COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

February 12, 2024

The City of Luverne Council met in regular session on February 12, 2024 at 5:30 p.m., in the City Hall Building. The following members were present:

Mayor Ed Beasley

Betty Dawson, Councilwoman

Kip Smith, Councilman

Kathy Smyth, Councilwoman

Elliott Jones, Councilman

Eddie Billings, Councilman

Mike Jones, Attorney

Mike Johnson, Chief 5:36

Margie Gomillion, Clerk

Visitors:

Chris Bell Brian Driskill Billy Crumpton Kirk Alsbrooks

Brock Flynn Chris White Steve Defee Merrill Sport

Mayor Beasley called the meeting to order. The mayor called on Councilman Billings to lead the pledge of allegiance to the flag and Steve Defee to say a prayer.

The mayor called for the approval of the minutes of January 22, 2024. Councilman Billings made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilwoman Dawson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

Mayor Beasley stated we have Brian Driskill and Chris Bell with Jackson Thornton to present the Cybersecurity Risk Management Assessment. Mr. Brian Driskill provided a summary of their city-wide cyber security assessment, along with recommendations and guidance to both enhance the city’s cyber security protocols and address any findings related to legal compliance. Mr. Driskill thanked the council for their time and the mayor thanked him for the presentation.

The mayor called on the city clerk for the administrative report. Routine work was performed.

Mayor Beasley called everyone’s attention to the chief’s report. Councilwoman Dawson read the report. Since the last meeting, the police department had 259 calls for service not including building checks, 47 traffic stops, wrote 10 citations, and gave 37 warnings. The department has made 10 misdemeanor and 1 felony arrests. There has been 3 animal control calls since the last meeting.

The mayor called on Councilman Billings to report on the park. Councilman Billings stated just general upkeep and everything along those lines. Registration for league play is finishing up and will have tryouts this Tuesday and Thursday night. We’re doing some work on the playground trying to finish some drainage issues. We will be taking credit cards this year for charges over five dollars and we are going to see how that works. We are going to allow two food trucks that are local business people: Red Rock food truck and Preston’s food truck. They won’t be serving anything that duplicates what we offer and that includes drinks or water.

Mayor Beasley called on Steve Defee to report on the airport. Mr. Defee reported that the old fence has been taken down and the new fence has been installed. The sliding gate is in place and the only thing that we are lacking in at this moment is the key pad system to be installed. He is going to get that in this week. If you get a chance ride by and look at it. It looks great.

The mayor asked if anyone had any information on the library. Councilwoman Dawson stated she attended the Dolly Parton Imagination Library presentation. I really enjoyed it and looks like it is going to be an asset for the city if we can get that up and running. They need people to come in to pledge money to help keep it up and running. The grant is only for two years. The Dolly Parton Imagination Library wants to have sponsors in place to pick up the third and fourth year.

The mayor called on Councilman Smith to report on Fire/Rescue. Councilman Smith stated he has spent the last couple of weeks getting prepared for ISO inspections today. They said we were looking good. There are a couple of places we are lacking in from the last time. There are places we have excelled in. He doesn’t see anything in our change, so we are hoping to maintain that class 4 rating.

Councilwoman Smyth stated everyone has a resolution in your packet to consider. This is part of the (ACE) Alabama Communities of Excellence phases. It’s a comprehensive plan. We are in the middle of a USDA grant application for funding for this comprehensive plan. It requires a $12,000 local match for the project, so back on 12-22 SCADC gave us a grant towards this for $9,000. That leaves us with $3,000 to commit towards it and we would have those funds available through economic development grants that we receive this year. The mayor presented the council with Resolution No. 021224 USDA Rural Development Rural Business Development Grant Application. After some discussion, Councilman Jones made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 021224 authorizing submittal of an application to USDA Rural Development for Rural Business Development Grant funds to develop a comprehensive plan: to commit a $12,000 local match for the project and; to authorize the mayor to sign all documents related to the execution of the agreement if funded. Councilman Billings seconded the motion and all was in favor. The resolution is as follows:

**RESOLUTION NO. 021224**

**USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATION**

To authorize submittal of an application to USDA Rural Development for Rural Business Development Grant funds to develop a comprehensive plan for the City of Luverne; to commit a $12,000 local match to the project; and to authorize the Mayor of Luverne to sign all documents related to the execution of the contract pending award of USDA Rural Development Rural Business Development Grant funds.

**WHEREAS,** the US Department of Agriculture, Rural Development is accepting applications for grant funds through the Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) program; and

**WHEREAS,** the development of a long-range comprehensive plan is an eligible activity under the Opportunity Grant portion of the RBDG program; and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Luverne has expressed the desire to develop a long-range comprehensive plan for the physical growth and development of the city that will address housing, community facilities, economic development, transportation, infrastructure, and land use; and

**WHEREAS,** the proposed comprehensive plan will meet the requirements of the City of Luverne Alabama Communities of Excellence (ACE) program; and

**WHEREAS,** the estimated cost of the proposed comprehensive plan project is $60,000.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Luverne does hereby authorize and direct the South Central Alabama Development Commission to submit an application to USDA Rural Development requesting Rural Business Development Grant funds in the amount of $48,000 for the preparation of a comprehensive plan.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that City of Luverne does hereby approve and commit a 20 percent local cash in the amount of $12,000 to complete the proposed project and that the Mayor of Luverne is hereby authorized to sign all assurances and documents related to the filing of an application for funds through the USDA Rural Development Rural Business Development Grant program and, if funded, execute all agreements necessary for the implementation of the project.

**ADOPTED** this 12th day of February, 2024.

Councilwoman Smyth stated everyone has a copy of an email from Troy Hudson with ARPA project update information and other projects he is working on.

Mayor Beasley stated he is just happy to be here.

The mayor stated we accepted bids for a fence at Turner Park. The bids were opened Monday, February 5, 2024. The bids were as followes:

**FENCE BID FOR PARKS & REC**

Bid Spec: (For 1 Field)

250’ of fence, 2 each 3” end posts, 2” fence posts, 5 ft. fence, posts 10’ apart, top rail and bottom wire required, no gates

**Name** **Light Weight** **Heavy Weight**

Tim White $5,620.00 $6,360.00

Brown Boys Const. $9,550.00 $10,800.00 (withdrew bid)

4D Land Clearing $5,891.25 $6,441.25

After some discussion, Councilman Jones made a motion to accept low bidder Tim White for the fence at Turner’s Park for one field with heavy weight fence in the amount of $6,360. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

Mayor Beasley called on Chief Johnson to discuss a possible lease agreement with Lurleen B Wallace Community College. The chief stated Brock Kelley with LBW contacted me about the city leasing their building at 886 Glenwood Road for a dollar a year. LBW is going to shut down the school there except for the welding department. There is a diagram attached to the copy of the lease of what will be utilized and what is not. I spoke with the mayor and Brock about all the departments moving out there. All the department heads are interested. They would allow us to let the public works departments to move out there or whoever the council would like. The building is in real good shape. Brock and I actually walked it. The lease agreement has not been voted on by the Board of Trustees, but they are all in favor of it. The mayor asked the council to let Attorney Jones look over the agreement and get back with us. Also, the chief stated he spoke with Mr. Kim about the hotel where the Korean BBQ is now. He is interested in an abatement/incentives from the city and what the economic development may offer. He is going to get back with me and I’m going to get him in touch with Councilwoman Smyth and Robyn Snellgrove. Next, the chief stated the clerk’s office got a request from a citizen who wants to have a dog boarding facility at their home with 10 dogs at the most. This would be on Mt Ida Road. I found nothing that addresses that in our ordinance. We called Troy, Enterprise, Elba and Dothan. Dothan was the only one who had one, but it was only under special permit granted by the mayor and council. Troy and Enterprise only allow it at a veterinarian office. The mayor stated to do a little more research. After further discussion on the LBW building, Councilman Jones made a motion to move forward with the lease agreement with Lurleen B Wallace Community College pending Attorney Jones’ approval. Councilwoman Dawson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

Brock Flynn stated several months ago we talked about building a shed over at the lagoon when we got this new equipment and wanted to know if that was still an option. Even if we moved we still can’t get all this equipment under a shed. It needs to be looked at in the future. The mayor said he would do some research and see if we can fund it. The mayor asked Mr. Flynn to see about how big it needs to be and where to build it so we can get a price on it.

Councilwoman Smyth stated I think this might be an appropriate time to make a change with the position of city prosecutor. Councilman Jones made a motion to terminate Wayne Carter as city prosecutor effective immediately. Councilwoman Dawson seconded the motion and all was in favor. Councilwoman Smyth made a motion to appoint Bill Rayborn as city prosecutor effective immediately. Councilman Jones seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Dawson stated she attended the Advocacy Day last Wednesday in Montgomery. It was very nice. I will be attending CMO training in Troy in April.

Attorney Jones stated back in May of last year I submitted information to the council on short term rentals. I don’t think we took any action on that. I just wanted to bring it up for you to consider if you wanted to do anything or not. Attorney Jones was asked to send the information to the clerk to give to the council and bring back up at the next meeting.

Councilwoman Smyth stated the library has a new book on the recreational trail for February.

The mayor discussed a request for an event to be held on the Airport Road at the Tom Harbin Center from Mr. Steve Defee to have the annual Swamp Supper Men’s Ministry. The Swamp Supper Men’s Ministry will be held on February 24, 2024 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. After some discussion, Councilman Smith made a motion to approve the Swamp Supper Men’s Ministry to be held on February 24, 2024 on the Airport Road. Councilman Jones seconded the motion and all was in favor.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Councilman Billings made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned.