COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

April 25, 2022

The City of Luverne Council met in regular session on April 25, 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

Elliott Jones, Councilman

Eddie Billings, Councilman

Mike Jones, Attorney

Margie Gomillion, Clerk

Christy Johnson, Editor

Absent:

Kathy Smyth, Councilwoman

Visitor:

David Hughes

Jim Coleman Jr.

Officer Mason Adcock

The mayor stated we have something very important and that is to recognize the hospital for their dedication to the county. The mayor presented Mr. David Hughes and Mr. Jim Coleman Jr. with a proclamation for National Nurses’ Week and National Hospital Week for the Crenshaw County Hospital. Mr. David Hughes, Crenshaw County Hospital Administrator, stated he would like to say thank you to the mayor and council. This is for the employees not us. What I’ve seen over the last year or two years my heart melts for them. They have put so much out and worked so hard. I wanted them to know how much this community appreciates them. I think this will show them how much the community really appreciates them.

Mayor Beasley called the meeting to order. The mayor called on Kip Smith to lead the pledge of allegiance to the flag and Mike Jones to say a prayer.

The mayor called for the approval of the minutes of April 11, 2022. Councilman Jones made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilwoman Dawson 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 on Officer Adcock. Officer Adcock stated everything is good but we are short three officers right now. Mayor Beasley called everyone’s attention to the chief’s report. Since the last meeting, the police department had 295 calls for service not including building checks. The department made over 56 traffic stops, wrote 31 citations and gave 25 warnings. The department made 3 misdemeanor arrests. There were 8 animal control calls since the last meeting.

Mayor Beasley reported he spoke with Steve Defee about the airport. The mayor reported we think we have the gas situation taken care of. At some point we have to start looking into getting some grant money to possibly build another hanger and pave the runway.

The mayor stated everyone has a copy of Mr. Neal’s report. Mr. Neal reported the July Fireworks will be Friday, July 1st. I have not received the contract yet. The mayor stated there was a small increase from $8,600 to $9,000 due to the fact they are coming out of China and some other things. The mayor stated Councilman Smith and myself have been in touch with the mayors of Brantley and Rutledge trying to get a little monetary help. Mayor Beasley stated that Mayor Sullivan said he would try to help us out. Councilman Smith stated the mayor of Rutledge said he would have to bring it before the council and they don’t meet until the 2nd of May. He will get back with us on any kind of help from them. The council was in agreement to sign the contract for $9,000.

Mayor Beasley reported he has been pretty busy the last couple of weeks with the sewer project. We had a couple of complaints at the city park where people have been blocking the driveway going in and out from behind the Marathon. There were signs put up this afternoon. The first time someone blocks the driveway they will get a warning, the second time the vehicle will be towed.

The mayor presented the request from Lisa Brown on behalf of the Crenshaw County NAACP Branch 5022B for the Juneteenth at the Tom Harbin Ag Center on June 18, 2022. Councilman Jones made a motion to approve the Juneteenth at the Tom Harbin Ag Center on June 18, 2022. Councilman Billings seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Dawson stated the blood drive is next Monday, May 2nd from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Councilman Smith stated the Water Board met this afternoon at 5:00 p.m., in a special called meeting with some issues we have on our sewer system. Councilman Smith stated Brock Flynn went over a couple of things. We have an issue at the lagoon itself. During the Water Board meeting Mr. Flynn passed out the results for our annual wastewater report. Councilman Smith stated we are good right now but if we don’t do something we are going to get into trouble. It looks like the lagoon side our issue there can hopefully be taken care of with chemicals, but we have to wait until the water temperature gets down to a certain point to take care of the sludge built up. Councilman Smith reported we also had some issues where a storm came through and tore down one of the greenhouses. We are looking at taking the greenhouses down hopefully with using some insurance money. We have got to have 5 or 6 valves replaced that are $4,500 each. The Water Board stated we need to work on this immediately. Councilman Smith stated we also have an issue on Greenbrier Drive with the manhole. The sewer gases are possibly coming together either from SMART or Sister Schubert’s or a combination of both of them. This is eating the concrete out of the manhole. Brock and Kirk have been on top of it and have gotten Alabama Rural Water to come in and help. Right now the odor is taken care of with a chemical dump but we can’t continue to do that forever. We have got to do some rework in that manhole to get it back up for safety and then figure out what we are going to do with this chemical mix. Councilman Jones asked about some of the ARPA money. The mayor stated half of it has come in. The mayor stated we were trying to hold onto that money for the matching grants for the projects on Jeffcoat Street, Woodford Ave. and W. 6th Street. The city received that grant about seven years ago and didn’t accept it and it’s took this long to go back through the process. If we fail to do it this time it might be 20 years before we get the opportunity again. The mayor stated he has a meeting tomorrow at 4:30 with Mr. Boswell with ADECA. There is a little ADECA money available for low income people who are having trouble paying their water bills. I don’t know if there is any money that is going to be let for sewer projects but I am going to ask him. Councilman Jones stated ADEM is going to be distributing the last round of money that has come through and the city is supposed to be getting a large amount. The council was in agreement to take action immediately on the lagoon and manhole at Greenbrier Drive.

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

Meeting was adjourned.