

LUDLOW COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

February 9, 2023

Mayor Chris Wright 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: Lori Davenport, Brie Banks, Samantha Frank, Julie Terry Navarre, and Abigail Miller. Steve Chapman was absent.

ALSO ATTENDING: City Attorney Todd McMurtry, City Administrative Officer/Police Chief Scott Smith, City Clerk Laurie Sparks, Fire Chief Mike Steward, Public Works Director Shane Hamant, Code Enforcement Officer Jamie West

Presentation by John Chamberlin of the 2021-2022 Audit

John Chamberlin presented and discussed the City's audit for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Mr. Chamberlin advised that, if necessary, the City needs to pass an amended budget at the end of the fiscal year to ensure that the budget is balanced.

Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Ms. Davenport, to approve the minutes from the council meeting on January 12, 2023. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.

STAFF REPORTS

Fire Department

Chief Steward advised that the Fire Department has a new reporting system. Discussion on the recent junior firefighter meeting. Business safety inspections are ongoing. The Fire Department received a grant Kenton County Regional FEMA grant for ten digital pagers. Discussion on the process of EMS refusals. Kenton County will be hosting a class at the Ludlow Firehouse on March 8, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. that is open to the community to learn about how to deal with an overdose.

Public Works

Mr. Hamant advised that all three public works employees completed a flagging course at Kenton County Public Works and are certified for two years. Another light pole was knocked down at 102 Elm Street. The two light poles that were previously ordered will be in in April. Discussion on the public works employees doing a great job during the recent snow event.

Code Enforcement

Mr. West discussed the status of open and closed code enforcement cases. The Urban Design Review Board issued a Certificate of Appropriateness for a porch and fence replacement at 425 Elm Street. Mr. West reminded everyone that the first full week of each month is trash amnesty week. Mayor Wright thanked Mr. West for his efforts to educate everyone about trash regulations.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Wright advised that the City of Ludlow is turning 159 years old this month. Mayor Wright thanked Matt Williams and everyone who helped organize the upcoming Cabin Fever Music + Arts Festival on February 25, 2023.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – Ms. Miller advised that the Committee recently met to review the bank statements.

Parks and Recreation – Ms. Banks advised that the Committee would meet soon.

Public Works/Code Enforcement – Ms. Terry Navarre advised that the Committee will meet with Public Works on Monday, February 13, 2023, and Code Enforcement next month.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Chief Smith advised that a developer has expressed an interest in the west end and is making offers to purchase property in the area. Construction on the Fischer development should begin in mid to late summer. Discussion on the need for Council to decide if the City would like apply for a RAISE (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) grant to help with design and engineering plans for the Riverfront Commons project. All of the other river cities that are part of the Riverfront Commons project have chosen to apply for the grant. Southbank provided drawings of the proposed Riverfront Commons project, which were included in the packet. Mayor Wright recommended that the City move forward with the grant. Discussion on a recent meeting Chief Smith attended with Berling Engineering and the oversight committee from River's Breeze on January 31, 2023, to discuss the Fischer development. Discussion on working with the City of Bromley on the possibility of their contribution toward the purchase of a new ambulance. The Police Department had 637 calls last month, which is the highest it has been in a few years, but many were business and area checks.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS MAYOR AND COUNCIL

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-1

Mr. McMurtry completed the second reading of Ordinance 2023-1 *An Ordinance of the City of Ludlow, in Kenton County, Kentucky, Amending Ordinance 2022-10.* **Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2023-6

Mr. McMurtry read Resolution 2023-6 *A Resolution Appointing Araminta Knight to Serve on the Urban Design Review Board.* **Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Ms. Frank, to approve Resolution 2023-6. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

Resolution 2023-7

Mr. McMurtry read Resolution 2023-7 *A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Ludlow, in Kenton County, Kentucky Opposing the Passage of Senate Bill 50 and House Bill 50 Relating to Partisan Local Elections.* Discussion on the proposed Senate Bill 50 and House Bill 50, which would turn non-partisan elections into partisan elections and the issues that could create. **Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Ms. Banks, to approve Resolution 2023-7. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

Resolution 2023-8

Mr. McMurtry read Resolution 2023-8 *A Resolution of the City of Ludlow, in Kenton County, Kentucky in Support of House Bill 1 Pending Before the Kentucky Legislature to Reduce the State Income Tax Rate to 4% Beginning January 1, 2024.* Mayor Wright advised that House Bill 1 would reduce the state income tax from 4.5% to 4%. **Motion by Ms. Davenport, second by Ms. Frank, to approve Resolution 2023-8. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: 4 ayes. Ms. Miller abstained from voting because she did not have enough information about the issue.**

First Reading of Ordinance 2023-2

Mr. McMurtry completed the first reading of Ordinance 2023-2 *An Ordinance of the City of Ludlow, in Kenton County, Kentucky, Repealing the City's Civil Service Ordinance.* Chief Smith advised that Civil Service was created in the 1970s and 1980s to protect police officers. Because the current Police Officer Bill of Rights through the state strengthens those protections, Civil Service is no longer needed.

First Reading of Ordinance 2023-3

Mr. McMurtry completed the first reading of Ordinance 2023-3 *An Ordinance of the City of Ludlow, in Kenton County, Kentucky, Authorizing the Conveyance of Real Estate.* Discussion on the small parcel of land that the City will convey to Grand Communities, LLC through a Quitclaim Deed. Discussion on the possibility of the City collecting the \$2,000.00 assessed value of the property. A special meeting will be held on February 23, 2023, prior to the caucus meeting, for a second reading of Ordinance 2023-3.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Terry Navarre advised that the Civic Garden Center will be hosting a discussion on backyard chickens on April 15, 2023. Ms. Banks thanked 1975 Burgers, Shakes, and Fries for opening and stated that it was great to see the community come out and support them. Ms. Davenport encouraged everyone to come out and support Cabin Fever on February 25, 2023.

Motion by Ms. Davenport, second by Ms. Banks, to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Sparks, City Clerk

Attest: _____
Chris Wright, Mayor