

LUDLOW COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

March 13, 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. Abigail Miller was absent.

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

Presentation by Planning & Development Services of Kenton County (PDS) on the Z21 Project

Kristen Martin and Andy Videkovich of PDS gave a brief overview of the codes, including which sections are changing and which are staying the same. The goal of the Z21 project is to create a code that is the same for all cities. Council would need to pass a resolution granting authorization to move forward in adopting the new code.

Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Ms. Graszus, to approve the minutes from the council meeting on February 13, 2025. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.

STAFF REPORTS

Fire Department

Chief Steward discussed his report, including recent meetings with the school regarding the construction project and with BP in Bromley. Chief Steward reminded everyone to check the batteries in their smoke detectors.

Public Works

Mr. Hamant discussed his monthly report, including discussion on Lemker Field, and lighting at Hollingsworth Field. Mr. Hamant thanked the fire department for their assistance in clearing chalk graffiti off the skatepark. Discussion on replacing the metal stalls at the restrooms at Ludlow Memorial Park with a heavy composite due to vandalism. Discussion on the possibility of purchasing a heater for the restroom building to prevent pipes from freezing and allow the restrooms to be open earlier in the spring.

Code Enforcement

Mr. West discussed his monthly report and advised that there will be a City Clean Up Day on April 12, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the corner of Ash & Traverse Streets.

Police Department

Chief Beck discussed the monthly calls report and a comparison of the pay scales for police agencies in the area that he hopes Council will consider when making adjustments to the City's pay rates. Discussion on creating a safety committee made up of two council members to work with the police and fire departments to help the City get the best insurance rate.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Wright met with Mr. Smith, Will Weber of Southbank, and Dr. Jason Steffen of Ludlow Schools to discuss finalizing the portion of Riverfront Commons that will run behind the football stadium.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – The Committee did not meet.

Parks and Recreation – The Committee met to discuss the fireworks festival and Hot Dogs in the Park. Discussion on the need to develop rules and policies for using the concession stand in the park.

Public Works/Code Enforcement – The Committee met to discuss developing a sidewalk ordinance and increasing the sidewalk rebate from 20% of the total cost, up to \$200.00, to 50% of the total cost, up to \$500.00. The tree grant has been put on hold. The Committee discussed replacing the playground equipment in Caple Park.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Smith has been working with Southbank looking into corridor grants to paint or modify the current streetlights in the downtown business district.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Peter Bishop, 329 Skyview Court, inquired about whether the development at Cityview Station was on schedule. Mr. Smith advised that, according to the City's engineer, the development is on schedule. Mr. Bishop requested a timeline for the development and discussed an issue of dust from the area.

Tim Huff, 614 Church Street, advised that he is the high school girls varsity softball coach and requested that lights be installed at Hollingworth Field. Mr. Smith stated that he has been obtaining pricing for lighting at the field. One of the estimates came in at \$100,000.00, so Mr. Smith is looking for a more affordable option. Discussion on working with the school and possibly receiving donations to help with the cost.

Samantha Frank, 2 Euclid Street, advised that she is in favor of a sidewalk ordinance update because it would be nice to walk around the city without busted and broken sidewalks.

Rev. James Todd Smith of Wesley United Methodist Church requested that the City reimburse homeowners more than \$500.00 for sidewalk replacement. Rev. Smith suggested that the City take over maintenance of sidewalks throughout the city.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading of Ordinance 2025-1

Mr. McMurtry completed the first reading of Ordinance 2025-1 *An Ordinance of the City of Ludlow, Kenton County, Kentucky, Enacting the "Smoke-Free Air Ordinance" That Prohibits Smoking in Places Open to the Public, Places of Employment and Certain Public Places in the City of Ludlow, Kentucky.*

First Reading of Ordinance 2025-2

Mr. McMurtry completed the first reading of Ordinance 2025-2 *An Ordinance Amending the City of Ludlow, Kentucky, Code of Ordinances Sections §70.65 Through §70.99 Golf Cart Regulations*. The ordinance changes the requirements of obtaining a golf cart permit and sets the due date for December 31st each year.

The first reading of Ordinance 2025-3 *An Ordinance Amending the City of Ludlow Code of Ordinances, Chapter 156 Zoning Code, for the Purpose of Prohibiting the Establishment and Operation of Vape Shops Within the City of Ludlow* was postponed. Mr. McMurtry advised that PDS requires a text amendment before the ordinance could be passed.

First Reading or Ordinance 2025-4

Mr. McMurtry completed the first reading of Ordinance 2025-4 *An Ordinance of the City of Ludlow, Kentucky, Addressing Excessive Absences by City Council Members*. The ordinance would require council members to attend 50% of the meetings during a six-month period.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Terry Navarre announced that the Ohio River Sweep will be on Sunday, March 23, 2024, from Noon to 2:00 p.m. at Ludlow Memorial Park. The first Walk ‘n Talk ‘n Trash of the season will begin at Ludlow Plaza on April 9, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Following discussion, council agreed to cancel the March caucus meeting because it falls on the same day as Cincinnati Reds’ Opening Day.

Motion by Ms. Graszus, second by Ms. Thompson, to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Sparks, City Clerk

Attest: _____
Chris Wright, Mayor