COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

January 10, 2022

The City of Luverne Council met in regular session on January 10, 2022 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 – by phone

William Neal, Building Inspector

Margie Gomillion, Clerk

Mayor Beasley called the meeting to order. The mayor called on Kathy Smyth 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 December 13, 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 called on the city clerk for the administrative report. Routine work was performed.

The mayor called everyone’s attention to the chief’s report. Since the last meeting, the police department had 366 calls for service, not including building checks. The department made over 110 traffic stops, wrote 92 citations and gave 18 warnings. The department made 28 misdemeanor and 4 felony arrests. There were 5 animal control calls since the last meeting.

Mayor Beasley stated everyone has a copy of Mr. Neal’s report. The mayor stated they have been very busy and he has had some sickness in his family. We will be praying things will get better.

Councilwoman Smyth reported the ACE meetings that were scheduled for January have been pushed back to February 22nd and 23rd due to the COVID spike.

The mayor stated he has been working some with Troy Hudson on a couple of grant projects we have going on that we started when Ms. Royals was still here. I think we may try for a little while without hiring a new engineer so we can save a little money to go on that Jeffcoat Street project. Troy Hudson said he will assist us with any grants we have going. We have a pending grant on Jeffcoat Street taking out old lateral pipes, putting in new ones and paving. We are going to be eligible for another $250,000 grant from ADECA. Councilwoman Dawson asked about the stimulus money we received and stated Ms. Royals came up with a list and Woodford is on there to do the water, sewage and later on pave the streets. The mayor stated the project is still pending.

Mayor Beasley stated we made a Water Board replacement with Mr. Eric Harrell and he was here earlier tonight for the Water Board meeting. He seems like a mighty fine man and we look forward to working with him. I think he will be a real asset to our Water Board. We had another resignation last week by Wanda Williams the chairman of the Water Board so we have another opening for the Water Board. The mayor stated Mr. Speed is still interested in serving on the Water Board. Councilwoman Smyth nominated Butch Speed for the Water Board appointment to fill Wanda Williams’ seat. Councilman Billings seconded the motion. Councilman Billings made a motion to close nominations. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. All was in favor of appointing Butch Speed to the Water Board.

The mayor stated Robyn Snellgrove contacted us last week and said that Steve Linton’s term as the city’s appointment to the CCEIDA board expires this month. Mayor Beasley stated he spoke with Mr. Linton and he said he would be proud to go back onto the board if we wanted him to. Councilman Smith made a motion to reappoint Steve Linton to serve as the city’s appointment to the CCEIDA board. Councilman Billings seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Dawson stated the project she has coming up in the near future is the blood drive. I think everyone got some flyers. Hopefully we will get at least 10 to 15 people to donate blood. Councilwoman Dawson stated on the Woodford project she understands the city has a list and the list she has is just a wish list for us. I would like to see something done in District 1. Councilwoman Dawson stated she would like to do something for our city for black history month. I have something to just honor the black businesses here in Luverne. It just says that we recognize you guys are here and we appreciate your business. If we could, get an ad and put that in the paper if everyone agrees. The mayor asked Councilwoman Dawson to get something to the clerk to go in the paper.

Councilman Smith stated the new Dollar General is coming along tremendously. I noticed the other day when I road down to the park that we have a fence on the backside. Maybe as they get closer to getting done with their project we might look at replacing that section of fence that goes across there.

Councilman Jones reported he had a meeting a couple of weeks ago with Senator Barfoot in reference to sewage and water. I will keep everyone updated. Councilman Jones stated he had a really good lunch the other day with Congressman Barry Moore with a great meeting.

Councilman Billings stated he would like to wish Councilwoman Kathy Smyth a happy birthday. Councilman Billings stated he hoped everyone has had a chance to go out to Turner Park to see the basketball goals. They have really been using them. Lee and I have talked about a few things to improve on that. I would love to bring before the Parks and Rec Board as soon as the rest of my council body will give me some nominations that will get approved so that I have a park board. Councilman Billings urged everyone to please bring forward for the next meeting. The mayor stated he has three constituents in District 1 for the parks and rec board. I will schedule a meeting this week to sit down and talk with them and maybe get Councilman Billings to sit in so we can vote on a park board at the next meeting. The mayor stated he would be glad for Councilwoman Dawson to join them at the meeting.

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

Meeting was adjourned.