

**LUDLOW COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

**August 13, 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, Brian Bumgarner, David Ziegler, and Paula Graszus.

*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, City Treasurer Wayne Harris

**Motion by Mr. Bumgarner, seconded by Ms. Terry Navarre, to approve Councilmember Steve Chapman's absence from the meeting on July 23, 2026. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

**Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, seconded by Mr. Ziegler, to approve the minutes from the council meetings on July 23, 2026, and August 5, 2026. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

**STAFF REPORTS**

**Fire Department**

Chief Steward discussed his monthly report, including recent training opportunities and several incidents on the river. The fire department provided support for Paddlefest. Mr. Chapman congratulated Nicole Kidd Steward for being recognized by St. Elizabeth Healthcare for her service.

**Police Department**

Chief Beck discussed his monthly report, including the number of calls for service. Discussion on the purchase of a Tesla Y and the possibility of installing a charging station in the city building parking lot that could also be used by the public. Chief Beck discussed surplusizing three of the City's Dodge Chargers. Chief Beck advised that the police department received a grant to purchase five new body armor vests.

**Code Enforcement**

Mr. West advised that he has been compiling a list of approximately twenty-five properties affected by the recent storm damage. Storm debris can be dropped off in Ludlow or at Bavarian in Walton with a voucher from Kenton County. The Kenton County Tire Event will be on August 13-15, 2026, at 3923 Madison Pike, Covington, KY. Discussion on the status of rental property licenses issued, which is the lowest it has been in recent years. Mr. West and Mayor Thompson have been working to update the Courtesy Notice and Notice of Enforcement forms by adding verbiage to explain the violation in a clearer way and softening the tone. Discussion on the status of the empty lot that was formerly Ernie's Yard.

### Public Works

Mr. Hamant advised that residents could drop off storm debris at the lot on the corner of Ash and Traverse Streets until Wednesday, August 19, 2026. Mr. Hamant discussed his monthly report, including the completion of the installation of the digital sign, water service installation at Jackson Park, redesign of the ADA ramp at Ludlow Memorial Park, and plans for installation of speed cushions in place of the speed humps near the school. Mr. Hamant thanked the police department, the fire department, and Mr. West for their assistance with cleaning up the storm damage. Discussion on Duke Energy's recent survey of the lighting at the city building and replacement costs. Mr. Hamant advised that the City could save a significant amount of money by having public works employees switch out the light fixtures in the winter.

### City Treasurer

Mr. Harris discussed the current bank account balances and advised that he is preparing for the audit in October. Mr. Bumgarner inquired about the possibility of receiving a monthly budget vs. actual report and how the budget is monitored.

### MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Thompson thanked everyone who helped those in the community affected by the storm damage and power outages. Mayor Thompson discussed the American Discovery Trail (ADT), which stretches from Delaware to California, and the possibility of applying for Ludlow to be recognized as an official ADT trail town. Mayor Thompson encouraged everyone to come out for the first Rail Sessions concert on August 22, 2026, at Ludlow Plaza.

### CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Bob Steimetz, 449 Oak Street, inquired about an update to the issue of a sinkhole near his driveway in the alley. Mayor Thompson advised that she and Mr. Hamant would be meeting with Duke Energy next week to inspect the area and may need to have an engineer look at it.

Michelle Lemker, 254 Stokesay Street, expressed concern about the possibility of the installation of a speed hump on Stokesay Street. Ms. Lemker presented a petition to the Mayor signed by the residents on the street who are opposed to the installation of a speed hump and the reasons for the opposition. Discussion on alternatives, such as a flashing "slow" sign if someone is speeding, painting "slow" on the street, or having police patrol during the hours of 3:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Chief Beck advised that the police have not received any calls complaining about speeding on Stokesay Street.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### Second Reading of Ordinance 2026-15

**At Ms. Eviston's request, motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, seconded by Ms. Graszus, to proceed with the second reading of Ordinance 2026-15 *An Ordinance of the City of Ludlow, in Kenton County, Kentucky, Adopting an Amended Comprehensive Pay Plan for the Non-Elected City Officers and Employees of the City of Ludlow, in Accordance with KRS 83a.070(2) in summary. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.* Ms. Eviston completed the second reading of Ordinance 2026-15. Motion by Mr. Chapman, seconded by Ms. Terry Navarre, to adopt Ordinance 2026-15. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Discussion on Proposed Traffic Calming Measures for Stokesay Street and Ash Street**

Mr. Chapman suggested setting up a digital radar sign on Ash Street because it would be easier to speed in that area. Mayor Thompson requested that Mr. Hamant look into the cost of obtaining a sign. Mayor Thompson advised that the speed humps that will be removed on Oak Street could be reinstalled in alleys where speeding is a problem. Discussion on asking for community engagement before the installation of additional speed humps. Discussion on an issue with the Kentucky Department of Transportation's timing of the stoplights on Elm Street that causes drivers to drive through a red light.

**Discussion on a Potential Bicycle Ordinance**

Mayor Thompson advised that the attorneys have been working on an ordinance to address e-bikes and e-scooters in the city. Discussion about recent issues of e-bikes and e-scooters speeding on the sidewalks and in the alleys and with children not wearing helmets. Ms. Eviston advised that the City's current bicycle ordinance was passed in 1996 and prohibits bicycles on sidewalks in the city. Discussion on options, such as requiring a helmet, regulating the level of e-bikes and requiring a license for the highest level, options for riding them in the parks, and whether violating the ordinance would be a civil or criminal offense. Ms. Eviston advised that most cities treat them as criminal offenses. Chief Beck discussed difficulties with enforcement without the county's cooperation.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Ziegler thanked everyone who supported Hot Dogs in the Park this year. Ms. Graszus inquired about the status of the City's new website, which should be completed in mid-September. In response to Ms. Graszus' inquiry about the status of the purchase of an e-bike for the police department, Chief Beck advised that it has not been ordered.

**Motion by Ms. Guthrie, seconded by Ms. Terry Navarre, to enter into executive session pursuant to KRS 61.810(g) for discussions between a public agency and a representative of a business entity and discussions concerning a specific proposal, if open discussions would jeopardize the siting, retention, expansion, or upgrading of the business. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

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**The meeting adjourned following executive session.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Laurie Sparks, City Clerk

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah Thompson, Mayor