COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

May 12, 2025

The City of Luverne Council met in regular session on May 12, 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

Mike Johnson, Chief

Margie Gomillion, Clerk

Absent: Attorney Mike Jones

Visitors: Savannah Edgar Sandra Hall Abigail Baggett

Zoe McManigle Jason McManigle Candace McManigle

Sawyer Johnson John McManigle Barbara McManigle

Bill McManigle Emely McManigle Mason Adcock

Steve Defee Chris Jones Christopher Jones

Denny Williams Ryan McGhee

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

The mayor presented Resolution 051225 for William F. McManigle. Councilman Smith made a motion to adopt Resolution 051225 for William F. McManigle. Councilman Billings seconded the motion and all was in favor. The resolution is as follows:

**RESOLUTION 051225**

**WHEREAS,** William F. McManigle joined the Luverne Fire Department in April 1985; and

**WHEREAS,** William F. McManigle has served in the Luverne Volunteer Fire Department for 40 years; and

**WHEREAS,** William F. McManigle served as Chief of the Luverne Fire Department for 30 years, from 1995 until 2025;

**WHEREAS,** Chief McManigle is the longest serving Fire Chief in the history of the Luverne Fire Department; and

**WHEREAS,** Chief McManigle is only the sixth Fire Chief of the Luverne Fire Department since 1929; and

**WHEREAS,** Chief McManigle has served the Luverne Fire Department and the citizens of Luverne, Alabama, faithfully and tirelessly; and

**WHEREAS,** the Mayor and City Council wish to recognize Chief McManigle for his distinguished service to the City of Luverne, Alabama, and its citizens;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Luverne, do hereby recognize the outstanding service of Chief McManigle and do extend their heartfelt appreciation to him.

**RESOLVED FURTHER,** that the Mayor and City Council do hereby extend their best wishes to Chief McManigle upon his retirement

**RESOLVED FURTHER,** that a copy of this Resolution be provided to Chief McManigle and that it further be spread upon the minutes of this body.

**DONE** this 12th day of May 2025.

Mayor Beasley called on Councilman Smith. Councilman Smith presented a copy of Resolution 051225 to Chief William F. McManigle. Next, Captain Jason McManigle presented his dad Chief Mcmanigle with the last fire helmet he wore on behalf of Fire Chief Drew Money.

The mayor called for the approval of the minutes of April 28, 2025. Councilman Billings made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilman Jones seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Yea: Betty Dawson Abstained: Kathy Smyth

Kip Smith

Elliott Jones

Eddie Billings

The motion carried.

Mayor Beasley stated everything was routine for the administrative report.

The mayor called everyone’s attention to the police report. Councilman Billings stated since the last meeting, the police department had 162 calls for service not including building checks, made 31 traffic stops, wrote 18 citations, and gave 13 warnings. The department made 10 misdemeanor and 5 felony arrests. There has been 1 animal control call since the last meeting.

Mayor Beasley called on Councilman Billings for the park report. Councilman Billings reported All-Star selections are going on this week. We did have two individuals suspended for one day/night. The way Merrill does that is your first offense is one day/night, second offense is one week, and third offense is you are removed from the park for the season. We are hosting the boys 6U District on June 6th. T-ball started last Thursday night.

The mayor called on Steve Defee to report on the airport. Mr. Defee stated the original reports that we had and thought our license had been on a temporary suspension was invalid. From ALDOT’s perspective we are in compliance and our license will be issued to us within the next month or so. Also, a full report of their last inspection has been granted to us. We will still need to have the ramp as well as the taxi-way resurfaced. Mr. Defee stated we need to fill out another 50/50 grant application we should be getting in the next month or so.

Mayor Beasley stated he checked with Mrs. Kathryn and everything at the library is going well.

The mayor called on Councilman Smith for a report on Fire/Rescue. Councilman Smith stated the new fire truck is here and sitting outside for everyone to look at today. We have started putting some of the equipment on it, but we haven’t gotten it completely outfitted yet. We had to order a little more stuff. We hope to have it in service within the next couple of weeks.

Councilwoman Smyth stated the Planning Commission met recently. The mayor stated we met last week. Everyone has a copy of the minutes from the Planning Commission approving it. The mayor stated the council needs to decide whether they want to have a public hearing or not. After some discussion, Councilman Jones made a motion to approve the request to have a public hearing for rezoning property located at 507 S Forest Ave (Lot 1) and empty lots (Lot 2 and Lot 3) adjoining Lot 1 owned by Waller Martin from R3 to B3. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

Mayor Beasley stated Kathy Senn is up for reappointment to the Mental Health Board. Councilman Smith made a motion to reappoint Kathy Senn to the Mental Health Board. Councilwoman Smyth seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Yea: Betty Dawson Abstain: Eddie Billings

Kip Smith

Kathy Smyth

Elliott Jones

The motion carried.

The mayor stated the council has a request from Food Champs LLC. It is an application from the State of Alabama for retail beer (off premises only) and retail table wine (off premises only). Councilman Smith made a motion to approve the application for 050 – for retail beer (off premises only) and 070 - retail table wine (off premises only) for Food Champs LLC located at 1297 S Forest Avenue. Councilwoman Smyth seconded the motion and all was in favor.

Next, the mayor called on Chief Johnson to speak. The chief stated he spoke with Casey Chambley about the fireworks. They have had trouble getting fireworks. They have some locked in but it’s 25 percent more and that is the least he can do it for. We need to set a date. The mayor recommended July 5th. After some discussion, Councilman Billings made a motion to have the fireworks on Saturday, July 5th and to stay within the budget of $13,000. Councilman Jones seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimously approved.

Councilman Jones stated that he just wanted to tell Chief McManigle how much we appreciate all that he has done for the city and congratulations on your retirement.

Councilman Billings stated while we have the heart, soul and backbone of the fire department here, we don’t tell you as a whole how much we appreciate you. We are very blessed in the city to have you.

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.