COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

March 8, 2021

The City of Luverne Council met in regular session on March 8, 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

Eddie Billings, Councilman – by phone conference

Mike Jones, Attorney – by phone conference

Michelle Royals, Engineer

Margie Gomillion, Clerk

William Neal, Building Inspector

Mayor Beasley called the meeting to order. The mayor called on Betty Dawson 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 February 22, 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 called for unfinished/old business. Councilman Jones made a motion to appoint Councilwoman Kathy Smyth to the Water Board to serve the remainder of Mr. Charlie Johnson’s term. Councilwoman Betty Dawson seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Yea: Betty Dawson Abstained: Kathy Smyth

Kip Smith

Elliott Jones

Eddie Billings

The motion carried.

Councilman Jones made a motion that the previous Recreation Board be reinstated as an advisory board to the Council with Councilman Eddie Billings being appointed to serve the remainder of Mr. Charlie Johnson’s term. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Yea: Betty Dawson Abstained: Eddie Billings

Kip Smith

Kathy Smyth

Elliott Jones

The motion carried.

The mayor stated everyone has a copy of Engineer Royals’ departmental reports. Ms. Royals called attention to the report stating that she has added Parks & Recreation to her report to be addressed similar to the Electric, Water, and Street departments. The Turner Park surveillance cameras have already shown fruitful by catching one vandal who has been identified for breaking the door on the equipment shed. They will be making payments for repairs. Pedal boats were budgeted for the lake this year. Multiple quotes have been collected for less than $600 each. We have verified that the state does not object to the City renting pedal boats as long as the renter also purchases a fishing license since this is considered a fishing lake not a recreation lake. After some discussion, the mayor recommended purchasing two boats to see how it goes. Councilman Billings made a motion to purchase two pedal boats for the lake. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and all was in favor.

Engineer Royals reported Mr. Defee is working on purchasing and replacing runway lights at the airport.

The Engineer reported Mrs. Kathryn with the library reported a piece of stucco on the corner of the exterior wall needs to be repaired and had received a quote for $700 from the company who originally constructed that portion of the building. Since the area is only approximately one foot by two inches, Ms. Royals asked Marvin Bolling to find a repair kit to try first. If the patch does not work, we will seek a professional repair company or use the quote provided to Mrs. Kathryn.

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

Councilman Smith reported everything is going good with the rescue.

The mayor stated everyone has a copy of Mr. Neal’s report. Mr. Neal stated he is working with a lot of people who are wanting to build swimming pools right now. Some will need a variance to put the pools where they want them.

Mayor Beasley stated everyone had a copy of the chief’s report. Since the last meeting, the police department had 184 calls of service including building checks. The department made over 41 traffic stops, wrote 19 citations and over 22 warnings. The department made 5 misdemeanor and 2 felony arrests. There were 3 animal control calls since the last council meeting.

The mayor stated the council needed to appoint a voting delegate for the Annual Convention of the Alabama League of Municipalities. Councilman Smith made a motion to appoint Councilwoman Kathy Smyth to be the voting delegate for the Annual Convention of the Alabama League of Municipalities. 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 Bee Gee McManigle’s appointment on the Mental Health Board will expire in April. Councilman Smith made a motion to reappoint Bee Gee McManigle to the Mental Health Board. Councilwoman Smyth seconded the motion. The vote is as follows:

Yea: Betty Dawson Abstained: Eddie Billings

Kip Smith

Elliott Jones

Kathy Smyth

The motion carried.

Councilman Smith stated he would like to applaud the Water & Street Department on their repair of a major catastrophe on First Ave Saturday, February 27. They worked well past midnight to restore water to the neighborhood. Both departments did a good job and the street is back open.

Councilwoman Dawson stated that she had a request from Martha Harris about her driveway and has passed it on to Ms. Royals to check into it.

Councilwoman Smyth stated she wanted to thank the city for putting up the spring banners downtown. We are trying to work on picking up the replacement trees for downtown. We are coordinating with Michelle for a day that the guys will be free to plant the trees. Councilwoman Smyth asked for an update on the splash pad. Engineer Royals stated will are still waiting for the National Parks Association to approve the state’s plans. Once the state receives approval, they will release the conditional approval and give us the go ahead to begin procurement. We will then start fundraising for our 50% match. Councilwoman Smyth stated she had lunch Saturday at one of the new establishments, the Fountain Sports Bar & Grill. It was delicious and encouraged everyone to try it.

Councilman Billings stated that the downtown looks nice with the banners and thanked the Council for their trust in him to be the liaison on the Recreation Board. He assured everyone that he will do his best to make them proud.

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

Meeting was adjourned.