

LUDLOW COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

April 13, 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: Steve Chapman, Brie Banks, Samantha Frank, Julie Terry Navarre, and Abigail Miller. Lori Davenport was absent.

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

Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Ms. Frank, to approve the minutes from the council meeting on March 9, 2023. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.

STAFF REPORTS

Fire Department

Chief Steward discussed his monthly report, including attending the recent Kenton County Hazard Mitigation Plan Community Focus Meeting and the status of the Junior Firefighter Program.

Public Works

Shane Hamant's report was included in the council packet.

Code Enforcement

Jamie West was absent because he was attending the Kenton County Joint Code Enforcement Board meeting. Mr. West's report was included in the council packet. Mayor Wright announced that the rental licenses are due by Monday, April 17, 2023.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Wright attended the recent Mayors Group Meeting. Several state legislators were in attendance at the meeting who stated that they heard the cities loud and clear in their opposition to SB 50 & HB 50. Mayor Wright thanked Council for allowing him to oppose the two bills. Mayor Wright met with Mayor Denham to discuss the renewal of the fire contract. Mayor Wright thanked Mayor Cleves and Melissa Morandi from the City of Bellevue for meeting with him, Ms. Davenport, and Ms. Banks to discuss event planning. Mayor Wright attended the Ludlow Historic Society meeting in March. Coffee with the Mayor will be moved to the third Tuesday for the month of April due to a scheduling conflict. Mayor Wright thanked everyone who participated in the recent Walk 'N Talk 'N Trash. Walk 'N Talk 'N Trash will be held on the second Tuesday of the month meeting at Ludlow Plaza at 7:00 p.m. on the following dates: May 9, June 13, July 11th, August 8th, September 12th, and October 10th.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – The Committee recently met to review the finances, and everything was in order.

Parks and Recreation – Ms. Banks advised that she, Ms. Davenport, and Mayor Wright met with representatives of Bellevue to discuss city event planning. Ms. Banks advised that they are

excited to plan events for Ludlow and would like to start small with Movies in the Park. Anyone with event ideas should email Ms. Banks or Ms. Davenport. Mayor Wright invited Ms. Banks to attend the next Coffee with the Mayor to discuss event ideas.

Public Works/Code Enforcement – Ms. Terry Navarre advised that the Committee did not meet in March. The City Cleanup day for large items will be held on Saturday, April 15, 2023, between 9:00 a.m. and noon at the lot at Ash and Traverse Streets.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Chief Smith attended the recent Kenton County Hazard Mitigation Plan Community Focus Group Meeting. Discussion on getting the police officers signed up for required online training before heading into summer. There were over 700 calls last month, three-quarters of which were self-initiated. Discussion on how Ludlow Park is monitored and plans for addressing several issues in the park, such as profanity and bullying among teenagers. Currently, the police are patrolling the parks and monitoring the cameras in the park. The school has been involved in addressing issues with students in the past. Following discussion, Ms. Banks suggested that Mayor Wright ask parents to attend the next Coffee with the Mayor to discuss their suggestions on addressing the issues in Ludlow Park. Chief Smith advised that if anyone sees someone committing a crime or creating a problem in Ludlow Park, they should call the police right away instead of posting about it on Facebook later.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS MAYOR AND COUNCIL

John Graszus of Oak Street advised that when he was in the park with his grandson recently, he witnessed a 13- or 14-year-old boy cussing out another kid.

Alissa Lee of Park Avenue asked if the City could hire a security guard for the park or fine the parents of the kids who are violating the law. Chief Smith advised that a security guard does not have any legal rights and would need to get an officer involved if there is a crime. The City has made kids perform community service in the past and made their parents/guardians pay for property damage. Further discussion on issues with middle school children causing issues at Ludlow Park.

John Hall of 37 Kenner Street is President of the Ludlow Historic Society (LHS). The next LHS meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the Lower Level Meeting Room of the City Building. Last month, they discussed ideas, such as a 5K or hosting storyteller sessions. The LHS has also begun distributing a monthly newsletter. Discussion on including the trail behind the football stadium as part of the Riverfront Commons path.

Paula Graszus inquired about when the lights would be reinstalled at Hollingsworth Field. The lights at Hollingsworth had to come down because the poles were rotten. Chief Smith is working with the Reds Community Fund to see about redoing Hollingsworth Field, which would be on a smaller scale than the renovation at Lemker Field. Chief Smith advised that light poles have been purchased for the field, but he is waiting to hear back from the Reds before installing them.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-4

Steven Taylor completed the second reading of Ordinance 2023-4. Mayor Wright advised that the ordinance corrects clerical issues that occurred between 40 and 100 years ago and that the City

should have never owned the land the where the school building stands. **Motion by Mr. Chapman, second by Ms. Banks, to adopt Ordinance 2023-4 An Ordinance of the City of Ludlow, in Kenton County, Kentucky, Authorizing the Conveyance of Real Estate. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading of Ordinance 2023-5

Steven Taylor discussed Ordinance 2023-5 *An Ordinance of the City of Ludlow, in Kenton County, Kentucky, Amending Sections 95.04 and 95.05 of the City's Code of Ordinances*, which allows chickens with restrictions. Mayor Wright advised that he is against adopting an ordinance allowing chickens within the city and discouraged Council from passing the ordinance. Mayor Wright advised that most of the feedback he has gotten regarding a chicken ordinance has been from people who are opposed to it. Ms. Miller discussed a few grammatical errors in the ordinance. Mayor Wright advised that the police department is already short-staffed and dealing with additional issues occurring the Ludlow Park and now they will have to deal with issues with chickens. From a logistical standpoint, Mayor Wright advised he does not want to pass an ordinance allowing chickens in the city. If Council chooses to pass the ordinance, Mayor Wright advised that he wants to make it as enforceable as possible. **Following further discussion, motion by Ms. Miller, second by Ms. Terry Navarre, to table the first reading of Ordinance 2023-5 pending further discussion. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Terry Navarre announced that the City Cleanup will be on Saturday, April 15, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the lot at Ash & Traverse Streets. Ms. Frank advised that tires may be disposed of for free during the event. Ms. Miller advised that she and Ms. Davenport will be hosting a benefit fundraiser for the Ludlow Vets on April 22, 2023, from noon until 4:00 p.m. at the Ludlow Vets.

Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Ms. Frank, to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Sparks, City Clerk

Attest: _____
Chris Wright, Mayor