COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

June 27, 2022

The City of Luverne Council met in regular session on June 27, 2022 at 5:30 p.m., in the City Hall Building. The following members were present:

Mayor Ed Beasley

Kip Smith, Councilman

Kathy Smyth, Councilwoman

Eddie Billings, Councilman 5:32 pm

Mike Jones, Attorney 5:39 pm

William Neal, Building Inspector

Michael Johnson, Police Chief 5:35 pm

Vicki Coggins, Assistant Clerk

Absent:

Betty Dawson, Councilwoman

Visitors:

Brock Flynn Troy Hudson

Mayor Beasley called the meeting to order. The mayor called on William Neal to lead the pledge of allegiance to the flag and Kathy Smyth to say a prayer.

The mayor called for the approval of the minutes of June 13, 2022. Councilman Jones made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

Mayor Beasley stated that discussion would be made on unfinished/old business concerning the TAP grant when Troy Hudson arrived at the meeting. Councilwoman Smyth stated that Mr. Hudson had notified her that he was running a couple minutes behind.

The mayor called for departmental reports. Brock Flynn spoke for the Street, Water, and Electric Depts. He stated that the Street Dept. has been working on the concrete flumes and has also been able to catch up on some of the debris removal with the shortage of rain lately. The Water Dept. has been cutting grass and had an annual visit from ADEM. ADEM reported there’s a couple of things that need to be worked on but overall the inspection went well. The Electric Dept. was able to get all but two of the street/security lights fixed. Routine work has been performed in all departments. Councilman Smith asked if the three departments were coming in at 6 a.m. Mr. Flynn stated that only the Street Dept. was coming in at 6 a.m.

Mayor Beasley called for the administrative report. The assistant clerk reminded everyone that the city would be closed July 4 and residential garbage would be one day behind schedule. Routine work was performed.

The mayor called everyone’s attention to the chief’s report. Since the last meeting, the police department had 159 calls for service, not including building checks. The department made over 18 traffic stops, wrote 15 citations and gave 3 warnings. The department made 5 misdemeanor and 11 felony arrest. There were 4 animal control calls since the last meeting. Mayor Beasley asked the chief if he had enough officers to patrol for the upcoming fireworks celebration on July 1. The chief stated that he felt he had enough and would probably use some reserve officers to aid other officers on foot patrol at Turner Park.

Mayor Beasley stated that he had to make a snap decision on a request from the library when the city closed for Juneteenth. The library already had a reading program scheduled for that day so the mayor told Mrs. Tomlin that if it suited them he felt that the council would be in favor for the library workers to close July 1 instead.

The mayor called for Fire/Rescue reports. Councilman Smith stated that they had been on standby for a lot of helicopters and have had a few grass fires. He also reported a military tanker caught on fire north of town. Councilman Smith also reminded everyone about how much traffic would be coming through town on the 4th. He also pointed out item #2 on William Neal’s report concerning the future Fire Dept. ISO inspection. The inspection will take place in two years and there wasn’t any fire hydrant testing done last year. He stated it is very important that we get two water test done on our fire hydrants to keep our Class 4 rating because it helps every homeowner in the city.

The chief reported that Stephanie with AMIC will be here next Tuesday to do annual city inspections. Mayor Beasley thanked Chief Johnson for handling the inspection with Stephanie.

Mayor Beasley asked William Neal if he had anything to add to the Fire Dept. report. Mr. Neal stated that fire hydrant testing usually takes place in the fall of the year over a 2-3 month period. The city must test hydrants in 2022 and 2023 to get the maximum points. The city made Class 4 by 1.61 points and we cannot afford to lose any points. Mr. Neal stated the need for another truck or major repairs would have to be made to a current truck. The Fire Dept. is working on something now but chances are not that great. This is a grant that Michelle Royals got together before she left.

Mr. Neal stated under Building Inspection that everything has been resolved, 289 S. Forest Ave. has been cleaned up, and he turned three properties over to Attorney Jones.

The mayor stated there are some things in the works for Economic Development but it’s too early to discuss.

Mayor Beasley reported that he had a couple calls this week he helped deal with. One call was concerning a situation on Hwy 59 (Petrey Hwy). The mayor stated him and Brock Flynn got called out for another call involving a squirrel chewing a line causing power outage.

The mayor called on Troy Hudson to give an update on the sidewalk grant for 1st Street. Mr. Hudson passed out material to the mayor and council on the TAP grant. He stated that the last grant the city had applied for had changed some as shown in the material. Mr. Hudson stated what would have cost the city out-of-pocket last year would have been $113,000.00 as opposed to $87,500.00 this year. Councilwoman Smyth asked Troy if there had been any feedback on why this had been in the hopper and not funded for two years. He stated the main thing that he had heard this year about making applications was it had been upped to a million and there was several million more in this fund than usual and they were looking for project applications. Mayor Beasley asked if any in-kind work could be done. Troy stated in-kind work is not allowed; it could be done but would not count anything towards the grant. Mr. Hudson said that he also had information on the Glenwood Rd project that was mentioned at the last council meeting if the mayor and council was interested. The mayor asked how long we could hold the Glenwood Rd application without giving an answer. Troy stated the application is due Thursday, June 30. The match amount on it would be $136,850.00. Mayor Beasley asked how long it would take for the application to come back around if the council didn’t move on it. Mr. Hudson said approximately a year. Councilwoman Smyth asked if it was possible to table the Glenwood Rd project and look at it another year. Troy stated that it was possible as long as the program exists. Mayor Beasley asked Councilman Jones if he had heard from Jackson Thornton. Councilman Jones said he had put in a call today and hadn’t gotten a response and would notify the mayor and council has soon as he heard from Jackson Thornton. In his last conversation with them, approximately two weeks ago, he was told it would probably be about 3-4 weeks. Mr. Flynn stated that Jackson Thornton has not made any recent request for more information so he feels that they are close to completion. The mayor thanked Mr. Hudson for attending the meeting.

Mayor Beasley asked if there was any further comments on the two sidewalk projects. Councilman Jones stated he was concerned there would have to be some type of retaining wall that would affect some of the residents on the 1st Street project and wanted to know if anyone had spoken to the residents about how this would affect them. Councilman Jones stated he didn’t realize just how expensive it is to put in sidewalks. Councilman Smith stated he felt that a sidewalk to LBW was needed before one on 1st Street. After further discussion, Councilwoman Smyth made a motion to table the Glenwood Rd TAP grant project to review next year and to not submit the 1st Street application. Councilman Jones seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Councilman Jones requested a copy of the city holidays so that the council could look at it, revise it and get it set in stone. The mayor agreed. Current holidays were briefly discussed.

Councilwoman Smyth stated that Representative Sells has a $2,600.00 grant through the Department of Tourism for an event. We have applied for it to see if we can get those funds to maybe do a little something at the Crenshaw County Lake on Labor Day weekend to kind of go along with the peanut boil if we can get approved for it. She stated that the chief has been doing a good job with the flags. Councilwoman Smyth asked if anyone could share any information on the curbing situation at Mrs. Dot Sims’ residence.

The mayor stated the city needs to submit a city flag to the League of Municipalities.

Councilman Jones stated that he had spoken with Sara Byard on electric vehicle station grants. He said there are some things that the city needs to start working on and it would probably be next year before it’s pushed through. Two locations need to be decided on for the charging stations and contact those businesses and get Memorandum of Understandings in place with agreements, signed off and submitted because there will be many steps to this grant. Councilman Jones gave the mayor and council a printout of AMEA’s Levelization Rider balance. These are the funds that are going to be paying for the city’s SMART meter upgrades. The cost of fuel has gone up that includes natural gas and all other fossil fuels so AMEA has had to raise the levelization rider up to 18 mils from 12 mils. This has caused the city to have to go up 5 mils locally just to stay in balance with AMEA. In doing so we are going to take 1 mil from an adjustment that was done a while back and do a total reimbursement back to the city that will come in as a credit to the city bill from AMEA. Also, AMEA has voted to raise their economic development annual money that we get from $20,000.00 to $30,000.00.

Attorney Jones contacted the state and they have the paperwork on the termination of the contract for the county pond. We are just waiting to get the paperwork back.

Councilwoman Smyth asked about the curb situation of Dot Sims. Brock Flynn reported that as far as he knew no one has contacted Mrs. Sims and he suggested a letter be written giving her a timeframe to have the curb removed. After discussion, it was decided that a certified letter be mailed to Mrs. Dot Sims.

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

Meeting was adjourned.