

LUDLOW COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

August 14, 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, and Julie Terry Navarre. Mayor Wright advised that Abigail Miller was under the weather, and her absence was excused.

ALSO ATTENDING: City Attorney Patrick Grote, City Administrative Officer Scott Smith, City Clerk Laurie Sparks, Fire Chief Mike Steward, Public Works Director Shane Hamant, Police Chief Bart Beck

Presentation by Kenton County Judge Executive Kris Knochelmann

Judge Knochelmann presented an update of what is happening in Kenton County, including upgrades to services for Kenton County residents.

Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Ms. Thompson, to approve the minutes from the council meeting on July 31, 2025. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.

STAFF REPORTS

Fire Department

Chief Steward discussed his report and an update on working with the school during the construction.

Public Works

Mr. Hamant discussed his monthly report. Discussion on working with Cassandra Homan from Urban Canopy on completing a survey of trees throughout the city as part of a grant. Discussion on roadway improvements on Riversbreeze Drive, including the installation of a new drain system. Discussion on improvements to Ludlow Memorial Park, including securing funding for the installation of an amphitheater. Discussion on the status of street paving and speed humps.

Code Enforcement

Mr. West's report was included in the council packet.

Police Department

Chief Beck discussed his monthly report. Discussion on the possibility of the City creating a contract with towing companies for their services, similar to the one used by Taylor Mill. A contract would give the City control over the amount towing companies could charge residents for towing, impound, and storage fees. Ms. Terry Navarre advised that she believed it would be advantageous for the City to pursue a contract. Mr. Chapman inquired about the possibility of a permanent closure of the 100 block of Adela Avenue. Mr. Smith advised that the closure would prevent large trucks, including semis and concrete trucks, from going past the school and allow the school easier access to the property it purchased on the other side of Adela Avenue. Discussion on how traffic would be diverted and how it would impact Ideal and TANK bus service.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Wright advised that Ludlow would be hosting the Kenton County Mayor's Meeting on Saturday, August 16, 2025, at the Community Center and invited councilmembers to attend. Mayor Wright advised that he had spoken with Andrew Brunsman of Be Concerned and will follow up to see how to utilize their service in Ludlow. Discussion on EducateNKY and how the City's partnership will be beneficial to children in the community. Mayor Wright invited residents to attend the caucus meeting on August 28, 2025, to discuss what they would like to see on the property the City purchased on the west end of Ludlow. Mr. Chapman suggested that the City could maintain ownership of the property and lease it to a developer. Mayor Wright announced that he would not seek re-election next year. Mayor Wright advised that he loves Ludlow and Northern Kentucky and has quite a few opportunities to serve in a capacity other than mayor. Ms. Terry Navarre and Ms. Thompson thanked Mayor Wright for his service.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance—The Committee did not meet. A meeting is planned in September to review the tax rates. The Kenton County Property Valuation Administrator (PVA) is reevaluating property assessments this year that will go into effect next year.

Parks and Recreation—The Committee is working on a fall event with Reeves' Market scheduled for October 11, 2025. The Committee is also working on the Christmas Parade and working with Lt. Greg Eastham on planning a Touch a Truck event. Mr. Ziegler thanked Chief Steward, Chief Beck, and Mr. Hamant for their assistance with Hot Dogs in the Park this year and hopes to make it even bigger and better next year.

Public Works/Code Enforcement —The Committee did not meet.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Smith advised that the City had several successful events this summer, including Hot Dogs in the Park, Fireworks Festival, and Movie in the Park. Discussion on how Will Weber and Southbank have stepped up to help with projects the City doesn't have the funds to cover. Work is continuing on finding a contractor to complete the next phase of Riverfront Commons behind the football stadium. Public Works and Ideal worked to clear the property at the west end and the City hopes to get county or state money to help entice developers to the site. Discussion on approval of the Z21 Project, which will go before the Kenton County Planning Commission in September. The Carlisle property is almost ready for use. The City received a \$50,000.00 grant from UC Health toward the cost of a Fitness Court, but it will not be installed in Caple Park because the City was unable to raise the remaining funds. Discussion on the possibility of installing more benches and seating areas throughout the downtown area. The benches could be funded through donations in memory or honor of someone. Mr. Smith advised that he would have prices for the benches at the next council meeting.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Chad Finni, 517 Linden Street, discussed the issues with the brick road and curbs in the 500 block of Linden Street. Discussion on the costs of paving versus repairing the street and the possibility of obtaining a grant to help preserve it. Mayor Wright advised that he would like to hear from residents in the 500 block of Linden and in the community on how they feel about either paving or repairing the street. Ms. Finni also asked for clarification on the definition of "rubbish or

excessive growth”, which he believes is ambiguous. Ms. Terry Navarre advised that the issue of clarifying the definition would be on the agenda of their next committee meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Second Reading of Ordinance 2025-8

Mr. Grote completed the second reading of Ordinance 2025-8 *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)*. Mr. Grote advised that the ordinance does not include individual raises, only the range that employees may be compensated. **Motion by Mr. Chapman, second by Ms. Graszus, to adopt Ordinance 2025-8. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

Second Reading of Ordinance 2025-9

Mr. Grote completed the second reading of Ordinance 2025-9 *An Ordinance of the City of Ludlow, in Kenton County, Kentucky, Amending “Chapter 90: Streets and Sidewalks” of the City’s Code of Ordinances*. **Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Ms. Thompson, to adopt Ordinance 2025-9. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2025-11

Mr. Grote read Resolution 2025-11 *A Resolution of the City of Ludlow, Kentucky, Authorizing the Mayor to Enter Into the Statewide Emergency Management Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement*. **Motion by Mr. Chapman, second by Ms. Graszus, to approve Resolution 2025-11. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

Resolution 2025-12

Mr. Grote read Resolution 2025-12 *A Resolution of the City of Ludlow Expressing Its Commitment to Improving Kindergarten Readiness and Establishing a Place-Based Early Learning Initiative Known as Read Ready Ludlow*. Mayor Wright introduced Dr. Jenny Watson, Vice President of Early Learning and Family Power at EducateNKY, who discussed the importance boosting kindergarten readiness. **Motion by Ms. Thompson, second by Ms. Terry Navarre, to approve Resolution 2025-12. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.** Mayor Wright thanked council for unanimously passing the resolution to support Read Ready Ludlow.

First Reading of Ordinance 2025-10

Mr. Grote completed the first reading of Ordinance 2025-10 *An Ordinance Enacting and Adopting a Supplement to the Code of Ordinances of the City of Ludlow, Kentucky*.

First Reading of Ordinance 2025-11

Mr. Grote completed the first reading of Ordinance 2025-11 *An Ordinance of the City of Ludlow, in Kenton County, Kentucky, Adding Section 40.29 to the City’s Code of Ordinances to Prohibit Falsely Impugning the Reputation of Employees, Residents, or Officers*. Mr. Ziegler inquired about the purpose of the ordinance because he believed it was directed at him. Ms. Thompson advised that at a recent training, Kentucky League of Cities recommended that cities add this language to their ethics ordinance. Mr. Grote advised that the ordinance is almost identical to the City of Dayton’s ordinance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Chapman commended Jenny McMillen for doing great things as the Ludlow Community Center Coordinator.

Motion by Mr. Chapman, second by Ms. Graszus, to enter into executive session pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(c) discussions of proposed or pending litigation against the public agency at 8:21 p.m. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.

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Motion by Mr. Ziegler, second by Ms. Thompson, to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Sparks, City Clerk

Attest: _____
Chris Wright, Mayor