

**LUDLOW COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

**June 8, 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, Lori Davenport, Ari Knight, Julie Terry Navarre, and Abigail Miller. (Samantha Frank 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

Mayor Wright administered the Oath of Office of City Council to Ari Knight. Ms. Knight is filling a vacancy that was created by the resignation of Brie Banks.

Mayor Wright administered the Oath of Office of Police Officer to Thomas Finke.

**Tax Rate Presentation by the Finance Committee**

Mr. Chapman gave a presentation on how the city tax rate is calculated and statistics on the collection rates. Mr. Chapman advised that the City needs development, both residential and commercial, to increase the overall assessed value of property in the city and lower the tax rates.

**Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Ms. Davenport, to approve the minutes from the council meeting on May 11, 2023. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

**STAFF REPORTS**

**Fire Department**

Chief Steward discussed his monthly report. Hydrant testing has begun, and signs have been posted around the city. Discussion on two equipment grants the Fire Department received from the Kentucky Fire Commission for the purchase of a Combi-tool extrication tool and a multi-gas detector.

**Public Works**

Mr. Hamant recently met with Ms. Terry Navarre and Cassandra Holman of the Urban Forestry Council to discuss the possibility of a tree grant. A large maple tree was removed at Ludlow Park near the basketball court because it was not in good health. The Montclair Avenue paving project has started. Discussion on issues with the Bobcat.

**Code Enforcement**

Mr. West discussed the status of code enforcement cases. Mr. West reminded everyone that it is the property owner's responsibility to maintain the grass area in the utility strip between the sidewalk and the curb. The Urban Design Review Board reviewed certificate of appropriateness applications for 41 Euclid Street and 34 Butler Street. Paint the Town will be painting five houses in Ludlow and four houses in Bromley on June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 350 long-term and 27

short-term rental licenses have been issued, which is up by 8% over last year. Discussion on the fee structure for code violations.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Wright thanked the committee who worked on the Memorial Day Parade and ceremony. The next Shop Ludlow will be on Saturday, June 10, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Mayor Wright congratulated Chief Smith for being a finalist for the Cincinnati Upstander Award; he will be recognized at a gala held at Union Terminal on June 11, 2023.

### **COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

*Parks and Recreation* – The Committee did not meet.

*Public Works/Code Enforcement* – Ms. Terry Navarre advised that Ms. Frank recently met with Mr. West.

### **CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

Chief Smith is working with another developer interested in the west end. Chief Smith has been working with Ludlow Schools and the Reds Community Fund to hopefully upgrade Hollingsworth Field. The City received a \$100,000.00 grant for the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a study to help mitigate flooding around the Ohio River and Pleasant Run Creek. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet has agreed to sell the easement near 38 Elm Street to the City, which will make the area ready for development. Discussion on hiring Thomas Finke, who is the first new police recruit the City has hired in over ten years, and planning ahead to recruit officers who are farther away from retirement for the future of the department. All new recruits must stay with the City for at least five years. Chief Smith discussed the police call report and how it compares to other local cities.

### **CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

None

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-5**

Mr. McMurtry completed the second reading of 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*. Mayor Wright advised that a “no” vote would be against allowing chickens in the city and a “yes” vote would allow chickens in the city. **Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Ms. Davenport, to call up Ordinance 2023-5 for a vote. Following a roll call vote, motion to pass Ordinance 2023-5 failed: two ayes (Davenport, Miller) and three nays (Chapman, Knight, Terry Navarre).**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **First Reading of Ordinance 2023-6**

Mr. McMurtry completed the first reading of Ordinance 2023-6 *An Ordinance Amending the Budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 Through June 30, 2023 for the City of Ludlow Calling for Revenue of ~~\$4,628,800.00~~ \$5,524,866.10 and Expenditures of ~~\$4,300,340.00~~ \$4,883,637.10*. Mayor Wright explained the need for a budget amendment at the end of the fiscal year.

**First Reading of Ordinance 2023-7**

Mr. McMurtry completed the first reading of Ordinance 2023-7 *An Ordinance Setting the Budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 Through June 30, 2024 for the City of Ludlow Calling for Revenue of \$4,987,545.00 and Expenditures of \$4,211,640.00.* Mr. Chapman advised that for the first time in several years, the City is now in a position to begin a contingency fund of approximately \$500,000.00.

**First Reading of Ordinance 2023-8**

Mr. McMurtry completed the first reading of Ordinance 2023-8 *An Ordinance Amending Section 50.06: Waste Collection Assessments of the Ludlow Code of Ordinances To Establish the Annual Fee.* The garbage rates will increase each year over the three-year contract with Rumpke. Mayor Wright advised that the City was originally in a collaborative agreement with several other cities to negotiate a garbage contract; however, the collaborative fell apart and the City had to negotiate on our own.

**Resolution 2023-10**

Mr. McMurtry read Resolution 2023-9 *A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Ludlow, Kentucky, Authorizing the Issuance of Up To \$99,500,000 Maximum Aggregate Principal Amount Taxable Industrial Building Revenue Bonds, Series 2023A, and Authorizing the Issuance of Up To \$6,500,000 Maximum Aggregate Principal Amount Special Obligation Revenue Bonds, Series 2023B, and Authorizing the Issuance of Up To \$14,000,000 Maximum Aggregate Principal Amount Special Obligation Revenue Bonds, Series 2023C, In Order To Assist Grand Communities, LLC, or Assigns, To Finance the Acquisition, Construction and Equipping of an Industrial Building Facility and Related Infrastructure Improvements Located Within the City of Ludlow, Kentucky and To Improve Said Facility; Providing for the Pledge of Revenues for the Payment of Said Bonds; Authorizing a Springing Executory Interest Deed; Authorizing Trust Indentures Appropriate for the Protection and Disposition of Such Revenues and Further To Secure the Payment of Said Bonds; Authorizing a Bond Purchase or Bond Placement Agreement; Authorizing A Pilot Mortgage To Secure Pilot Payments, Authorizing a Home Office Payment Agreement, And Authorizing the Execution of Any Further Necessary Instruments.* Mayor Wright advised that the purpose of the resolution is to approve the bonds that are tied to the Cityview Station Project by Fischer Homes. **Motion by Mr. Chapman, second by Ms. Knight, to pass Resolution 2023-10. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: three ayes, one nay from Ms. Davenport, and one abstention from Ms. Miller.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Miller announced that the First Baptist Church of Ludlow, 400 Linden Street, will be hosting a free community meal on Friday, June 9, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. The Community Closet will also be available during the event.

**Motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Mr. Chapman, to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Laurie Sparks, City Clerk

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Wright, Mayor