

LUDLOW COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES

June 24, 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.

ALSO ATTENDING: City Attorney Michelle Eviston, City Attorney Zach Smith, City Clerk Laurie Sparks, Budget Consultant Steve Bodde

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS MAYOR AND COUNCIL

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discussion on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

At Mayor Thompson's request, motion by Mr. Chapman, seconded by Ms. Terry Navarre, to untangle the motion to discuss the proposed budget for fiscal year 2026-2027. Motion carried, all ayes. Mayor Thompson presented an updated budget to council. Discussion on the fund balance being carried forward and on the savings account balance. Under General Government, the city coordinator position was included, a full-time administrative assistant position was added, and the city administrative officer position was removed. Discussion on the Police Department salaries, which were updated to reflect raises that several officers received in August 2025 that were not included in the original budget amendment. Discussion on the Fire Department budget, which includes the addition of three new full-time paramedics beginning in January 2027. Following discussion, council requested the addition of three full-time paramedics beginning in July 2026 and the Stryker equipment. Discussion on how the estimated property tax revenues were calculated based on the information provided by the Kenton County Property Valuation Administrator. Discussion on increased revenue expected from the PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) at Cityview Station. Discussion on the opioid funds, which will be coded as restricted funds. The ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds were spent years ago, and a report has been submitted to close the account. Discussion on the Hollingsworth Field lighting project and whether the school could assist with the purchase of new lights. Discussion on the amount budgeted for community events. The Public Works budget reflected the anticipation of grant funding for road repairs and discussion on funds for upgrades at the community center, including a new deck and ADA improvements, such as automatic door openers. Discussion on areas where council believed the budget may be trimmed. Several council members expressed concerns about the proposed budget projecting expenses to exceed revenues. Discussion on fund balances and reserves. Mayor Thompson agreed to amend the proposed budget to include the addition of three full-time paramedics beginning in July 2027 and the Stryker equipment. The first reading of Ordinance 2026-9 will be held at the meeting on June 25, 2026, with the second reading at a special meeting on June 29, 2026.

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading of Ordinance 2026-10

Ms. Eviston completed the first reading of Ordinance 2026-10 *An Ordinance Amending The Budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 Through June 30, 2026 for the City of Ludlow, Kentucky, Calling for Revenue of ~~\$6,012,310.81~~ \$6,201,580.00 and Expenditures of ~~\$5,980,932.43~~ \$6,128,560.00.*

**Motion by Ms. Guthrie, seconded by Ms. Graszus, to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m.
Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Sparks, City Clerk

Attest: _____
Sarah Thompson, Mayor