

LUDLOW COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

July 9, 2020

Mayor Josh Boone 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, Tiffany Grider, Bill Whiteley, Chris Wright, and Julie Terry Navarre. Vanetta Davis was absent.

ALSO ATTENDING: City Attorney Todd McMurtry, City Administrator/Police Chief Scott Smith, City Clerk Laurie Sparks, Fire Chief Mike Steward, Public Works Director Shane Hamant, and Code Enforcement Officer Tom Garner

Presentation by Senator Chris McDaniel

Sen. Chris McDaniel discussed the new legislation that resulted from the recent Legislative Session.

Motion by Mr. Wright, second by Ms. Terry Navarre, to approve the minutes from the council meeting on June 11, 2020. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.

STAFF REPORTS

Fire Department

Chief Steward discussed his monthly report and thanked those who brought water to the fire fighters while they were fighting the recent structure fires on Elm Street and Oak Street. Fire hydrant testing throughout the city is complete and the hydrants have been painted.

Code Enforcement

Mr. Garner discussed his monthly report. The Urban Design Review Board had a virtual meeting where they discussed and finalized the changes to the guidelines ordinance. Patrick Snadon or Tom Amann will make a presentation of the proposed changes to Council at a future meeting for final approval before they are submitted to Planning and Development Services of Kenton County (PDS). There are 127 delinquent rental licenses; Mr. Garner has contacted the property owners to advise them that the license is due. Discussion on a handicap parking application the City received from a resident on Lake Street. Mr. Garner denied the application because the owner has a driveway; however, the resident has requested an appeal to Council. Mr. Garner included photographs of the property for Council to review along with the resident's letter requesting an appeal. Following a discussion, Mayor Boone suggested tabling the decision until next month and asked Mr. Garner to advise the resident that Council will look into the situation. Discussion on the status of proceeding with the mass foreclosures. Mr. McMurtry advised that the only cost to the City would be the title search; the attorney would collect the filing fee. The courts are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so the mass foreclosures are on hold. Discussion on the status of 107 Elm Street.

Public Works

Mr. Hamant discussed his monthly report, including the need for a new roof on the Community Center, the status of the stained-glass window coverings, and pothole repairs. The curbs have

been painted on Davies Street and the City is waiting for the State to install the stop light at the intersection of Elm and Davies Streets to allow for two-way traffic. The renovation of Lemker Field by the Cincinnati Reds has been placed on hold due to the global pandemic.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Discussion on a request from Paul Miller for zoning changes on his property on Highway Avenue. Mayor Boone advised that he wants to make sure the City does everything correctly and carefully reviews the proposed changes. Discussion on an update with Cincinnati Bell possibly providing eight Wi-Fi hotspots throughout the City. Chief Smith advised that, ideally, the local businesses would help fund the cost of the Wi-Fi access by purchasing advertising.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – Mr. Chapman and Ms. Davis met with Chief Smith and reviewed the May bank statements and everything was in order.

Public Works – The Committee did not meet.

Safety – The Committee did not meet.

Ms. Grider provided an update on improvement plans for the parks.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Chief Smith advised that the easement for the property at 38 Elm Street is owned by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, not the railroad as originally thought. The City Attorney is looking into the best steps to resolve the issue. The Adela Avenue paving project is delayed because the State is waiting for an environmental waiver to be signed before they will allow the project to begin. Mr. Chapman advised that he will contact Rep. Buddy Wheatley to see if he could assist in getting the project started. Chief Smith advised that Ernie's will be demolished within 10 to 14 days. The "BAR" sign will stay with the building and be repurposed into the new construction. If the new owner does not want the sign, it will go back to the City. The Ludlow Heritage Museum is raising money for the cost of shipping and renovation of a caboose that will be delivered to the Ludlow Bromley Yacht Club's parking lot between 3:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. on Friday, July 10, 2020. Once the renovation is complete, the caboose will be moved to an area next to the Train Viewing Station. The Museum will retain ownership of the caboose, but it will be covered under the City's insurance at no additional cost. The new administrative assistant will begin on July 27, 2020. The City is still looking for someone to fill the School Resource Officer and City Treasurer positions. Discussion on Paul Miller's request for a text amendment to the zoning ordinance for his property on Highway Avenue. Chief Smith discussed Mr. Miller's request to allow tents and portable restrooms on the property for events. Chief Smith expressed his concerns about access to the building, parking, fire safety issues, and the safety of the people crossing the street to get to the venue where there is no crosswalk. Mr. McMurtry advised that a proposed text and map amendment should be part of a development agreement presented by Mr. Miller. Chief Smith advised that the Police Department is running really well, and the call volume continues to be low. Chief Smith advised that he recently participated on a Northern Kentucky Community Action Coalition podcast on a panel with other police chiefs. The new radios will go into effect in a few weeks after over two years of planning. The City purchased two Chevrolet Tahoes for the Police Department. There are plans to fix up the Humvee and use it for events.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS MAYOR AND COUNCIL

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading of Ordinance 2020-5

Mr. McMurtry completed the first reading of Ordinance 2020-5 *An Ordinance Enacting and Adopting a Supplement to the Code of Ordinances of the City of Ludlow, Kentucky.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Wright reminded everyone that the Heritage Museum is raising money to fund the restoration of the caboose through a Go Fund Me page. Mr. Chapman advised that he was contacted about issues with fireworks and expressed concern that they could start a fire. Chief Smith advised that it is impossible for the police to find every person who is shooting off fireworks. Chief Steward advised that, although the risk is minimal, there is always the possibility of danger with fireworks. Further discussion on the laws pertaining to fireworks. Mr. Whiteley advised that there was an article in River City News stating that the property values in Ludlow have increased more than in any other city in Kentucky between 2010 and 2020.

Motion by Ms. Grider, second by Ms. Terry Navarre, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes.

Respectfully,

Laurie Sparks, City Clerk

Attest: _____
Josh Boone, Mayor