COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

April 14, 2025

The City of Luverne Council met in regular session on April 14, 2025, 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

Attorney Mike Jones

Mike Johnson, Chief

Margie Gomillion, Clerk

Visitors: Steve Defee Ryan McGhee Larry Coggins Brock Flynn

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 March 24, 2025. Councilwoman Dawson stated she was absent at the last meeting, so that needed to be corrected in the minutes. Councilman Billings made a motion to approve the minutes with one correction. Councilman Jones seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimously approved.

Mayor Beasley stated everything was routine for the administrative report.

The mayor called on Councilman Smith to read the police report. Councilman Smith stated since the last meeting, the police department had 316 calls for service not including building checks, made 89 traffic stops, wrote 70 citations, and gave 19 warnings. The department made 7 misdemeanor and 2 felony arrests. There have been 4 animal control calls since the last meeting

Mayor Beasley called on Councilman Billings for the park report. Councilman Billings reported we had opening nights last week for the girls and boys. The mayor has worked around revisiting the splash pad. Instead of going through the rebid process we think we have found the money in the budget. We are going to push forward with that and get Troy Hudson to move along those lines.

The mayor called on Steve Defee to report on the airport. Mr. Defee stated everyone has a copy of the survey that was done. ALDOT had requested that we do a survey on each end for a buffer zone for the approach pad that we are in violation of. For the most part it deals with the south end. All the property owners that I have spoken with are ok with the zone that was surveyed. It goes a substantial piece up in their property 300 feet from the center line at the end of the runway. There is no point in trying to clear any of that until it becomes a hazard. Once we get the few trees right on the edge of that fence line, we should be well enough in compliance for a long time to come. One other thing I am going to try to do again this year is to get the place behind the new hanger which is the old Crowell place cleaned up and assessed to their property taxes. After some discussion it was good with the council to get Mike Jones to write a letter to the property owner.

Mayor Beasley stated the library had a successful fundraiser at the Dei Center, raising around $6,000. We need to thank Mrs. Sandy Walker and the crew that made it all possible.

The mayor called on Councilman Smith for a report on Fire/Rescue. Councilman Smith stated everything is good. The new truck has a body mounted on a chassis, so it’s coming. We are hoping it will be here within a month to six weeks.

Mayor Beasley stated everyone has a mayor’s report in their packet for you to read.

The mayor stated under new business, we need approval to open a checking account at First Citizens Bank for Opioid Settlement with Mayor Ed Beasley, Pro-tem Elliott Jones, City Clerk Margie Gomillion and Assistant Clerk Vicki Coggins on the account. Councilman Jones made a motion to open a checking account at First Citizens Bank for Opioid Settlement with Mayor Ed Beasley, Pro-tem Elliott Jones, City Clerk Margie Gomillion and Assistant Clerk Vicki Coggins on the account. Councilwoman Dawson seconded the motion and all was in favor.

Mayor Beasley stated John Powell’s appointment on the Board of Housing Commissioners expired. After some discussion, Councilman Jones made a motion to reappoint John Powell to the Board of Housing Commissioners. Councilman Smith seconded the motion, and all the vote was unanimously approved.

The mayor presented the request from Chad Turner on behalf of the Crenshaw County Rec Club for the Annual Crawfish Tournament at the Crenshaw County Recreational Club on April 26, 2025. Councilman Billings made a motion to approve the Annual Crawfish Tournament at the Crenshaw County Recreational Club on April 26, 2025. Councilman Jones seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimously approved.

Mayor Beasley presented an ordinance to set qualification fees for all candidates seeking election as mayor and councilmember before the election in August. Councilman Smith made a motion for immediate consideration of Ordinance 25-02 to set qualification fees for all candidates seeking election as mayor and councilmember. Councilman Jones seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimously approved. Councilman Smith made a motion to adopt Ordinance 25-02 to set qualification fees for all candidates seeking election as mayor and councilmember. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and all was in favor. The ordinance is as follows:

ORDINANCE 25-02

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF LUVERNE COUNCIL OF LUVERNE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. A qualification fee in the amount of $50.00 is hereby fixed and imposed upon all candidates seeking election as mayor of the City of Luverne, Alabama.

Section 2. A qualification fee in the amount of $25.00 is hereby fixed and imposed upon all candidates seeking election as councilmember of the City of Luverne, Alabama.

Section 3. Such qualification fee shall be paid to the city clerk and deposited to the general fund of the city at or prior to the time of taking out qualification papers by any such candidates.

Section 4. Any person desiring to qualify who is not financially able to pay the required fee may qualify provided such prospective candidate furnishes the clerk with an affidavit stating that he or she is financially unable to pay the required fee fixed by this ordinance.

Section 5. This ordinance is adopted pursuant to Section 11-46-2 of the Alabama Code of 1975 and shall be effective in all elections, both general and special, for aforesaid offices from and after the date of adoption.

Adopted this the 14th day of April, 2025.

Councilwoman Dawson stated she hoped everyone received the email that Congressman Shomari Figures will be at the Crenshaw County Economic Industrial Development Authority tomorrow at 3:00 p.m. It will be open to the public at 4:15 p.m.

Councilwoman Smyth stated she would like to thank the Luverne Fire Department and Rescue for participating in the Careers on Wheels event out at the park a couple of weeks ago for the first graders. They had a big time. The career coaches Haley Kilcrease and Michelle Barrow did a great job organizing that.

Councilman Jones stated he had a meeting today with Energy Southeast Fred Clark and Peter Thompson. There’s some good news for 2026 coming up. We have a contract with Alabama Power that we have had for some time. The contract runs out at the end of this year, and we have new rates set up. The rates will be lower and will generate probably $250,000 a year. Along with the over collection from the early times of the levelization rider there’s going to be four years we will get an extra $60,000. We’ve got some bonuses coming up for the next three or four years.

Mike Jones stated the mayor got with me and he is interested in trying to proceed with the redrafting of the city code. I suggested Tiffany Spear who was employed with the District Attorney’s office. She has left the District Attorney’s office and gone out on her own. She seems to be very capable so with the mayor’s approval I have brought her in to assist in trying to finalize that process. I’ve met with her several times, and I believe she is doing a very good job. She is going back and hopefully putting some things together that we didn’t do when we initially did it. I feel very good about what she has done so far. I just wanted to report to you, and we are basically trying to push that process forward. I am hopeful that we will be able to get something to you in the near future to try to finalize that. When we get to that point, I will have her come and go over it. Then if any changes make it and hopefully start the process of adopting it to get it finalized. We have been working on it for a couple of months now.

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

Meeting was adjourned.