

LUDLOW COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

June 11, 2020

Mayor Josh Boone called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. City Administrator/Police Chief Scott Smith called the roll which showed the following council members present: Steve Chapman, Tiffany Grider, Bill Whiteley, Chris Wright, Vanetta Davis, and Julie Terry Navarre.

ALSO ATTENDING: City Attorney Timothy Lynch, City Administrator/Police Chief Scott Smith, Fire Chief Mike Steward

Motion by Ms. Grider, second by Mr. Chapman, to approve the minutes from the council meeting on May 14, 2020. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.

STAFF REPORTS

Fire Department

Mr. Steward discussed his monthly report, including the number of runs in Ludlow and Bromley. Discussion on the recent incident of fighting two fires at the same time—a structure on the railroad property and a house at 107 Elm Street. Covington, Park Hills, Ft. Mitchell, and Ft. Wright Fire Department assisted with extinguishing the fires. Chief Steward also thanked the Kenton County Fire Investigation Team. Mayor Boone commended Chief Steward and his team for a very professional job. Both buildings have been vacant for years and the cause of the fires is still under investigation. The railroad is taking care of the building on their property. The City will pay \$20,000.00 to tear down the building at 107 Elm Street and file a lien on the property for that amount. The owner of 109 Elm Street has expressed an interest in purchasing the property at 107 Elm Street.

Public Works

Mayor Boone advised that the roof replacement on the Municipal Center is almost finished. Discussion on the potential costs to replace the AC units at the Ludlow Community Center. Discussion on the status of the Adela Avenue Paving Project. The State has not provided an updated start date for the project. Discussion on working with the State to install lights at Davies and Elm Street to allow two-way traffic on Davies Street. Council passed the ordinance changing Davies Street from a one-way to two-way street last year. Ms. Terry Navarre advised that she was asked by the owners of a property on Kenner Street if they could clear away the brush at the end of the street for a better view of the river. Chief Smith advised that he would look into who owns the riverfront property and get back with Ms. Terry Navarre.

Code Enforcement

Mayor Boone advised that the rental licenses are due June 15, 2020. Discussion on a new sober living house in the city, which Mr. Garner provides details about in his monthly report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Boone advised that the project at 38 Elm Street is still moving forward. Mayor Boone advised that he toured two houses that the developer recently finished on Philadelphia Street in

Covington and was impressed with the higher end finishes. One house sold for \$275,000.00 and the other sold for \$300,000.00. The City extended the developer's due diligence period due to the coronavirus pandemic and the developer is continuing to work on the project. Mayor Boone advised that he met with the owners of the Buffalo Bar who are looking to redevelop the bar and develop the adjacent vacant lot. Mayor Boone advised that he met with Cincinnati Bell to discuss the possibility of installing eight Wi-Fi hotspots throughout the city. There would be some cost to the City. Cincinnati Bell is currently working with Ludlow Schools to provide free internet to 100 families. Mayor Boone advised that, last year, he was approached by a few businesses requesting that the City create an entertainment zone that would permit carrying open containers between establishments. Mayor Boone advised that he looked into it and will forward the information on to Council for review and possible discussion at the next caucus meeting.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Chief Smith advised that Ernie's (333-335 Elm Street) will have to be torn down. Challis Hodge is still interested in purchasing the property and, if his attorney approves the new contract with the City, it would allow him thirty days to tear down the building and one year to begin construction on a two to three-story building with retail below and residential above. Next week, Chief Smith advised that he would interview for the administrative assistant position and will advertise for the City Treasurer position. The new Treasurer will work with Alice Margolen from August through November and then take over the position when Ms. Margolen retires at the end of the year. Chief Smith is also looking for a new school resource officer since Officer Bill Sparks retired. The review of the personnel policy is complete and final revisions must be made before it is presented to council. Discussion on the proposed pay scales that Council will need to approve as well. Mr. Wright inquired about whether there has been any feedback on the outdoor restaurant seating. Mayor Boone advised that he had two business thank him for allowing the outdoor seating and he hasn't received any complaints.

Chief Smith advised that it is an interesting time in policing right now. Chief Smith cautioned Council against changing something that is working so well. Discussion on letting the big cities make changes as they see fit and the City can just keep doing what they're doing because as a whole it's working. Mayor Boone advised that calls have dropped significantly since Chief Smith was hired five years ago and there has been much improvement in the relationship between the police and the community.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – Mr. Chapman and Ms. Davis met with Chief Smith and reviewed the March and April bank statements.

Public Works – The Committee did not meet.

Safety – Mr. Wright advised that a scheduled meeting was cancelled due to the structure fires. The Committee will try to reschedule before the next business meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Second Reading of Ordinance 2020-4

Mr. Lynch completed the second reading of Ordinance 2020-4 *An Ordinance Setting the Budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 Through June 30, 2021 for the City of Ludlow Calling for Revenue of \$4,179,896.00 and Expenditures of \$4,015,610.00.* **Motion by Mr. Chapman, second by Mr. Wright, to adopt Ordinance 2020-4. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

**Motion by Mr. Wright, second by Ms. Terry Navarre, to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m.
Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Sparks, City Clerk

Attest: _____
Josh Boone, Mayor