COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

April 22, 2019

The City of Luverne Council met in regular session on April 22, 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

Elliott Jones, Councilman

Eddie Billings, Councilman

Margie Gomillion, Clerk

Mike Jones, Attorney

Michelle Royals, Engineer

William Neal, Building Inspector

Mike Johnson, Chief

Absent:

Kathy Smyth, Councilwoman

Visitors:

Karen A. Sullins – Helping Hands Nick Atkinson

John Powell Tammy Powell

Kevin Bowen Josh Kidd

Mason Adcock Xanthe Adcock

Daniel Jones Hannah Jones

Paul Allen

Mayor Beasley called the meeting to order. The mayor called on Kip Smith to lead the pledge of allegiance to the flag and Mike Jones to say a prayer.

The mayor called for the approval of the minutes of April 8, 2019. Councilman Jones made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilman Billings seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

Mayor Beasley welcomed the guest to the meeting.

The mayor called on Mike Jones to speak. Mr. Jones stated the council asked at the last council meeting for the Budget Committee to meet to discuss some changes in the pay for the police department. The Budget Committee was asked to look at where the city is with the budget and what action needed to be taken going forward. The Budget Committee met twice to see what needed to be done. Mr. Jones stated he met with the mayor this afternoon. Mr. Jones stated he advised Councilman Jones and Chief Johnson not to participate in any discussion or voting in regards to raises for the police department because they both have relatives in the department. Mr. Jones first passed out information on what the mayor has looked at and discussed with him and Mr. Tate in regards to the police officers pay. The mayor basically has taken their current pay and added $1.75 an hour increase with the starting pay based at $13.25. Mr. Jones then passed out information on what the police officers are currently making at this time, what other local agencies are paying, and what the Budget Committee has proposed for a rate increase. The Budget Committee also submitted a proposed pay scale step per year that would be based on the chief’s evaluation with a starting base pay of $14.00 an hour. Mr. Jones stated with what the mayor or the Budget Committee has proposed he felt with the extra in the budget and decrease in overtime it would be fairly easy to get to the next budget year of October 1st. Mr. Jones stated, in his opinion, come October 1st the city would have to look at some sort of increase in revenue. Also, Mr. Jones stated he thought the council probably needed to look at all of the departments not just the police with the new budget year. After further discussion, Councilman Billings made a motion to go forward with $14.00 an hour base pay for the police department and with the pay scale step program submitted by the Budget Committee to become effective May 1, 2019. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Yea: Charlie Johnson Abstained: Elliott Jones

Kip Smith

Eddie Billings

The motion carried.

Mayor Beasley called on Ms. Karen A. Sullins to speak. Ms. Sullins stated she is the owner and counselor of Helping Hands Professional Counseling and Consulting, Corp. Ms. Sullins discussed being an independent contractor with Safe Harbor-Butler County Children’s Advocacy Center. Ms. Sullins has been with Safe Harbor for about seven years. Ms. Sullins stated she has started moving in the direction of mass casualty incidents, school safety and compassionate care for law enforcement. Ms. Sullins stated her office is at Safe Harbor but she is looking for a place in Crenshaw County. Ms. Sullins reported she is the South Alabama Regions Disaster Mental Health person for the Red Cross. Ms. Sullins stated she is here to help anyway she can. The mayor thanked Ms. Sullins for coming and wished her well.

The mayor called on Engineer Royals’ departmental reports. Ms. Royals reported the street department has been doing a lot of drainage work over the last couple of weeks. South Alabama Electric has a contractor doing work in Rutledge on shared poles and we are helping where necessary to get benefit of joint use work. We are doing a lot of substation upgrades. Ms. Royals discussed the city being pre-approved for the ADEM SRF Loan for smart water meters with a 2.2% loan interest rate spread out over a minimum of 10 years for $600,000. The loan forgiveness has been denied. Ms. Royals stated there will be no grant type money this year. Ms. Royals stated she is going to a meeting to find out about next year’s application. She may come back at next meeting to recommend pulling this year’s application and resubmit next year. Ms. Royals reported the consultant is working on plans right now for the water laterals for the CDBG grant and should be going out to bid within a month. Ms. Royals stated the walking trail will need to be shut down in the next week or two to dig the roots up and to patch the trail. Ms. Royals reported ALDOT contractor will begin resurfacing US 331 North around May 6, 2019. The city limits will be done last so will probably be in the heart of summer.

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 presented the council with an event application for the Crenshaw County Recreational Club to have their annual CCRC Crawfish Tournament on Saturday, April 27th from 4:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. There would be a band performing from around 9:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. After some discussion, Councilman Jones made a motion to approve the annual CCRC Crawfish Tournament on April 27th. Councilman Billings seconded the motion and all was in favor.

Councilman Johnson reported it is full speed at the park. There has been a lot of fishing at the lake. The summer program is excellent with no incidents.

Mayor Beasley reported everything at the library is doing well. There have been a lot of kids signing up for the summer reading program.

The mayor stated there will be a candlelight vigil for Mr. John Harris’ son on May 3rd across the street from the Board of Education on Woodford Avenue from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for anyone who would like to attend.

Councilman Smith reported everything is running good with the rescue and fire departments. Councilman Smith asked about getting high octane fuel for the fire department’s small engines only. Ms. Royals will check on a key for this tomorrow.

The mayor called on Mr. Neal for his report. Mr. Neal discussed E911 having to re-number Oakwood apartments because of numbers conflicting with the new housing construction in the same area. Also, the middle street will have to be named by the city. Councilman Smith stated he thought there was a name for that street. Mr. Neal stated he thought it was Adam Street. Paul Allen stated it was Adam Charles Baker. The mayor stated the council would have to name the street.

The chief presented the council with an event application for the Crenshaw County Association of Volunteer Fire Department to have the 32nd Annual Rodeo on May 3rd & 4th at the Tom Harbin Farm Center on the Airport Road. After some discussion, Councilman Jones made a motion to approve the 32nd Annual Rodeo on May 3rd & 4th. Councilman Johnson seconded the motion and all was in favor.

Councilman Billings made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Jones seconded the motion.

Meeting was adjourned.