

LUDLOW COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

September 10, 2020

Mayor Josh Boone called the Public Hearing to order at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of hearing comments from the public regarding the institution of proposed tax rates for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. With no comments from the public, the public hearing was closed at 6:59 p.m.

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Mayor Josh Boone called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. City Clerk Laurie Sparks called the roll which showed the following council members present: Steve Chapman, Tiffany Grider, Bill Whiteley, Chris Wright, Vanetta Davis, and Julie Terry Navarre.

ALSO ATTENDING: City Attorney Todd McMurtry, City Administrator/Police Chief Scott Smith, City Clerk Laurie Sparks, Fire Chief Mike Steward, Public Works Director Shane Hamant, and Code Enforcement Officer Tom Garner

Motion by Ms. Grider, second by Mr. Chapman, to approve the minutes from the council meetings on August 13, 2020 and August 27, 2020. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.

STAFF REPORTS

Fire Department

Chief Steward discussed his monthly report. There will be a Hoxworth Blood Drive at the Firehouse on October 12th. Mayor Boone discussed a recent multi-car accident in the 400 block of Elm Street and thanked the Fire Department, Police, and Public Works for cleaning up the area.

Public Works

Mr. Hamant discussed his monthly report. Mr. Hamant thanked the Ludlow High School football team and coaches for assisting in clearing off the hillside near the train viewing platform.

Code Enforcement

Mr. Garner discussed his monthly report. No Certificate of Appropriateness applications were received. Mr. Garner advised that he is still waiting on Council's decision on the handicap parking application for the resident at 233 Lake Street. Following discussion, Council chose to deny the application for a handicap parking space in front of 233 Lake Street. Mr. Garner will send out notices to the owners of the 20 rental properties who have not purchased a rental license giving them 60 days to vacate the property. The goal is not to vacate the property but to get the owner to pay the rental license.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Boone advised that he spoke with County Clerk Gabe Summe regarding the November election. This year, Bromley residents will vote at the Ludlow Community Center along with all registered voters in Ludlow. Several people have expressed concerns about safety following the recent multi-car accident in the 400 block of Elm Street. Mayor Boone invited residents to attend the next caucus meeting to give their suggestions on improving safety in the area.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – The Committee had nothing to report.

Public Works – The Committee did not meet.

Safety – The Committee did not meet.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

The City is still waiting on word from the State on when the Adela Avenue Paving Project will begin. Discussion on an area of the blacktop that is torn up on Adela Avenue near the Ludlow School maintenance building. Chief Smith advised that he submitted the request to Planning and Development Services of Kenton County (PDS) for a text amendment to allow for an event facility in the area of 2-14 Highway Avenue. The City will submit paperwork applying for \$320,000.00 in funds through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. A new City Treasurer has been hired and will begin training with Alice Margolen on September 28, 2020. The City has reserved additional dumpsters for the fenced in area at Ash and Traverse for two weekends in October as part of a city wide clean up. Last month, there were 392 police calls, which is the lowest number of calls ever. The City is considering getting another K-9 that could be out on the street as early as December. There will be a Buddy Walk on September 12, 2020, beginning at the Police Department, continuing to Bromley, and ending at Buck's BBQ.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS MAYOR AND COUNCIL

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Resolution 2020-7

Mayor Boone advised that since he did not ask for a motion to pass Resolution 2020-7 before the vote at the previous meeting, he would like to have a redo of the vote. Mr. McMurtry read Resolution 2020-7. **Motion by Mr. Wright, second by Ms. Terry Navarre, to pass Resolution 2020-7 A Resolution of the City of Ludlow, Kentucky Declaring a 14-Day Work Period for Covered Law Enforcement Employees for Purposes of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2020-9

Mr. McMurtry read Resolution 2020-9 *A Resolution of the City of Ludlow Declaring Property as Surplus and Authorizing the Sale or Disposition of Such Property.* **Motion by Mr. Wright, second by Mr. Chapman, to approve Resolution 2020-9. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

Resolution 2020-10

Mr. McMurtry read Resolution 2020-10 *A Resolution Appointing John Haas as the Representative for the City of Ludlow on the Kenton County Joint Board of Adjustment.* **Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Ms. Davis, to approve Resolution 2020-10. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

Resolution 2020-11

Chief Smith explained that the owner of 12 Montrose Street has been maintaining the property, which is located between the rear of the property at 12 Montrose and Caple Park. Mr. McMurtry

read Resolution 2020-11 *A Resolution of the City of Ludlow, Kentucky Declaring Real Property as Surplus and Authorizing the Sale or Disposition of Such Real Property*. **Motion by Mr. Chapman, second by Ms. Grider, to approve Resolution 2020-11. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

Discussion on Setting the Real Property Tax Rate

Mayor Boone and Chief Smith recommended that Council take the compensating + 4% tax rate. Mr. Chapman advised that the City currently has the third highest tax rate, and he would like to keep the tax rate the same (\$.468 per \$100.00 valuation) because Ludlow Schools will likely take the compensating + 4% tax rate as they do every year. Mr. Chapman advised that the City will be receiving \$320,000.00 CARES funding. Chief Smith advised that the City has a tax anticipation note due in the amount of \$350,000.00. Chief Smith advised that the City survives on property taxes because it doesn't receive the amount of revenue from payroll taxes and gross receipts taxes that a lot of other cities collect. Discussion on the City's utility expenses going up every year and rising pension costs and the need to collect enough money to cover any emergency expenses. Mr. Chapman advised that people will want to know what they are getting for their tax money. From Mr. Murtry's experience serving on Ft. Wright city council for eight years, he advised that if a city does not take the compensating + 4% tax rate it makes it harder to catch up because the following year the City will be starting with a lower base amount. Mr. McMurry recommended that the City at least adopt the compensating rate to generate the same revenue as last year. Chief Smith advised that the compensating rate would allow the City to break even. Mayor Boone advised that property values in the City have increased, so the difference in the compensating rate over the previous year is narrower. Ms. Grider and Ms. Terry Navarre advised that they would be opposed to taking the compensating + 4% rate due to the pandemic. Chief Steward advised that when the Fire & EMS ad valorem tax was passed in 2002, it was only to cover the cost of staffing basic life support between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. during the week. Now, the Fire Department provides advanced life support and is staffed 24 hours a day. The revenue generated by the Fire & EMS tax falls short and \$230,000.00 will come out of the General Fund to cover the cost of expenses this year. The Fire & EMS tax can only be increased by putting it on the ballot. Following further discussion, Council agreed to two first readings of the tax rate ordinance – one setting the compensating tax rate and the other setting the compensating + 2% tax rate. Mr. McMurry advised that Council can decide which rate they would like to pass by the next meeting and only call up that ordinance for a second reading.

First Reading of Ordinance 2020-6

Mr. McMurry completed the first reading of Ordinance 2020-6 *An Ordinance Fixing the Tax Rate for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2020 and Ending June 30, 2020, Upon Real Estate, Personal, and Mixed Property in the City of Ludlow, Kentucky and Fixing the Time and Payment and Penalty for Non-Payment of Same* at \$.492 (per \$100.00 valuation) for real property and \$1.022 (per \$100.00 valuation) for personal property.

First Reading of Ordinance 2020-6a

Mr. McMurry completed the first reading of Ordinance 2020-6a *An Ordinance Fixing the Tax Rate for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2020 and Ending June 30, 2020, Upon Real Estate, Personal, and Mixed Property in the City of Ludlow, Kentucky and Fixing the Time and Payment and Penalty for Non-Payment of Same* at the compensating + 2% tax rate at \$.496 (per \$100 valuation) for real property and \$1.032 (per \$100.00 valuation) for personal property.

First Reading of Ordinance 2020-7

Mr. McMurtry completed the first reading of Ordinance 2020-7 *An Ordinance Fixing the Tax Rate for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2020 and Ending June 30, 2020, Upon Real Estate, Personal, and Mixed Property in the City of Ludlow, Kentucky, for the Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services Special Ad Valorem Tax, and Fixing the Time for Payment and Penalty for Non-Payment of Same.*

First Reading of Ordinance 2020-8

Mr. McMurtry completed the first reading of Ordinance 2020-8 *An Ordinance of the City of Ludlow, Kentucky, Designating a Portion of Elm Street as an "Entertainment Destination Center" Pursuant to 804 KAR 4:370.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

Motion by Ms. Grider, second by Mr. Chapman, to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Sparks, City Clerk

Attest: _____
Josh Boone, Mayor