COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

April 11, 2022

The City of Luverne Council met in regular session on April 11, 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

Mike Johnson, Chief

Margie Gomillion, Clerk

Visitor:

Steve Defee Brock Flynn

Anita West Mason Adcock

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

The mayor called for the approval of the minutes of March 28, 2022. Councilman Billings made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilwoman Dawson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

Mayor Beasley called for unfinished/old business. Councilman Smith discussed the council voted giving a lot of the employee’s substantial raises a few weeks ago. We did this not knowing where the funds would come from. How is this setting as far as finding the funds to make sure that covered? Councilman Jones asked the clerk if we had heard anything from Jackson Thornton. The clerk stated they emailed a list of things they needed and we immediately submitted it back to them. We have not heard anything else from them this week. Councilman Jones stated they are working on the study and we are going to look at it as soon as they get finished and that would be the best time to do the rate increase. We are six months into the budget and the departments that were affected by that are under 50%. Councilman Jones asked the supervisors to give an update on how things are working since the raise as far as finding new help and morale. Mr. Flynn stated we have the water department covered and supposedly have one who wants to move from Florida to here for the electric department. The one for the water department lives here and will be coming from Montgomery with nine years’ experience. The morale is good and we appreciate it. Mr. Defee stated our guys are ecstatic about coming to work and getting it done. I’ve had two hires and still have one opening that I need CDL qualifications for. Councilwoman Dawson asked about the status of equipment that was discussed at the last meeting as far as keeping it running. Mr. Defee stated equipment wise we are still in the same status. We are just doing what we absolutely need to do and of course trying to do our regular stuff with garbage and normal debris pickup. Councilman Jones stated a lot of this equipment we are looking at is going to be later in the year before it will come available. That will also give us time for the study to be completed for us to make the correct adjustment per their recommendation. Not sure if I mentioned at the last meeting but I have sat down with William Petrey and discussed the loan on this equipment. They were going to give us a 2.5% rate if we wanted to go through First Citizens Bank so we could make the purchase on this equipment which is just food for thought. Councilwoman Dawson discussed the increase approved by the council for the debris pickup. Mr. Defee stated the ordinance did run in the paper and we have implemented it a couple of times with people. They were not willing to pay the additional $100 fee but were willing to let it set there until the next month.

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 145 calls for service not including building checks. The department made over 24 traffic stops, wrote 10 citations and gave 14 warnings. The department made 2 misdemeanor arrest. There were 4 animal control calls since the last meeting.

Councilman Billings reported last Monday was opening day for the park. Those of you that were able to make it out there I appreciate you stopping by. That is the largest crowd I have seen at that park in a decade. Tuesday night was rained out which dampened it a little bit for that group but picked back up later in the week. I would like to tip my hat to the police department for helping to get cars in and out. The parks and rec did a good job keeping it clean and everything went smooth. Thank you for going out and if you haven’t had a chance to go visit I highly recommend you take the time to do so.

The mayor called on Mr. Steve Defee to report on the airport. Mr. Defee reported the card reader in our 24-hour system is a hit and miss. We do have a card reader that is on the way.

Mayor Beasley stated everyone has a copy of Mr. Neal’s report. The Fire Department was fortunate to get the Covid Volunteer Fire Department Grant. There was a big fire at Stephens Concrete and they lost a lot of equipment.

The mayor reported the library is doing well.

Mayor Beasley reported he had worked with Margie some last week by looking at the budget to see how we’ve done the six months of this fiscal year. It’s like Councilman Jones reported we are a little under budget which is wonderful.

The mayor called on Anita West to speak. Mrs. West stated on May 5th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. there will be a Crenshaw County May Day for the first time. This event will be with the Crenshaw County Extension in conjunction with the Senior Centers of Crenshaw County to honor seniors in Crenshaw County by celebrating Older American Month in the month of May. The estimated attendance will be around 300. We have to come up with the money for the cost to do the meals. To do the meals with GA Foods, which is who normally does the daily meals at the center, would be over $4 per picnic lunch or the Chicken Shack will do a plate for $5 per lunch and we could keep the money in our city. We have decided to go local and purchase through the Chicken Shack. We have asked the Crenshaw County Commission and other elected officials to donate $100 each to help purchase the meals we will serve. DHR, Hometown Medical, Hospice and the Town of Dozier are helping with prizes, etc. We would like to ask each councilmember to make a donation of $100 to go toward the meals. Every donation and amount will be greatly appreciated.

Mayor Beasley presented the request from Chad Turner on behalf of the Crenshaw County Rec Club for the Annual Crawfish Tournament at the Crenshaw County Recreational Club on April 30, 2022. Councilman Jones made a motion to approve the Annual Crawfish Tournament at the Crenshaw County Recreational Club on April 30, 2022. Councilman Billings seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

The mayor presented the council with a proclamation for National Nurses Week and National Hospital week. Councilman Billings made a motion to proclaim May 8-12 as National Nurses Week and May 8-14 as National Hospital Week. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and all was in favor. The proclamation is as follows:

**Proclamation**

**WHEREAS**, in 1993, the American Nurses Association declared May 8-12 as the national week to celebrate and elevate the nursing profession, and each year, the celebration ends on May 12, which was Florence Nightingale’s birthday; and

**WHEREAS**, National Nurses Week is a time for everyone—individuals, employers, other health care professionals, community leaders and nurses—to recognize the vast contributions and positive impact of America’s 4 million registered nurses, especially during this challenging past year of pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, National Hospital Week is May 8-14, 2022, and the official theme is “Where Are Health Care”, and

**WHEREAS**, National Hospital Week celebrates the hospitals, health systems, and men and women who support the health and well-being of communities through dedication and care from the heart; and

**WHEREAS**, celebrating National Hospital Week provides an opportunity to thank all of the dedicated individuals—physicians, nurses, therapists, engineers, food service workers, volunteers, administrators and more—for their contributions, especially during this trying time of the coronavirus pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the hard-working people who staff our nation’s hospitals, including the registered nurses and other personnel at Crenshaw Community Hospital, deserve universal regard and appreciation for keeping our community healthy and safer from COVID-19.

**NOW**, **THEREFORE**, I, Ed Beasley, Mayor of the City of Luverne, Luverne, Alabama do hereby proclaim May 8-12, 2022, as **NATIONAL NURSES WEEK** and May 8-14, 2022, as **NATIONAL HOSPITAL WEEK** in Luverne, Alabama and urge residents to express their appreciation for the people, facilities and technologies that make trustworthy, reliable health care possible in our community.

Councilwoman Dawson stated the two dates she has for the blood drive is either May 2nd or May 9th from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The council was in agreement to have the blood driver on May 2nd.

Councilwoman Smyth stated she wanted to recognize Saint John Missionary Baptist Church on Rutledge Street for their Alabama Historical Commission registration with the historical register of Landmarks and Heritage.

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

Meeting was adjourned.