COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

January 25, 2021

The City of Luverne Council met in regular session on January 25, 2021 at 5:30 p.m., in the City Hall Building. The following members were present:

Mayor Ed Beasley

Kip Smith, Councilman

Kathy Smyth, Councilwoman – by phone conference

Elliott Jones, Councilman

Eddie Billings, Councilman

Michelle Royals, Engineer

Margie Gomillion, Clerk

William Neal, Building Inspector

Christy Johnson, Editor

Absent:

Mike Jones, Attorney

Mayor Beasley called the meeting to order. The mayor called on Elliott Jones to lead the pledge of allegiance to the flag and William Neal to say a prayer.

The mayor called for the approval of the minutes of January 11, 2020. Councilman Billings made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilman Jones seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

Mayor Beasley called on Mr. Tom Albritton to speak. Mr. Albritton stated he is the Director of State Ethics Commission and wanted to introduce himself to the council. Mr. Albritton asked if everyone knew what they do and or had any questions. With no questions or comments from the Council, Mr. Albritton stated they are here to help and if anyone is ever in Montgomery, they would love to hear from them.

Councilman Smith stated he gave everyone a copy of the requested policy changes from the mayor and council regarding improvements to the rescue department that has been discussed. Councilman Smith stated he would like for everyone to read over it and if everyone approves he would pass it along to Lynda Turner. The mayor stated everyone needed to read over the list and let Mr. Smith know if anything needed changing.

The mayor stated everyone has a copy of Engineer Royals’ departmental reports. Ms. Royals reported the city was denied the ATRIP II grant application which would have realigned Glenwood Road and added a turning lane on Mt. Ida Road. We now have the application and preliminary design so we will eventually reapply. Construction is scheduled to begin soon on the Jack’s turning lane. The City crews completed a portion of our in-kind match last week and the contractor is waiting on favorable weather now. Engineer Royals stated she has a letter from Tim Brazy, CEO of Landmark Dividend. The company buys ground leases for billboards. Ms. Royals asked the Council to think about any property along 331 that could be a potential billboard site. Ms. Royals stated she was also approached by someone who purchases long term communication leases. For example the AT&T lease on the water tower. This company would pay a lump sum up front in exchange for the monthly revenue. Mayor Beasley stated that he is generally not in favor of forfeiting monthly payments. Finally, Ms. Royals stated the sign for the Joe Rex Sport gazebo dedication is ready whenever the Council would like to schedule a ceremony.

Mayor Beasley called on the city clerk for the administrative report. Routine work was performed.

The mayor stated everyone had a copy of the chief’s report. Since the last meeting, the police department had 304 calls of service including building checks. The department made over 25 traffic stops, wrote 15 citations and over 10 warnings. The department made 3 misdemeanor arrests. There were 6 animal control calls since the last council meeting. A new CAD system has been installed so the numbers maybe incorrect but still working the bugs out.

Mayor Beasley stated everyone has a copy of Mr. Neal’s report.

The mayor reported everything is going well at the library.

Mayor Beasley stated he and Engineer Royals have been coordinating upcoming projects but haven’t made any decisions.

The mayor stated there are some upcoming board appointments for the next council meeting the council needs to be thinking about: Merrill Sport’s seat on the Electric Board, Councilman Johnson’s seat on the Water Board, and Councilman Johnson’s seat on the Recreation Board.

Councilman Billings made a motion declaring Council seat 1 vacant due to the death of Councilman Charlie Johnson. Councilman Jones seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

Councilman Smith stated it is a sad time, I recently began my 15th year sitting beside Mr. Johnson and we had some good times. We need to remember Mr. Charlie and his family in our prayers.

Mayor Beasley stated Mr. Charlie was a man with great knowledge, well educated, well spoken, a wonderful family man, and a fine Christian. He will be dearly missed.

Councilman Jones stated Councilman Johnson was as wise as any man he knew. We can fill his seat but he cannot be replaced.

Councilman Billings stated he would like to echo everyone’s comments on Councilman Johnson and suggested the Council adopt a resolution to recognize him for his 24 years of service on the city council at the next meeting.

Councilman Billings made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Jones seconded the motion.

Meeting was adjourned.