

LUDLOW COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

August 10, 2023

Mayor Chris Wright called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Scott Smith called the roll, which showed the following council members present: Steve Chapman, Lori Davenport, Samantha Frank, Julie Terry Navarre, and Abigail Miller. (Ari Knight was absent.)

ALSO ATTENDING: City Attorney Steven Taylor, City Administrative Officer/Police Chief Scott Smith, Fire Chief Mike Steward, Public Works Director Shane Hamant

Motion by Mr. Chapman, second by Ms. Terry Navarre, to approve the minutes from the council meetings on June 8, 2023, and June 22, 2023. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.

STAFF REPORTS

Fire Department

Chief Steward discussed his monthly report. The Kentucky Fire Commission recently completed an audit of the Fire Department. Safety inspections of all businesses are continuing. Hydrant testing has been completed. Mayor Wright congratulated Chief Steward on the strength of the Junior Firefighter Program.

Public Works

Mr. Hamant advised that Riegler will finish repairs on Montclair Avenue after their paving projects are finished for the year. Discussion on looking into the costs of reconstructing versus paving the 500 block of Linden Street. Following discussion, Mayor Wright requested that Mr. Hamant obtain several estimates on the cost to reconstruct the brick street and look into the possibility of available grants. Mr. Hamant advised that the light poles have been installed at Ludlow Park. Mr. Hamant thanked the Fire Department for blocking off an area in the park after hours after a tree was damaged during a recent storm. Mr. Hamant is working on a landscape plan for the park which he hopes to present to Council at the next business meeting. Mayor Wright advised that he appreciates Mr. Hamant being proactive in addressing issues. Discussion on pothole repairs in Walnut Alley.

Code Enforcement

Currently, there are thirty-two short-term rentals in the city. Discussion on the impact of short-term rentals, including positive feedback from local businesses and the fact that they are kept in good condition to attract renters. Mayor Wright advised that if Council is interested, he would be happy to discuss the issue of putting a cap on the number of short-term rentals in the city to prevent oversaturation.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Wright recently met with Will Weber of Southbank Partners to discuss the Riverfront Commons project. Mr. Weber will give a presentation on the Riverfront Commons project and status of the RAISE grant at the next caucus meeting. The next Mayor's Group Meeting will be held at the Ludlow Community Center on Saturday, August 19, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. Mayor Wright

advised that he needs people to help serve breakfast and clean up after the meeting and invited any council members who assist to stay and attend the meeting.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – The Committee recently met and signed off on the June checks.

Parks and Recreation – The Committee met to review grant opportunities and discussed the possibility of expanding the off-road bike event to include a festival next year. Discussion on working with Paula Graszus to make the festival after the Christmas Parade a little bigger this year.

Public Works/Code Enforcement – The Committee plans to meet with Mr. Hamant next week. The Committee met with Mr. West and discussed reposting information and events on social media to increase the number of views. The number of open code enforcement cases is pretty steady. Ms. Terry Navarre advised that she regularly attend the Urban Design Review Board (UDRB) meetings and there have been several cases when a certificate of appropriateness is applied for when it isn't necessarily needed; however, it does result in positive interactions with the homeowner and the Board. Ms. Frank advised that Kenton County will be hosting a waste tire event on August 17-18, 2023. The City will have a cleanup day where the dumpster will be available on October 21, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Chief Smith discussed the Riverfront Commons project and advised that he is working on getting cost estimates for alternative solutions to the construction and present it to council. Discussion on the RAISE grant with the top end being an award of over \$150,000.00, which would require a 20% match from the City, or \$30,000.00 to \$32,000.00, by the summer of 2024. The majority of the RAISE funds would be spent on engineering costs. Chief Smith is still working with the Reds and Ludlow School on the Hollingsworth Field renovation. Discussion on the status of the development on the west end. Chief Smith is working with McGinnis to obtain permanent easements to their property to allow for the construction of Riverfront Commons. Discussion on the business district being almost a dead zone during the weekdays. Chief Smith advised that he plans to set up a meeting with the business owners to discuss the issues and look for solutions. There have been several vehicle break-ins on cars that were left unlocked. Chief Smith advised everyone to keep their houses and vehicles locked. An active shooter training at Ludlow Schools will take place soon and will include Park Hills Police. Officer Zach Lindsley has recently begun training a K-9. Captain Bart Beck's K-9 Kevin has retired as he recently had to have a section of his jaw removed. The cost of the new K-9 and of Kevin's surgery was covered by donors.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS MAYOR AND COUNCIL

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading of Ordinance 2023-9

Mr. Taylor completed the first reading of Ordinance 2023-9 *An Ordinance of the City of Ludlow, in Kenton County, Kentucky, Granting and Issuing a Competitive, Non-Exclusive Franchise for a Combined Term of Ten (10) Years to, and Authorizing the Execution of a Franchise Agreement With, Spectrum Mid-America, LLC, an Affiliate of Charter Communications Inc., and its Permitted Successors and Assigns,*

Said Franchise Providing for: the Construction, Erection, Installation, Upgrade, Repair, Maintenance, and Operations of a Cable Television System for the Provision of Cable Television Services Within the Confines of the City of Ludlow; Retention of Police Powers and Sovereign Immunity; A \$300,000 Performance Bond to Ensure Franchise Compliance; Indemnification by Franchisee Including Adequate Insurance Coverage; Construction and Technical Standards; Compliance with FCC Technical & Customer Service Standards; Conditions of Street Occupancy; Public, Educational & Government Access Channels; Payment of Franchise Fees & Offset; Council Approval Required for Transfer of Control or Assignment of Franchise; Right to Audit Records; Default, Revocation & Termination of Franchise Procedures. Mr. Taylor advised that the ordinance renews an existing agreement with Spectrum in which Spectrum will maintain all equipment required to provide cable services for a period of ten years and the City will receive a 5% franchise fee.

Resolution 2023-11

Mr. Taylor read Resolution 2023-11 *A Resolution Approving the Appointment of Ben Knight to Serve on the Urban Design Review Board.* Mayor Wright advised that he believed that Mr. Knight's background and understanding of the costs of construction would help balance out the UDRB. Ms. Davenport inquired whether it was an ethics violation for Mr. Knight to be appointed to the UDRB since his wife, Ari, serves on Council. Mr. Taylor advised that it would not be a violation because the UDRB has no influence over Council. Mr. Taylor advised that if someone appeals a UDRB decision and appears before Council, then Ms. Knight would need to recuse herself. **Motion by Mr. Chapman, second by Ms. Terry Navarre, to approve Resolution 2023-11. Following a roll call vote, motion carried: four ayes, one nay (Ms. Davenport).**

Resolution 2023-12

Following a reading by Mr. Taylor, motion by Ms. Terry Navarre, second by Ms. Davenport, to approve Resolution 2023-12 *A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of 2024 Taxable Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes; Approving a Form of Note; Authorizing Designated Officers to Execute and Deliver the Notes; Authorizing and Directing the Filing of Notice with the State Local Debt Officer; Proving for the Payment and Security of the Notes; Appointing a Paying Agent and Registrar; Creating a Sinking Fund; Accepting the Proposal of the Note Purchaser for the Purchase of the Notes; and Repealing Inconsistent Resolutions and Orders.* Following a roll call vote, motion carried: all ayes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

Motion by Ms. Davenport, second by Ms. Frank, to enter into Executive Session pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1)(b) for deliberations on the future acquisition or sale of real property by a public agency and KRS 61.810 (1)(c), for discussions of proposed or pending litigation against or on behalf of the public agency. Following a voice vote, motion carried: all ayes. At 8:09 p.m., Council came out of Executive Session and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Sparks, City Clerk

Attest: _____
Chris Wright, Mayor