludlow Park. Mr. Chapman thanked the Garden Club for planting flowers around the city.

Mayor Wright announced that there will be a special council meeting on Thursday, June 26, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. for the second reading of Ordinance 2025-6 and further discussion on whether to accept the grant from UC Health for the Fitness Court.

Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Ms. Thompson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Sparks, City Clerk

Attest: _____
Chris Wright, Mayor