COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

May 24, 2021

The City of Luverne Council met in regular session on May 24, 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

Mike Jones, Attorney

Michelle Royals, Engineer

Margie Gomillion, Clerk

William Neal, Building Inspector

Mike Johnson, Chief

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

The mayor called for the approval of the minutes of May 10, 2021. Councilman Billings made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilman Jones seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

Mayor Beasley moved into old/unfinished business. Councilwoman Dawson stated she and Chief Johnson met with the owners of Fountain Sports Bar & Grill. They seemed to be willing to do what the council has suggested. Chief Johnson received a letter from a 13 year old concerning the establishment which was included in each councilmember’s packet. The letter is very resounding so if any further issues arise, the council can refer to the opinion of a 13 year old girl.

The mayor stated everyone has a copy of Engineer Royals’ departmental reports. Ms. Royals reported everything is in her report. The engineer added that two (2) public hearings were held today. One was a requirement to close out the ADECA Economic Development grant to construct the turn lane for Jack’s while the second was a requirement to reapply for ADECA CDBG funds to replace the sewer line on Jeffcoat.

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. The mayor stated the police department is still staying busy in District 1. Since the last meeting, the police department had 193 calls of service including building checks. The department made over 41 traffic stops, wrote 35 citations and over 6 warnings. The department made 4 misdemeanor arrests. There were 2 animal control calls since the last council meeting.

Councilman Billings reported tonight is the last regular season game at the park. The tournaments will begin June 10th. Councilman Billings also reported that Mrs. Sandy Walker has stated that she no longer wishes to serve on the advisory park board and that he believes the same is true for Mr. Gary Sport but has not received official word yet. The chief told Councilman Billings he would serve in any capacity that the council would like him to serve but he has not received an answer from Andre Parks. All were on the park board and were asked to continue to serve as an advisory council. The mayor stated Mrs. Julie Albritton called looking for sponsors for the 11 & 12 year old All-Star team to help purchase jerseys so if anyone would like to donate it would be a worthy cause because the kids need the help.

Mayor Beasley reported Mr. Steve Defee has been at the airport doing a lot of work recently. Engineer Royals explained that runway lights were damaged last weekend and had to be repaired.

Mayor Beasley stated everyone has a copy of Mr. Neal’s report. Mr. Neal reported there were two major fires last week. Mr. Neal stated he needed approval tonight from the council to have the July 4th fireworks display on Friday, July 2, 2021 with the same program as last year. The show will cost approximately the same, $8,500, as last year plus the Fire Marshall’s permit fee of approximately $150. If approved tonight, Mr. Casey Chambley will send the contract for the necessary approval signatures. After some discussion. Councilman Jones made a motion to have the July 4th fireworks display on Friday, July 2, 2021 with the same program as last year. Councilwoman Smyth seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Smyth reported she has not heard back from Kayle Sport about the presentation for Mr. Joe R. Sport but will follow up to see how his health is doing before it gets too hot.

The mayor reported he has been doing routine day to day operations.

Mayor Beasley presented the council with Resolution 052421 PY2021 Community Development Block Grant Program authorizing the filing of the application to ADECA and authorizing the mayor to sign all documents related to filing of the application. Councilman Smith made a motion to adopt 052421. Councilman Jones seconded the motion and all was in favor. The resolution is as follows:

City of Luverne RESOLUTION 052421

PY2021 CDBG Application

WHEREAS, the Alabama Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program has been established to assist local governments in meeting community development and housing needs consistent with the objectives set forth in Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the City of Luverne, acting by and through its Council proposes to apply for Community Development Block Grant funds for the purpose of making necessary sanitary sewer and street improvements on Jeffcoat Street; and

WHEREAS, under terms and provisions of Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, the City of Luverne as a recipient of these funds is required to designate and appoint a Financial Officer to perform certain duties in the administration of said grant.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City of Luverne, as follows:

THAT, David Daniel, Mayor, is hereby authorized to execute and submit an application with appropriate assurances to the State of Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, requesting Program Year 2021 CDBG funds in the amount of $300,000; and

THAT, Ed Beasley or the current Mayor be and is hereby designated and appointed as Financial Officer under the terms and pursuant to the provisions of Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and is directed and empowered to make necessary assurances and to perform on behalf of the City of Luverne, those acts and assume such duties as are consistent with said position.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 24th day of May, 2021

The mayor presented the council with Resolution 052421(a) PY2021 Community Development Block Grant Program awarding the contract to Southern Engineering Solutions for the professional services. Councilman Billings made a motion to adopt Resolution 052421(a). Councilman Smith seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved. The resolution is as follows:

**CITY OF LUVERNE**

**Professional Services Resolution 052421(a)**

WHEREAS, the City of Luverne contacted known qualified firms in order to obtain proposals for the provision of engineering services for a PY 2021 Community Development Block Grant Project; and

WHEREAS, based on the City’s rating of all proposals received, using the Council’s rating system, Southern Engineering Solutions has been deemed most qualified for the services called for; and

WHEREAS, Southern Engineering Solutions is not debarred from working on federally funded projects per the SAM.GOV search results attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is in the best interest of the City of Luverne to award a contract to Southern Engineering Solutions for CDBG Application, and CDBG-Post Application services contingent upon awarding of the grant.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED by the Mayor and the Council of the City of Luverne, Alabama as follows:

SECTION 1. That, based on the City’s understanding of recent changes to the procurement policy of ADECA, the acceptance of the proposal of Southern Engineering Solutions for the provision of professional services for PY 2021 CDBG Project, has been determined to be in the best interest of the City of Luverne, and that the proposed fee has been accepted as reasonable based on the complexity of the project, ADECA’s acceptable fee scale and the amount and nature of the local match to be provided by the City.

SECTION 2. That the City of Luverne hereby elects to select and award Southern Engineering Solutions for the provision of engineering services pending receipt of CDBG funds and ADECA contract approval as required.

SECTION 3. That this action is based on the current interpretation of ADECA procurement policy with is acknowledged by this resolution and ADECA policy and memorandum on file.

SECTION 4. That Ed Beasley, in his capacity as Mayor, is hereby authorized and directed to execute said contract on behalf of the City of Luverne.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 24th day of May, 2021.

Mayor Beasley reported the Senior Nutrition Center program will reopen and resume indoor activities to include serving meals in a congregating setting on June 14th. Engineer Royals discussed some proposed rule changes to be implemented before opening the community center for rental. Attorney Jones stated that he is in the process of reviewing the proposed rules that the clerk sent over. The Engineer stated it is basic rules including no alcohol, no smoking in the building, and to clean up after yourself. The biggest difference is the cost increase. We currently charge $25 per rental plus a deposit that they get back if there is no damage. We are recommending to go up to $125 with no deposit but the extra money would go toward a cleaning service who will clean after every single rental. Mr. Jones suggested keeping the deposit so they will have “skin in the game” because they will get it back if they do not damage anything. Engineer Royals stated that the council needs to make a decision on whether to allow bounce houses and slides which are currently not allowed. If the council decides to allow bounce houses and slides, Mr. John Witherington with our insurance company has suggested including a requirement for the renter to provide proof of a separate event insurance policy in the amount of one million dollars that names the City of Luverne as additionally insured.

Councilwoman Dawson reported that she attended the Wiregrass LEAD program last week in Eufaula. Councilwoman Dawson stated she was able to learn a lot about our county but not too much about our city. They talked about identifying the resources that your county and city has. Our main attraction is the Crenshaw County Lake and that we have a wild life bird trail. We could promote our resources more. Councilwoman Dawson stated that the meeting was wonderful and that they go back in July. There are grants from Wiregrass to help promote agriculture and things like working at the lake if someone would like to apply for it. A Pilot truck stop was also discussed at the Wiregrass LEAD class.

Councilman Smith stated the CCA Varsity Girls’ Softball team made it to the final four in the state and requested the council draft a resolution of accomplishment to be presented to the school. Mayor Beasley asked if a resolution was done for CCA’s Varsity Football Championship last year.

Councilwoman Smyth stated she appreciates the condolences on the death of her brother last week. She wanted to apologize for not being able to attend the League of Municipalities Conference but believes the registration will be reimbursed.

Councilman Billings stated that Engineer Royals asked the council to make a decision on the bounce houses so that needs to be addressed. Councilman Billings also answered the Mayor’s question regarding the CCA Football State Championship Resolution by stating that a resolution was approved last year which was presented by Councilman Billings at their awards program. They were thankful for the resolution and appreciated the kind words from the city. After further discussion, the council was in agreement to allow the bounce houses and slides if the renter complies with providing the separate event policy.

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

Meeting was adjourned.