COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

March 28, 2022

The City of Luverne Council met in regular session on March 28, 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

William Neal, Building Inspector

Margie Gomillion, Clerk

Visitor:

Steve Defee Mason Bunn

The mayor called on Mason Bunn with Congressman Barry Moore’s office to speak. Mr. Bunn thanked the mayor and council for letting him come. Mr. Moore has been in office for a little over a year. He has an office in Wetumka which kind of serves the Montgomery area and river region, one in Andalusia, one in Dothan and looking at putting one in Troy. This has helped to solve over a 1,000 cases with Veterans and things like that. They have really done a great job with case work so anything like that we can help you with let us know.

Mayor Beasley called the meeting to order. The mayor called on Kip Smith 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 March 14, 2022. 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 for unfinished/old business. Councilman Jones stated he would like to do a follow up on what we started discussing with Jackson Thornton with the cost of service study. Councilman Jones stated everyone has a copy of the letter of execution and I have shared that with our attorney. Councilman Jones passed out a list of references from surrounding areas for Jackson Thornton. AMEA will reimburse the city for the cost of service study after services have been paid. Attorney Jones stated the city will pay as it’s billed all along and once the project is completed then we will submit for reimbursement to Fred Clark with AMEA to get all the money back. Councilman Jones stated that Mr. Clark said they would work with us over the change of the fiscal year to get some of it back. Attorney Jones stated the engagement letter stated the total cost for the study will be $30,000. At the last meeting, Mr. Clark stated since the city hadn’t requested a study in a while if the city wanted an all-inclusive study they could cover that too. Councilman Jones stated he had Brock Flynn on the conference call with Mr. Marshall and he is going to be working together with city hall to make sure we get this done in a timely manner so Jackson Thornton can move forward. After further discussion, Councilman Smith made a motion to move forward with the signed copy of letter of execution with Jackson Thornton to provide professional services related to a cost of service study for the City of Luverne. Councilman Billings seconded the motion and all was in favor.

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

Mayor Beasley called everyone’s attention to the chief’s report. Since the last meeting, the police department had 149 calls for service not including building checks. The department made over 25 traffic stops, wrote 15 citations and gave 10 warnings. The department made 3 misdemeanor arrest. There were 2 animal control calls since the last meeting.

The mayor called on Mr. Steve Defee to report on the airport. Mr. Defee reported the fueling system has been fixed and we are selling gas. We have not heard anything back from the widow of Mr. Tom Crowell on the proposal that was sent to her for the value of the property that the city was willing to purchase for. We are anticipating another inspection from the DOT sometime this month or next month. I’m trying to stay on top of all the little issues they questioned us about last time.

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

Councilwoman Smyth stated the ACE reports are coming back into their state agency. They are probably looking at a date to come talk to the council probably in May or June.

The mayor reported he has worked with Brock Flynn on the Dr. Walker water situation that has been going on for a couple of months. It has been resolved. There was a commode leaking in a vacant room at the retirement home.

Mayor Beasley stated the council has a request from DOLGENCORP LLC trade name Dollar General Store 720. The request is an application from the State of Alabama to transfer ABC License from 1257 S Forest Avenue to 1023 S Forest Avenue for 050 retail beer (off premises only) and 070 retail table wine (off premises only). Councilman Smith made a motion to approve the application from the State of Alabama to transfer ABC License from 1257 S Forest Avenue to 1023 S Forest Avenue for 050 retail beer (off premises only) and 070 retail table wine (off premises only) for DOLGENCORP LLC trade name Dollar General Store 720. Councilwoman Dawson seconded the motion and all was in favor.

Mayor Beasley stated the SRF pre-applications have been submitted. It looks like we are going to get all three projects which is 3.5 million dollars. However, we will not know until after these projects are done of how much the city will have to match. We will get a total of $570,000 from the ARPA. We have received the first payment of $285,000 but waiting on the second check. The mayor recommended putting this money in reserve until these projects are finished.

Councilman Billings reported the Parks & Rec Advisory Committee met about a week or so ago to try to keep everybody informed. Lee needed some guidance on uniforms and pictures. We had a couple of bids in and we provided him some guidance along those lines. The uniforms are the ones we have been getting for many years. Nobody around here could come close to the price. We had two bids for pictures; one was local from Adrienne Johnson, Salt Photography here locally and the other was one we have used for years from Montgomery. Mrs. Johnson put in a good bid but could not promise to get the pictures back in a timely manner. The park went with the people from Montgomery. The park spoke with Mrs. Johnson to tell her what to do to hopefully improve her standing and chances to try to keep everything local next year. The pond has been very busy with a lot of people out there fishing. The basketball goal has been swamped with kids out there playing. Opening day for the park is April 4th and I would like to invite everybody if you get a chance to please stop by that night. Lee called about a striping machine that he is highly interested in. I’ve got the information on it and once the advisory committee can sit down we will take a look at that. We are going to try to weigh the cost benefit of it. It does cost some money but could save a lot of man hours and also includes the paint. I will give the council an update on it. We are looking at some ways that might help to offset the cost of it by offering to lease it to the two schools in town for football, baseball and softball season.

The mayor stated Councilwoman Smyth will be representing the city at a meeting for the 331 project with the DOT. I recommended to Councilwoman Smyth if she would bring up in the meeting that we need a few more seconds East and West at the light. Councilwoman Smyth stated the meeting is April 13th with DOT in Dothan. I am going to discuss the additional five seconds on the light East and West, pedestrian striping at the two lights, merge lanes at the park and Dollar General, and the 331/Glenwood Road triangle intersection to see what that status is. Councilwoman Smyth asked if anyone could think of anything else that needs to be brought up. Councilman Smith stated at the new bridge there is no signage to tell you to merge back in.

Councilman Billings stated as part of the parks & rec I am extremely excited about the news we got at our last meeting and the possibility of a lot of those things getting done. If we can get that done with money that’s not our money, even at a different place, that’s even better and great. Councilwoman Smyth asked Councilman Jones about past discussion of a miracle field for disabilities. I didn’t know if that had been a part of your discussion or if it was something we could look at doing at Turner Park. Mr. Bunn recommended checking with Alabama Rural Water Association and USDA Rural Development to possibly help with that.

Councilwoman Dawson stated the 18th of next month our 90 days will be up with our blood drive. I was hoping we could have another one in May. The one we had was successful and we know there continues to be a need for blood. I would like to ask everyone if you can’t come to send five people so we would have a total of 25 that day. At the next meeting I will have some dates for you to approve a particular date.

Councilman Smith stated the Welcome to Luverne signs looks like it might be about time to repaint the background again on them. Councilwoman Smyth stated Lisa Miller with AMEA has sort of requested we take a look at those and get them updated a little bit with some of the Economic Development grant money when it comes around again. Councilwoman Dawson asked if we are still waiting to see if they are going to approve to hang the lights downtown. Councilwoman Smyth stated the lights have been purchased but we might need to look at a couple more locations for them but the project is still on.

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

Meeting was adjourned.