COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

April 28, 2025

The City of Luverne Council met in regular session on April 28, 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

Elliott Jones, Councilman

Eddie Billings, Councilman

Attorney Mike Jones

Mike Johnson, Chief

Margie Gomillion, Clerk

Absent: Kathy Smyth, Councilwoman

Visitors: Steve Defee Larry Coggins

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 April 14, 2025. Councilman Jones made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilman Billings seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimously approved.

Mayor Beasley stated everything was routine for the administrative report. The clerk reminded everyone that the National Day of Prayer is this Thursday, May 1st at 11:30 a.m., at the steps of the Crenshaw County Courthouse.

The mayor called everyone’s attention to the police report. The mayor read since the last meeting, the police department had 205 calls for service not including building checks, made 29 traffic stops, wrote 11 citations, and gave 18 warnings. There have been 3 animal control calls since the last meeting.

Mayor Beasley called on Councilman Billings for the park report. Councilman Billings reported we are up and running at the park. There has been a nice crowd every night. There are 11 girls’ teams playing, 14 boys’ teams and 6 t-ball teams. T-ball will begin playing on May 8th. The only concern is concession is running behind a little from where they ran last year and not sure why. There have been some sand boxes put in the playground under the slides to help the kids and have been a big hit.

Next, the mayor stated the splash pad came in $50,000 over budget. This grant is a 50/50 match. I made a call to Montgomery, and we will get $30,000 from the state. The mayor stated everyone has a copy of a letter of recommendation, bid tabulation and Notice of Award from Southern Engineering Solutions to look over. Mayor Beasley presented Resolution 042825 Land and Water Conservation Fund, Project No. 22-LW-1075, Splash Pad and Park Improvements awarding the bid to A Plus Septic, LLC in the amount of $400,000. After further discussion, Councilman Billings made a motion to approve Resolution 042825 Land and Water Conservation Fund, Project No. 22-LW-1075, Splash Pad and Park Improvements awarding the bid to A Plus Septic, LLC in the amount of $400,000. Councilman Jones seconded the motion and all was in favor. The resolution is as follows:

**City of Luverne**

**Resolution No. 042825**

**Land and Water Conservation Fund**

**Project No. 22-LW-1075**

**Splash Pad and Park Improvements**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Luverne advertised for bids in connection with the street portion of LWCF Project Number 22-LW-1075, and

**WHEREAS**, a bid opening was held March 7, 2025, and two sealed bids were received and opened publicly at City Hall on this date, and

WHEREAS, Southern Engineering Solutions, Inc. has recommended the contract be awarded to A Plus Septic, LLC in the amount of $400,000.00, and

**WHEREAS**, A Plus Septic, LLC is not debarred from working on federally funded project per SAM.gov search results attached hereto, and

**WHEREAS**, it has been determined that it is in the best interest of the City of Luverne to enter into a contract with A Plus Septic, LLC.

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** by the Mayor and the Council of the City of Luverne, Alabama as follows:

**SECTION 1**. That the contract for Splash Pad and Park Improvements on the Luverne LWCF Project No. 22-LW-1075 be awarded to A Plus Septic, LLC in the amount of $400,000.00.

**SECTION 2**. That this action is based on the current interpretation of ADECA procurement policy with is acknowledged by this resolution and ADECA policy on file.

**SECTION 3**. That Ed Beasley, in his capacity as Mayor, is hereby authorized and directed to execute said contract on behalf of the City of Luverne.

**PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED** this 28th day of April 2025.

The mayor called on Steve Defee to report on the airport. Mr. Defee stated all the trees that were in violation at the airport have been cut to my knowledge. We are just waiting for ALDOT to come back to do their inspection.

Mayor Beasley stated I checked with Mrs. Kathryn and everything at the library is fine.

The mayor called on Councilman Smith for a report on Fire/Rescue. Councilman Smith stated the Fire Chief and one of the captains are going to Mississippi Tuesday of next week to take the last of the equipment to be mounted on the new truck. Hopefully, the truck will be in our possession in about two or three weeks.

Mayor Beasley stated we have a $2.7 million project in the works. We are holding up on that until the zoning committee can meet. The people involved have not made an announcement yet pending what the zoning committee does. I met with the owner Thursday for about two hours. It went very well. It should bring some more revenue to the city.

The mayor called on Councilman Jones to speak about the loan for the Crenshaw Community Hospital. Councilman Jones stated the hospital has been approved for a Critical Care Access hospital, which will make a tremendous difference. It will take a little time to get Medicare and Medicaid numbers changed over. The hospital has a line of credit we are working on to cover payroll and utilities. They have one thing that is due, that is $50,000 and is due immediately. If its not taken care of it could cost in the upwards of $100,000. The hospital has approached the city to do a loan to be paid back over five months at $10,000 a month. This money could be pulled from funds that were going to be paid into the electric reserve. Instead of us paying it each month when the check comes in from the hospital put it in the reserve. It won’t affect daily operations for the city. I’m on the board so I can’t vote on this. I’m just giving you the information. Attorney Jones stated I heard from the hospital attorney, Levi Nichols, last Thursday. I called David Ringelstein who is our bond attorney, to be sure how we need to do this. He indicated there shouldn’t be a problem. This is pursuant to Amendment 772 of the Alabama Constitution, and it is for the purpose of economic development due to the fact that having a viable hospital is necessary for the recruitment of the industry. I have the promissory note ready and technically the note needs to include interest. Not sure if the city is interested in collecting interest but needs to be part of the note. We have $50,000 to be paid back at $10,000 a month beginning June 10th. After some discussion, Councilwoman Dawson made a motion to give the hospital the $50,000 loan with a small amount of interest on the repayment. This is pursuant to Amendment 772 of the Alabama Constitution, and it is for the purpose of economic development due to the fact that having a viable hospital is necessary for the recruitment of the industry. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Yea: Betty Dawson Abstained: Elliott Jones

Kip Smith

Eddie Billings

The motion carried.

Councilman Smith reminded everyone of the Citizen of the Year banquet tomorrow night honoring Dr. Charles Tompkins.

Councilman Billings stated he had one thing left out of his report. We are looking at resurfacing the tennis court. The mayor, Mr. Sport, and I are going to get together and come up with a plan for that. We have some idea of what it will cost. If you have a chance, go look at the tennis court. If we can figure out how to make this work I need your support with that. The mayor asked the chief to show Councilman Billings about trash being left on the basketball court from the night before. Councilman Billings stated he would get with Mr. Sport on this.

Mike Jones stated he has been in touch with Tiffany Spear. She has provided the chapters she has been working on which is 13, 14. 16 and 17. I will meet with her on Wednesday to go over them. Once we do that, I will forward them to you in an email so you can look at them. There will be red lines and blue lines. The blue lines are some comments we made when we went through them and the red lines are the suggestions and changes, she has made as she has gone through them. I think we were good up through chapter 12. I will probably give you a chapter at a time to look at. What she has done so far looks good. I will also get it to the chief and Mark Smyth. The next few weeks I will be getting them to you to see what you think. Then we can hopefully get where we can start adopting some of this.

Councilman Jones discussed a concern from one of the citizens who lives across the street from where the new City Hall and utilities are moving on the Glenwood Road. His concern is if we are planning to put the garbage trucks and everything else out there. I told him we had discussed building a pole barn at the lagoon for all the equipment.

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.