COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

January 28, 2019

The City of Luverne Council met in regular session on January 28, 2019 at 5:30 p.m., in the City Hall Building. The following members were present:

Mayor Ed Beasley

Charlie Johnson, Councilman

Kip Smith, Councilman

Kathy Smyth, Councilwoman

Elliott Jones, Councilman

Eddie Billings, Councilman

Mike Jones, Attorney

Margie Gomillion, Clerk

Michelle Royals, Engineer

Morris Tate, Engineer

William Neal, Building Inspector

Mike Johnson, Chief

Matt Hutcheson, Editor

Visitors:

Sirran Wilkes – Sav-A-Life Don Nix

Robyn Snellgrove

Mayor Beasley called the meeting to order. The mayor called on Councilman Johnson to lead the pledge of allegiance to the flag and Morris Tate to say a prayer.

The mayor called for the approval of the minutes of January 14, 2019. Councilman Billings made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

Attorney Jones stated the council asked him to check on a couple of properties. Mr. Jones discussed Mrs. Kathyrn Evans was charged with a violation of the city ordinances for her property and went to city court back in November. The city prosecutor made an agreement with Mrs. Evans to give her additional time to have her property cleaned up. Mr. Jones stated the court’s paperwork has January 30, 2019. If Mrs. Evans does not clean up according to the agreement by the end of this month the case is still pending before the city court. Mrs. Evans will be subject to the appropriate fines for violation of the ordinance which range anywhere from $250 - $1,000 fine plus court cost. Councilwoman Smyth asked about moving property from a residence. Mr. Jones stated the city could charge under a different ordinance for vehicles. Mr. Jones discussed a junk automobile ordinance that allows for the police chief to move junk vehicles. Next, Mr. Jones discussed the property located at 463 Jeffcoat Street. Mr. Jones stated Mr. Neal has given the property owner notice to clean up and they have not cleaned up. Mr. Neal stated the property is owned by Ross Williamson and it stays knee-deep in grass. Mr. Jones discussed some ordinances and recommended for Mr. Neal to issue Mr. Williamson a summons to clean up or be subject to fines, cost and jail time if the judge wants to award it. Mr. Jones stated he has discussed this in detail with the city judge.

The mayor called on Engineer Royals’ departmental reports. Ms. Royals discussed the street department completing the erosion repair on Glenwood Road at Glenn Murry’s, repairing multiple inlet tops, cleaning up the inside of the Oxford building and routine work that is being done in all the departments. One employee in the electric department recently passed his CDL test. Ms. Royals discussed a quote for repairing the old Slacks Factory building for $12,098.00. This quote is for materials only. City personnel will perform the work in conjunction with Nix Company, LLC. This will not necessarily bring the building up to code but only dried in. HVAC, electrical, and plumbing will be completed later. Ms. Royals stated she had a meeting last Friday with Troy Hudson and SCADC to discuss upcoming grants. She stated we are going to actively pursue any and all eligible grants. Ms. Royals reported she has been in touch with a few of the auction companies about selling the old International dump truck. They each have the specs and pictures to prepare a proposal to sell it. One of the employees in the water & sewer department has been terminated. This opening has been posted at numerous high traffic businesses in town in an attempt to attract more qualified candidates. Ms. Royals stated we needed to establish a pay rate range. Ms. Royals stated there has been some discussion on getting a bond issue for resurfacing. Ms. Royals recommended waiting for the legislation to pass because the method of distribution is still unknown.

The mayor stated routine work in administration. The clerk reminded the council of Mr. Tate’s retirement reception this Thursday, at 2:00 p.m. in the council chambers.

Councilman Johnson stated the bids for the uniforms have been sent out. We are getting ready for the summer programs. The park director has gotten with Ms. Royals and has done some planning on their project. Ms. Royals stated she is waiting on a list of materials to buy for the project.

Mayor Beasley stated everything at the library is doing real well.

Councilman Smith stated everything is running good with the fire department. The department is looking at a couple of training classes over the next month at the old Slacks Factory parking lot.

Nothing new in Economic Development.

Mr. Jones stated Mr. Gill Sternbach with Sew American has been here the last couple of weeks. Mr. Sternbach has spoken to Mr. Jones about their efforts to try to improve the facility. They put a video on Facebook of what they are doing and offering. Mr. Jones stated Mr. Sternbach indicated their commitment to keep the facility here. Mr. Sternbach wants to possibly do some adjustments to the lease. Mr. Jones stated Mr. Sternbach was told to get something for him to relay to the council to see if any adjustments needed to be done. When a correspondence is received Mr. Jones will bring to the council.

The mayor reported that a group from the city met with ALDOT about the north turning light. ALDOT is recommending to take out all the parking spaces on the first block. Mayor Beasley stated the council has a letter from Mr. Don Nix with the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Nix stated taking away the parking spaces would impair retail opportunities for the merchants and hinder people on a regular basis, many of whom are senior citizens. The council discussed the recommendation of ALDOT. Ms. Royals stated ALDOT has asked her to come back with the feelings of the council. After some discussion, the council agreed to the recommendation from ALDOT but with having at least two parking spaces on each side of the street and possible purchase of the building on the corner.

Mayor Beasley called on Ms. Sirran Wilkes with Sav-A-Life to speak. Ms. Wilkes provided the council with a packet. Sav-A-Life is a women’s crisis pregnancy center. The center serves Pike, Crenshaw, Barber and Dale counties. Ms. Wilkes stated the organization has tremendous support from this area. The theme this year is Discover Hope. They are a christian base mission. The center provides several services such as: pregnancy tests, ultrasounds and educates the women to prepare themselves for what is to come. Sav-A-Life has been in Troy for over 30 years. Ms. Wilkes thanked the council, individuals and businesses in the city who have supported the center.

Councilwoman Smyth stated Tracey Delaney asked if the council had any edits to the strategic p lan that the council received back about a month ago to let her know what they are. They are in the finalization process of the plan. The mayor stated it will be brought up at the next meeting.

Councilman Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Smyth seconded the motion.

Meeting was adjourned.