COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

February 22, 2021

The City of Luverne Council met in regular session on February 22, 2021 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

Mike Jones, Attorney – by phone conference

Michelle Royals, Engineer

Margie Gomillion, Clerk

William Neal, Building Inspector

AJ Johnson, Luverne Journal

Absent:

Eddie Billings, Councilman

Visitors:

Felicia Darget Andre Dawson

M’Kayia Dawson Yvonne Noble

Lit Jones

The mayor called on Mark Smyth to administer the oath of office to Council Member Betty Dawson as prescribed by the Code of Alabama.

Mayor Beasley called the meeting to order. The mayor called on Kip Smith to lead the pledge of allegiance to the flag and Kathy Smyth to say a prayer.

The mayor called for the approval of the minutes of February 8, 2021. Councilman Jones made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

Mayor Beasley stated everyone has a copy of Engineer Royals’ departmental reports. Ms. Royals stated the 4 KV to 12 KV conversion along W. 3rd Street has been ongoing for several weeks because the electric department has only been able to work on it in their spare time. Engineer Royals notified the council that part of the conversion will require an outage on Finley Street on Wednesday or Thursday for approximately five hours. The citizens who will be effected will receive a letter.

The mayor called on the city clerk for the administrative report. Routine work was performed.

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

Councilman Smith reported the rescue has been busy. The rescue has ordered 20 new walkie talkies and are getting shirts for the employees. They also reported a repair bill at Hudson’s for general maintenance of approximately $1,500.00.

Councilman Jones requested that the Council address restructuring the Park Board in such a way as to have it report to the Council similar to the other boards within the city. Councilman Jones stated that he has spoken with the city attorney and was advised that if they wanted to change this board that we would simply need to repeal the original resolution 77J. Councilman Jones made a motion to repeal resolution 77J. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved. The mayor then asked Attorney Jones if the parks and recreation department will now be turned back over to the council since the resolution was repealed. Attorney Jones stated that since the Park Board no longer exists there is nowhere else for it to go but to the city council. Attorney Jones stated that the Council needs to make plans of how it would like that department to be handled going forward. All councilmembers were in agreement that an advisory park board was needed and another resolution to establish authority and responsibilities would be created at a later time.

Councilman Jones requested the appointments for the Water Board and Recreation Board be tabled for one more meeting. The council was in agreement.

The mayor stated Teresa Foster’s appointment on the Board of Housing Commissioners will expire in March. Councilman Smith made a motion to reappoint Teresa Foster to the Board of Housing Commissioners. Councilwoman Smyth seconded the motion and all was in favor.

Mayor Beasley stated Drew Money’s appointment on the Board of Adjustments will expire in March. Councilman Jones made a motion to reappoint Drew Money to the Board of Adjustments. Councilwoman Smyth seconded the motion and all was in favor.

The mayor opened the gasoline and diesel bids. The only bid received was from J. Bryce Smith Oil Company. J. Bryce Smith bid 19 cents per gallon above dealer cost for gasoline and 19 cents per gallon above dealer cost for diesel. After some discussion, Councilman Jones made a motion to accept the bids from J. Bryce Smith Oil Company. Councilwoman Dawson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously in favor.

Mayor Beasley presented the council with a resolution in honor of Mr. Charlie Johnson. Councilman Jones made a motion to adopt Resolution 022221 in honor of Mr. Charlie Johnson. Councilwoman Dawson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved. The resolution is as follows:

**RESOLUTION 022221**

**WHEREAS,** Charlie Johnson departed this life on January 19, 2021; and

**WHEREAS,** Mr. Johnson, affectionately referred to as “Cuz”, served as a City Councilman for District 1 for the City of Luverne since 1997; and

**WHEREAS,** Mr. Johnson served as Mayor pro tem of the Luverne City Council for 16 years; and

**WHEREAS,** Mr. Johnson served as Chairman of the Luverne Parks and Recreation Board for 16 years; and

**WHEREAS,** Mr. Johnson served as a member of the Luverne Water and Sewage Board for 23 years; and

**WHEREAS,** Mr. Johnson was actively involved in the community where he served as a Deacon and Sunday School Teacher at the Sweet Water Missionary Baptist Church; and

**WHEREAS,** Mr. Johnson had a profound impact on the lives of many children and young people through his years as an educator and his involvement in youth athletics; and

**WHEREAS,** Mr. Johnson was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather; and

**WHEREAS,** Mr. Johnson diligently and tirelessly served the citizens of Luverne by giving voices to those that might have otherwise gone unheard;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Luverne, that they do express their sincere condolences to the family of Mr. Charlie Johnson upon his passing;

**RESOLVED FURTHER,** the Mayor and City Council wish to recognize the life and service of Mr. Charlie Johnson to the citizens of the City of Luverne;

**RESOLVED FURTHER,** that the Mayor and City Council wish to acknowledge the servant’s heart exhibited by Mr. Johnson and express their grief in the loss of not just a fellow elected official, but a very dear friend;

**RESOLVED FURTHER,** that a copy of this Resolution be placed upon the minutes of this body and provided to the family of Mr. Johnson.

**DONE** this 22nd day of February, 2021.

The mayor discussed the appointing of pro-tem mayor. Mayor Beasley recommended rotating the appointment each year starting with Councilman Smith. It was discussed that the new pro-tem would take effect at the first meeting in October of every year. The first appointment would begin now until October. After discussion, Councilman Jones made a motion to appoint Councilman Smith to serve as pro-tem mayor. Councilwoman Dawson seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Yea: Betty Dawson Abstained: Kip Smith

Kathy Smyth

Elliott Jones

The motion carried.

Councilwoman Dawson stated that she had someone to inform her that Mr. Charlie Johnson was working on getting a speed bump on South Woodford Ave. The mayor stated they would need to do a written request to submit to the council and the council would take it under consideration. Councilwoman Smyth suggested asking the chief to place the mobile speed control devise on Woodford in the meantime to slow things down.

Councilman Smith commented on how nice the flowers at the Welcome to Luverne sign by the fire station look. Councilman Smith asked for the council’s blessing to order new flags for Memorial Day at Veterans Memorial curve. Councilman Jones made a motion to approve new flags for Memorial Day at Veterans Memorial curve. Councilwoman Smyth seconded the motion and all was in favor.

Councilwoman Smyth requested to follow up on Councilman Smith’s comments about the flowers at Douglas Park. She stated that the landscape crew planted tulip bulbs a few months ago knowing they would be coming up around this time. They will replace them seasonally. We plan to move two benches from the downtown area to the area where the old fountain was. We are also looking at a quote for new lettering and repairing and painting the welcome sign through the AMEA grant funds. The mayor asked Councilwoman Smyth to get with Ms. Royals to go ahead and plan the dedication for the gazebo.

Councilman Jones stated he would like to congratulate Councilwoman Betty Dawson and he looks forward to working with her. Councilman Jones stated he would like to thank Councilman Smith for working with the rescue because he has noticed a change.

Councilwoman Dawson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Jones seconded the motion.

Meeting was adjourned.