

LUDLOW SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

September 23, 2021

Public Hearing – 6:45 p.m.

Mayor Josh Boone called the Public Hearing to order at 6:45 p.m. and read the proposed 2021 tax rates of \$.520 (per \$100 valuation) for real property and \$1.132 (per \$100 valuation) for personal and mixed property. Mayor Boone advised that the property values have been increasing and with the reassessment of property values taking effect next year, he hoped that it would be the last year for an increase. Mayor Boone discussed the plan that was established with the bank and auditor a few years ago to improve the City's finances. Mr. Chapman advised that the City has been prudent and cut over \$30,000.00 per month in expenses but would like to continue to build up a rainy day fund. Mr. Chapman advised that Ludlow, with the city combined with the school tax, has the highest tax rate in the area. A development on the west end of the city and completion of the Fischer Development would likely cause the tax rate to go down. Mr. Wright advised that he shares Mr. Chapman's financial concerns but is not comfortable with going above the compensating rate. Ms. Grider advised that she would be more comfortable with the compensating rate. Mr. Chapman advised that the proposed rate is the compensating rate with only a 1.7% increase.

Chief Smith advised that the City collected approximately 94% of the taxes last year; however, the City would only break even if it collected 100% of the taxes. The compensating + 2% rate gives the City a buffer of approximately \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00 additional revenue realistically instead of the projected \$30,000.00 additional revenue. Mr. Chapman advised that it hurts that the City does not have industry. Mayor Boone advised that some of the cities that reduced their tax rates were able to do so because they have industry and collect more in payroll taxes. The proposed development on the west end of the city is projected to create 200 jobs. Mr. Chapman advised that two years ago, the City increased the payroll tax rate and the gross receipts tax rate and cut expenses, and if the City hadn't done that, the State would have likely come in and taken over. Chief Smith advised that as part of the five-year plan with Kentucky League of Cities and the auditor, the City agreed to pass tax increases each year to catch up financially.

Mayor Boone opened the floor for public comment. Don Martin advised that he would like to donate money for the park or other city project on behalf of his parents and discussed their accomplishments. Mr. Martin advised that he saw a need with the restoration of the caboose and donated \$8,000.00 toward the project. In return, Mark Mitchell of the Ludlow Heritage Museum has agreed to install a bronze plaque on the caboose with Mr. Martin's father's name on it. Mr. Martin discussed naming the area where the caboose is located for his parents. Mayor Boone advised that he would speak to Mr. Martin following the meeting. The public hearing ended at 7:05 p.m.

.....

Special Council Meeting

Mayor Josh Boone called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Laurie Sparks called the roll, which showed the following council members present: Steve Chapman, Tiffany Grider, Brie Banks, Chris Wright, Vanetta Davis, and Julie Terry Navarre.

ALSO ATTENDING: City Attorney Steven Taylor, City Administrative Officer/Police Chief Scott Smith, City Clerk Laurie Sparks

UNFINISHED BUISINESS

Second Reading of Ordinance 2021-8

Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Mr. Chapman, to call up Ordinance 2021-8 *An Ordinance Fixing the Tax Rate for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2021, and Ending June 30, 2022, Upon Real Estate, Personal, and Mixed Property in the City of Ludlow, Kentucky, and Fixing the Time for Payment and Penalty for Non-Payment of Same* for a second reading. Mr. Taylor completed the second reading of Ordinance 2021-8, which sets the tax rate of \$.520 per \$100 valuation of real property and \$1.132 per \$100 valuation of personal and mixed property. **A roll call vote resulted in a tie of three ayes from Mr. Chapman, Ms. Davis, and Ms. Terry Navarre, and three nays from Ms. Grider, Ms. Banks, and Mr. Wright. Mayor Boone cast the tie-breaking vote in favor of passing the ordinance. Motion carried.**

First Reading of Ordinance 2021-9

Motion by Mr. Wright, second by Ms. Grider, to call up Ordinance 2021-9 *An Ordinance Fixing the Tax Rate for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2021, and Ending June 30, 2022, 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* for a second reading. Mr. Taylor completed the second reading of Ordinance 2021-9 which sets a rate of \$.175 per \$100 valuation on real, personal, and mixed property. **Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

Motion by Ms. Grider, second by Ms. Banks, to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Sparks, City Clerk

Attest: _____
Josh Boone, Mayor