COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

March 24, 2025

The City of Luverne Council met in regular session on March 24, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., in the City Hall Building. The following members were present:

Mayor Ed Beasley

Kip Smith, Councilman

Kathy Smyth, Councilwoman

Elliott Jones, Councilman

Eddie Billings, Councilman

Attorney Mike Jones

Mike Johnson, Chief

Margie Gomillion, Clerk

Absent: Betty Dawson, Councilwoman

Visitors: Steve Defee Ryan McGhee Michelle Andaluz

Lisa Oliver Kris Harrell Troy Andaluz

Mayor Beasley called the meeting to order. The mayor called on Councilman Smith 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 March 10, 2025. 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 everything was routine for the administrative report. The clerk reported that M’Kayla Dawson and Amiracle Taylor were the two recipients awarded scholarships by Energy Southeast (formerly AMEA).

The mayor called on the chief for the police report. The chief stated everything is good.

Mayor Beasley called on Councilman Billings for the park report. Councilman Billings stated there are some tennis court quotes in the council packets. I’ve had a lot of phones calls about resurfacing the court and asked Merrill to start looking into that, but we are not ready to present that at this time. This Thursday night is the tee-ball opening night. April 7th is girls opening night and April 8th is boys opening night. Councilman Billings stated the bid for the splash pad came in at $50,000 over budget. Prices have obviously gone up from six years ago. Most of it is tied up in a recirculating system for the water. Another option is running straight water in and straight water out. Troy Hudson has been asked to look into what we would save by doing this. I don’t know what is most cost effective. It looks like we may not have the splash pad by the end of spring or early summer. After further discussion, Councilman Jones made a motion to table the discussion on the splash pad until we get more quotes. Councilwoman Smyth seconded the motion and all was in favor.

The mayor called on Steve Defee to report on the airport. Mr. Defee stated everything is good at the airport. We finished the survey, but we don’t have the document report from it yet.

Mayor Beasley stated he had spoken to Mrs. Kathyrn at the library, and everything is going good with them.

The mayor called on Councilman Smith for a report on Fire/Rescue. Councilman Smith stated the body on the new truck went to paint this past week so we are hoping we will get it the middle of April. Also, at one time we were having some issues with our rescue making transfers at the hospital, but they have been making a lot of transfers lately.

Councilwoman Smyth reported this past week the chamber had a ribbon cutting for two businesses up town. There is interest in a couple of new small businesses locating here.

Mayor Beasley stated Director Boswell and me had an invitation last week to tour the new Pepsi plant. It is amazing where they had two loading docs at the old plant, they have fourteen now. They are really going to work there and doing a good job. Mr. Boswell was impressed. Also, in my report I had a busy couple of weeks: Thursday, March 13th signed payroll checks and a few payable checks, Tuesday, March 18th I signed paperwork for ATRP2-21-2023-325 ROW reimbursement (Glenwood Road) in the amount of $106,500, Thursday, March 20th I attended the monthly Southeast Gas board meeting and Friday, March 21st I signed a check to Wiregrass Construction Company for $151,261.61 for the CDBG Jeffcoat Luverne Sewer & Street improvements. There was a public hearing today to close out this project.

The mayor called on Troy Andaluz to present a proposal for an RV park. Mr. Andaluz stated they have 63 acres located off Hwy 331. The land is the last piece of property in the city limits on Hwy 331. We want to take the front five to seven acres and do a kind of RV type park geared toward hunters that come in to stay a week or two so they can leave their campers there to come and go. We would provide a place for them to clean the deer, and they would haul the carcasses back to where they hunt. We would have a laundry facility and possibly do a few small Airbnbs in the front. We weren’t sure as far as septic. As far as the RV’s we were thinking of a wash out area which is a pump out station and have a separate septic for the Airbnbs. The mayor stated we don’t have anything for or against an RV park in our ordinance so that means it’s okay. You would need to contact the state health department for your sewer project. Mr. Andaluz stated we will also need to put in a circular drive. We need to see who we talk to about the culvert pipe, the entrance and exit. Councilman Smith stated he would need to contact the state. The chief stated he would need to get all contractors to get a business license. Also, the chief stated Mr. Andaluz would need to get with him on the Airbnbs because there are regulations on them in the ordinance.

Mayor Beasley stated Alethea Gammage’s appointment on the Board of Adjustments will expire in April. After some discussion, Councilman Jones made a motion to reappoint Alethea Gammage to the Board of Adjustments. Councilman Billings seconded the motion and all was in favor.

The mayor presented an event request from Lisa Oliver with Crenshaw Cares and Mike Flint/Flint’s Smokehouse for Red, White & LU on July 4th, 2025, setting up at 7:00 a.m. at Turner Park. Ms. Oliver stated she hosted the 4th of July event in Rutledge last year and the first one outgrew Rutledge and wanted to do it in Luverne. The goal is to fill the park. I want it to be a free event for everyone to attend. I want to fill the park with vendors and entertainment. I know inflatables to jump on are not allowed. There won’t be any of that and no drinking allowed. The chief stated she will also need a one-million-dollar certificate of liability special event policy. Councilman Billings made a motion to approve the Red, White & LU on July 4th, 2025, at 7:30 a.m. at Turner Park if we check all the boxes of the insurance and things along those lines. Councilman Jones seconded the motion and all was in favor.

Mayor Beasley presented the council with an event application request for an event to be held on March 27th at Turner Park from Kathy Smyth, Southeast Alabama Works, and Haley Kilcrease, CCBOE to have Careers on Wheels. The event will be from 8 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. After some discussion, Councilman Smith made a motion to approve the Careers on Wheels to be held on March 27, 2025, at Turner Park. Councilman Jones seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimously approved.

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

Meeting was adjourned.