

LUDLOW SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

September 25, 2025

Public Hearing – 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Sarah Thompson called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. Julie Terry Navarre read the Public Hearing notice that outlined the proposed tax rates and opened the floor for comments from the public regarding the institution of proposed tax rates for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year. City Attorney Patrick Grote read the three tax rates that will be voted on by council. Abigail Miller advised that she would like to lower the tax rate and set it at \$.483 per \$100.00 valuation. Mr. Grote advised that three rates were proposed at the last meeting and would be addressed at the special meeting. Peggy Messer, 618 Church Street, advised that she would like to keep the tax rate the same.

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Special Meeting – 7:15 p.m.

Mayor Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Laurie Sparks called the roll, which showed the following council members present: Steve Chapman, Paula Graszus, Dave Ziegler, Julie Terry Navarre, and Abigail Miller.

ALSO ATTENDING: City Attorney Patrick Grote, City Administrative Officer Scott Smith, City Clerk Laurie Sparks

Nomination and Vote to Fill the Vacancy on City Council

Motion by Mr. Chapman to nominate Jim Cicchetti to fill the vacant seat on City Council and serve for the remainder of the term. Motion died for lack of a second.

Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, seconded by Ms. Graszus, to nominate Meagan Guthrie to fill the vacant seat on City Council and serve the remainder of the term. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: three ayes (Ms. Graszus, Mr. Ziegler, Ms. Terry Navarre), one nay (Mr. Chapman), and one abstention (Ms. Miller). Ms. Guthrie was administered the oath of office of council by Mayor Thompson following the adjournment of the meeting.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS MAYOR AND COUNCIL

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Second Reading of Ordinance 2025-12a

Mr. Grote completed the second reading of Ordinance 2025-12a *An Ordinance of the City of Ludlow, Kenton County, Kentucky, Fixing the Tax Rate for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2025, and Ending June 30, 2026, 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* which sets the rate at \$.499 (per \$100.00 valuation) for real property and \$1.667 (per \$100.00 valuation) for personal and mixed property. Mr. Chapman advised that he initially wanted to keep the tax rate the same, but following discussions about upcoming planned improvements in the city, he realized that the City could not do those things at the current tax rate. No motion was made to adopt Ordinance 2025-12a.

Second Reading of Ordinance 2025-12b

Mr. Grote completed the second reading of Ordinance 2025-12b *An Ordinance of the City of Ludlow, Kenton County, Kentucky, Fixing the Tax Rate for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2025, and Ending June 30, 2026, 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* which sets the rate at the compensating + 2% rate of \$.534 (per \$100.00 valuation) for real property and \$1.842 (per \$100.00 valuation) for personal and mixed property. **Motion by Ms. Chapman to adopt Ordinance 2025-12b. Motion died for lack of a second.**

Second Reading of Ordinance 2025-12c

Mr. Grote completed the second reading of Ordinance 2025-12c *An Ordinance of the City of Ludlow, Kenton County, Kentucky, Fixing the Tax Rate for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2025, and Ending June 30, 2026, 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* which sets the rate at the compensating + 4% rate of \$.551 (per \$100.00 valuation) for real property and \$1.905 (per \$100.00 valuation) for personal and mixed property. **Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, seconded by Ms. Graszus, to adopt Ordinance 2025-12c. Following a roll call vote, motion failed: two ayes (Ms. Graszus, Ms. Terry Navarre), three nays (Mr. Chapman, Mr. Ziegler, Ms. Miller).**

Following discussion, Ms. Terry Navarre requested that council go back to consider Ordinance 2025-12b. **Motion by Ms. Graszus, seconded by Ms. Terry Navarre, to adopt Ordinance 2025-12b *An Ordinance of the City of Ludlow, Kenton County, Kentucky, Fixing the Tax Rate for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2025, and Ending June 30, 2026, 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.*** The ordinance sets the rate at the compensating + 2% rate of \$.534 (per \$100.00 valuation) for real property and \$1.842 (per \$100.00 valuation) for personal and mixed property. **Following a roll call vote, motion carried: three ayes (Mr. Chapman, Ms. Graszus, Ms. Terry Navarre), two nays (Mr. Ziegler, Ms. Miller).**

Second Reading of Ordinance 2025-13

Mr. Grote completed the second reading of Ordinance 2025-13 *An Ordinance of the City of Ludlow, Kenton County, Kentucky, Fixing the Tax Rate for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2025, and Ending June 30, 2026, 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.* The tax rate is set at \$.175 per \$100 valuation. **Motion by Ms. Chapman, seconded by Ms. Terry Navarre, to adopt Ordinance 2025-13. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading of Ordinance 2025-14

Mr. Grote completed the first reading of Ordinance 2025-14 *An Ordinance of the City of Ludlow, in Kenton County, Kentucky, Adding Section 97 to the City's Code of Ordinances to Establish Standards for Maintaining the City's Trees and Establishing Penalties for Damaging City Trees.* Ms. Terry Navarre advised that the ordinance would help establish standards in conjunction with the \$78,000.00 tree grant the City received. Ms. Miller requested a copy of the approved tree list before the second reading of the ordinance.

**Motion by Mr. Chapman, seconded by Mr. Ziegler, to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m.
Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Sparks, City Clerk

Attest: _____
Sarah Thompson, Mayor