

LUDLOW COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

June 25, 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

Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, seconded by Mr. Chapman, to approve the minutes from the council meeting on June 11, 2026. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Thompson thanked the City staff, volunteers, and community partners who help move the community forward. Mayor Thompson invited everyone to attend the Fireworks Festival on Saturday, June 27, 2026, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in Ludlow Memorial Park. The Ribbon Cutting at the River Stage will be at 6:45 p.m. followed by live music from the Tyler Moore Band at 7:00 p.m. Vito's Fireworks display will be at 10:00 p.m.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Aleta Bergsman, 23 Butler Street, asked questions about the \$1.5 million in the City's reserves and the threshold to begin spending those funds. Ms. Bergsman advised that new lighting and beautification in the business district would help the business owners. Ms. Bergsman asked if the City has a master plan and, if not, she believes that it is something the City needs. Discussion between Ms. Bergsman and Mr. Chapman on the City's reserves and the proposed budget that would keep the reserves at \$1.5 million and still allow for improvements in the business district and the parks. Discussion on how the property tax rate is determined and how the reassessments this year could affect the tax rate. Mr. Chapman advised that the City relies on property taxes because it does not have enough large businesses to offset the taxes. Ms. Bergsman advised that she has been in Ludlow for twelve years and would really like to see an inviting business district.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Second Reading of Ordinance 2026-10

Motion by Mr. Chapman, seconded by Ms. Terry Navarre, to adopt 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. Following a second reading by Ms. Eviston and a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2026-9

Ms. Eviston read Resolution 2026-9 A Resolution of the City of Ludlow Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Contract with Rumpke for Waste and Recycling. **Motion by Ms. Guthrie, seconded by Mr. Chapman, to pass Resolution 2026-9. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

Discussion on the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Mayor Thompson presented three different versions of the budget to council for review. If council approves the Stryker equipment for the Fire Department, it would be a commitment of \$75,000.00 per year for seven years. Ms. Guthrie advised that she would like to present a fourth option for the budget in which expenses would not exceed revenues. Ms. Guthrie discussed her proposed changes and advised that she does not want the new council coming into office in January with a budget deficit. Mayor Thompson advised that she disagreed with Ms. Guthrie's proposed budget. Ms. Thompson advised that council had three options for the budget in front of them and recommended that council select one of those options and vote. **Motion by Ms. Guthrie, seconded by Ms. Terry Navarre, to review and discuss Ms. Guthrie's budget proposal. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.** Discussion on Ms. Guthrie's budget, which would add three full-time paramedics beginning in July 2026, allow for the purchase of the Stryker equipment, reduce the events budget to \$35,000.00, and remove the \$150,000.00 for the Hollingsworth Field lights. Discussion on working with Ludlow Schools to see if they could assist in the cost of purchasing the lights at Hollingsworth Field. Discussion on the possibility of reassessing the budget in November or January once the taxes have been collected.

First Reading of Ordinance 2026-9 (Ms. Guthrie's Version)

Motion by Ms. Guthrie, seconded by Mr. Ziegler, to have a first reading of Ms. Guthrie's version 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.* Mr. Smith completed the first reading of Ordinance 2026-9 (Ms. Guthrie's version). Motion by Ms. Guthrie, seconded by Ms. Terry Navarre, to approve Ordinance 2026-9 (Ms. Guthrie's version). Following a roll call vote, motion carried: four ayes (Ms. Guthrie, Ms. Terry Navarre, Mr. Ziegler, Ms. Graszus) and one nay (Mr. Chapman).

First Reading of Ordinance 2026-11

Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, seconded by Ms. Guthrie, to read Ordinance 2026-11 *An Ordinance of the City of Ludlow, in Kenton County, Kentucky, Adopting Chapter 91, §91.13 of the Ludlow Code of Ordinances, Requiring the Registration of Vacant Properties and Establishing a Schedule of Fees Relating to the Maintenance of Vacant Properties, in summary.* Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes. Ms. Eviston completed the first reading of Ordinance 2026-11, in summary.

Vote to Accept Abigail Miller's Resignation from Council

Motion by Mr. Chapman, seconded by Ms. Graszus, to accept Abigail Miller's resignation from city council. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes. Mayor Thompson advised that the City would post on the website and Facebook page a request for applications from residents interested in filling the vacant seat. Council will make the appointment to fill the vacancy at the meeting on July 9, 2026.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ms. Guthrie inquired about the timeline for bringing an ordinance forward to amend the alcoholic beverage license fees. Ms. Eviston advised that the ordinance would be presented at the council meeting on July 9, 2026.

- Mr. Ziegler announced that due to the weather, the Hot Dogs in the Park event scheduled for June 26, 2026, has been canceled. The next Hot Dogs in the Park will be on Friday, July 10, 2026.
- Ms. Graszus inquired about a backup plan for the Fireworks Festival in the event of rain. Mayor Thompson advised that there is no backup plan; however, the weather appears to be improving for the event. Discussion on the status of the installation of the digital sign and the ADA ramp in the park, which should be completed by the end of June.

Mayor Thompson announced that she and Mr. Bodde worked for weeks to prepare the budget she presented to council that included many changes residents have asked for; however, council removed chunks of that budget.

Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, seconded by Mr. Chapman, 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