COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

March 11, 2019

The City of Luverne Council met in regular session on March 11, 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

Eddie Billings, Councilman

Elliott Jones, Councilman

Margie Gomillion, Clerk

Mike Jones, Attorney

Michelle Royals, Engineer

William Neal, Building Inspector

Mike Johnson, Chief

Matt Hutcheson, Editor

Visitors:

Tracy Delaney – SCADC Steve Defee – Chairman Airport Authority

Beth Rogers Randy Rogers

Denny Strickland Angel Strickland

Mayor Beasley called the meeting to order. The mayor called on Michelle Royals to lead the pledge of allegiance to the flag and Mike Jones to say a prayer. Mayor Beasley welcomed the guest and thanked them for coming.

The mayor called for the approval of the minutes of February 25, 2019. Councilman Billings made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilman Jones seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

Mayor Beasley stated the appointment to replace Ms. Elizabeth Tisdale on the Planning Commission needed to be filled. Councilwoman Smyth made a motion to appoint Foster Carpenter to the Planning Commission. Councilman Billings seconded the motion and all was in favor.

The mayor called on Engineer Royals’ departmental reports. Ms. Royals stated routine work is being done in all the departments. Ms. Royals stated spring is here and we are already starting to cut grass on a semi regular basis. Also, we are dismantling one of the gazebos at Person to Person Park and using the materials to repair the remaining five.

Mayor Beasley called on the city clerk for the administrative report. Routine work was performed.

The mayor stated everyone has a copy of the chief’s report. The chief stated Joshua McCartha has contacted him and city hall requesting to have a 5K benefit run on Saturday, April 27th starting at the Luverne Church of Christ on N. Woodford Avenue down 1st Street, 1st Street Ext, Hicks Drive and back to the church. There would be up to 100 people participating in the run. The chief stated normally the runs have been on the Airport Road. The mayor recommended they congregate at the Tom Harbin Farm Center on the Airport Road for safety reasons. Mayor Beasley asked the council to think about it and would vote on it later in the meeting.

Mayor Beasley called on Mr. Steve Defee with the Airport Authority to speak. Mr. Defee discussed the progress of the airport. Mr. Defee stated there is a gentleman that would like to bring in a refueling industry for Fort Rucker. He would be renting the new hangar facility and working out of it. The Airport Board has plans to redo the fence at the airport. We have made application through the DOT to help get some funding to replace the fence and improve the appearance of the airport in general. Engineer Royals stated the city attorney and I have begun drafting a lease for this new business. Engineer Royals requested the council approve the contingent lease with the city attorney’s approval. Mr. Defee stated the rent would be $1,000 a month with a year to year lease plus utilities. Mr. Defee stated the lease would be pretty much like the one already in place for the painting company. Mr. Defee stated this gentleman may want to take over selling the gas that’s already there and would be responsible for maintaining the gas system. Engineer Royals recommended letting Pioneer Air Transportation sell and maintain the gas system. Councilman Jones made a motion to move forward with the proposed lease with Pioneer Air Transportation pending the approval of the City Attorney and City Engineer. Councilwoman Smyth seconded the motion and all was in favor.

Councilman Johnson reported there have been improvements done to the fields that were needed and have eliminated the water problem under the shed. The opening day at the park will be April 1st. There are about 450 kids in the summer program. The board was looking to open the lake back up the 1st of March but we are waiting on utility relocation to be completed.

Councilman Smith reported the Fire Department did a propane training a couple of weeks ago at the Slack’s Factory that went over real well. There will be another training tomorrow night with some live burning structural interior tack. It’s through the fire college called the Burn Trailer.

The mayor reported he has a meeting tomorrow morning with Lisa Miller Marketing Representative for AMEA, at 10:00 a.m. Any of the council members are welcome to attend. Ms. Miller is pretty sure she will bring a no-match $20,000 grant for beautification and industrial development.

Mayor Beasley called on Mike Jones to speak. Mr. Jones stated the city has a potential contract for the sell of the 61 on Main building for $80,000. Mr. Jones stated he has the purchase funds in hand subject to the council’s approval. If the council approves it the documents can be executed tomorrow. Councilman Billings made a motion to approve the sell of the 61 on Main building in the amount of $80,000 to 21st Century Roofing and give authorization to the mayor and city clerk to sign the documents. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and was unanimously approved.

The mayor stated the library’s dinner theatre in tomorrow night at the Dei Center. There will be a silent auction beginning at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. and the play begins at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Beasley stated there was a public hearing this afternoon at 5:00 p.m. about the Luverne Strategic Plan. The mayor presented the council with a resolution to adopt the Luverne Strategic Plan. Councilman Jones made a motion to adopt the Luverne Strategic Plan Resolution No. 031119. Councilman Johnson seconded the motion and all was in favor. The resolution is as follows:

**City of Luverne Resolution No. 031119**

**To Adopt the Luverne Strategic Plan**

**WHEREAS,** the Mayor and City Council of the City of Luverne, Alabama recognize the importance of planning for the future; and

**WHEREAS,** the Mayor and City Council of the City of Luverne, Alabama recognize the need to establish a strategic plan with a vision and mission statement for the city to serve as a guide for decision-making for growth and development; and

**WHEREAS,** the Mayor and City Council of the City of Luverne, Alabama conducted a public workshop to gain the support and input of its citizens and business community on the future needs of the city; and

**WHEREAS,** through the public workshop and joint efforts with its citizens and business community, a five-year strategic plan was developed.

**WHEREAS,** the Luverne Strategic Plan has been made available for public review and a duly advertised public hearing was conducted by the Luverne City Council on March 11, 2019 to hear citizen comments on the plan; and

**WHEREAS,** the Luverne Strategic Plan has been reviewed and approved by the Luverne Planning Commission on February 28, 2019; and

**WHEREAS,** all requirements of the laws of the State of Alabama with regard to preparation, discussion and review of said Luverne Strategic Plan have been met.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Luverne, Alabama that the document entitled the Luverne Strategic Plan is hereby adopted.

ADOPTED this 11th day of March, 2019

The mayor stated Bessie Reddock’s appointment for the Board of Housing Commissioners will expire in March. Councilman Smith made a motion to re-appoint Bessie Reddock to the Board of Housing Commissioners. Councilwoman Smyth seconded the motion and all was in favor.

Mayor Beasley stated Bobby Owens’ appointment for the Board of Adjustments will expire in March. Councilman Smith made a motion to re-appoint Bobby Owens to the Board of Adjustments. Councilman Billings seconded the motion and all was in favor.

The mayor stated Kathy Senn’s appointment for the Mental Health Board will expire in April. Councilman Smith made a motion to re-appoint Kathy Senn to the Mental Health Board. Councilman Jones seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Yea: Charlie Johnson Abstained: Eddie Billings

Kip Smith

Kathy Smyth

Elliott Jones

The motion carried.

Mayor Beasley stated the council needed to appoint a voting delegate for the Annual Convention of the Alabama League of Municipalities. Councilman Billings made a motion to appoint Kathy Smyth to be the voting delegate for the Annual Convention of the Alabama League of Municipalities. Councilman Johnson seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Yea: Charlie Johnson Abstained: Kathy Smyth

Kip Smith

Elliott Jones

Eddie Billings

The motion carried.

The council discussed the 5K benefit run requested by Joshua McCartha and the safety issues involved. After further discussion, Councilman Jones made a motion to approve a 5K benefit run for Joshua McCartha to take place on the Airport Road and not in town due to safety reasons. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and was unanimously approved.

Mr. Jones recommended putting the Strategic Plan on the agenda every three to six months to review it. Councilwoman Smyth stated quarterly would be good and to put it on the June 24th agenda.

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

Meeting was adjourned.