COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

June 9, 2025

The City of Luverne Council met in regular session on June 9, 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

Mike Johnson, Chief

Margie Gomillion, Clerk

Absent: Kathy Smyth, Councilwoman

Attorney Mike Jones

Visitors: Steve Defee Larry Coggins Ryan McGhee

Alexis Bell Devonna Jones Kris Harrell

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 May 12, 2025. Councilman Jones made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilman Billings seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously approved.

Mayor Beasley stated due to the Jeffcoat Street project not being closed out in time we will not get another CDBG grant this year. Councilman Jones stated he spoke with Ashton Estes with SCADC and with an open project it would not allow us to apply for another grant this year. The mayor stated they will accept another application next year.

The mayor stated everything was routine for the administrative report.

Mayor Beasley called everyone’s attention to the police report. Councilman Billings stated since the last meeting, the police department had 176 calls for service not including building checks, made 15 traffic stops, wrote 7 citations, and gave 8 warnings. The department made 13 misdemeanors and 1 felony arrest. There have been 5 animal control calls since the last meeting.

The mayor called on Councilman Billings for the park report. Councilman Billings reported we had to do some grading work to get ready to host the 6U Boys District Tournament we are doing. We also had an issue with the septic line at the bottom field. The city departments came out to help with the grading and replacing the pipes. We are going to have to replace some more pipes before next year. The 6U tournament was delayed tonight due to the weather but hopefully will pick back up tomorrow night. The teams we have in the tournaments around the state right now are: 6U will go to state, 7U playing this week in Montgomery, 8U eliminated, 10U finished 3rd – going to state, 12U finished 3rd – going to state and 12U Rookie Team playing this week in Montgomery. All the girl teams 6U, 8U, 10U and 12U start district in Geneva this Thursday.

Mayor Beasley called on Steve Defee to report on the airport. Mr. Defee discussed getting a quote from Paul Gainous with Southern Petroleum Systems to replace the old fueling system QT M3000. The old system has been on bypass where someone has to go out and manually fuel. A new fueling system, QT M4000 would be around $23,000. This would include removing the old and installing the new system. The new system would include an updated cellular data system not a dial up system like we have now. Next, Mr. Defee discussed we should be receiving a mid-summer application from ALDOT for the 50/50 grant. With the 50/50 grant we would be looking at approximately $113,000 for all the ramp, the painting and the new QT pod machine. As I stated at the last meeting we are in compliance and should be receiving our license to operate in the mail.

The mayor called on Councilman Smith to report on Fire/Rescue. Councilman Smith stated the new fire truck is in service. It has 95% of the equipment on it. Councilman Smith discussed the old tanker truck and if insurance is still needed on it until it leaves ownership of the city. The mayor stated he would check on the insurance to see if we could drop it down to just liability for now. We still have a little equipment to get off the old pumper truck. I’ve talked with Brock and he said there is probably room to park it at the armory until the council decides what they want to do with the two trucks. Also, tomorrow night at drill the county is looking at changing a lot of our nozzles and hoses because everything is going low pressure. The County Association is looking at a grant to try to help fund all the departments who want to do this.

Mayor Beasley stated he has been hanging out at the park a little. I’ve signed a lot of purchase orders last week and this week.

The mayor presented Resolution 060925 E.L. Turner Park Splash Pad Land and Water Conservation Fund Project 22-LW-1075 amendment to request additional funds. After some discussion, Councilman Billings made a motion to adopt Resolution 060925 E.L. Turner Park Splash Pad Land and Water Conservation Fund Project 22-LW-1075 amendment to request additional fund. Councilwoman Dawson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved. The resolution is as follows:

**City of Luverne**

**Resolution No. 060925**

**E.L. Turner Park Splash Pad**

**Land and Water Conservation Fund Project 22-LW-1075**

WHEREAS, the City of Luverne proposes to constructa splash pad to include sidewalks and handicap parking at E.L. Turner Park; and

WHEREAS, the City of Luverne has been previously awarded $115,000 to participate in the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Program and accepted this award in May 2023; and

WHEREAS, the City previously amended the project budget in July 2024, which made the total project cost increase to $397,500; and

WHEREAS, the total proposed project cost is now more than the amended award amount/match commitment and the City has been advised to seek additional funds from the LWCF Program; and

The City of Luverne has submitted revised LWCF financial documentation to substantiate the request for additional funds in the total amount of $215,500, or 50%of the total proposed project costs, which has been estimated at $431,000.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Luverne will hold in reserve $215,500, or 50%of the proposed project costs for the purpose of matching the Land and Water Conservation Fund assistance, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Luverne understands it will sign any amended documents to comply with all applicable Federal and State laws, rules and regulations and that the property acquired and/or developed with Land and Water Conservation Fund assistance will be maintained for public outdoor recreation in perpetuity as required by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965.

Mayor Beasley presented the request from Betty Dawson for the Juneteenth celebration at the Multipurpose building on June 21, 2025. Councilman Billings made a motion to approve the Juneteenth celebration at the Multipurpose building on June 21, 2025. Councilman Jones seconded the motion, and the vote was as follows:

Yea: Kip Smith Abstained: Betty Dawson

Elliott Jones

Eddie Billings

The motion carried.

Next, the mayor presented the request from Alexis Bell on behalf of the Greek Organization members from Crenshaw County for a Back-to-School Tailgate at Turner Park on August 2, 2025. Councilman Jones made a motion to approve the Back-to-School Tailgate at Turner Park on August 2, 2025. Councilman Billings seconded the motion and all was in favor.

Councilman Smith stated he may not be at the next meeting due to a family trip but hopefully will make it back in time.

Councilman Billings stated he would like to thank the city workers for helping the park and recreation by going above and beyond to get it ready out there. Also, the water department for addressing the stopped-up sewage. We don’t know how lucky we are to have them. We take them for granted all the time and should be more thankful for them.

The mayor stated we really should take more time to honor our workers for the city. We saved $240,000 on the 9th Street and Woodford Ave sewer project from the city workers doing the work that we had budgeted for a contractor. My hats off to them for that also.

Councilwoman Dawson stated she would like to thank the workers for helping Callie Dean when she didn’t have any power.

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.