COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

July 11, 2022

The City of Luverne Council met in regular session on July 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

William Neal, Building Inspector

Michael Johnson, Police Chief

Margie Gomillion, Clerk

Visitors:

Terry Sport Steve Defee

Robyn Snellgrove Butch Speed

Mayor Beasley called the meeting to order. The mayor called on Elliott Jones 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 June 27, 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 stated that discussion would be made on unfinished/old business later on in the meeting.

The mayor called on Mr. Terry Sport to speak. Mr. Sport stated he did not come to offend anybody or feud with anybody. Mr. Sport stated there have been some grievances or complaints against them concerning water drainage. Mr. Sport discussed there being water problems in the neighborhood for quite a while. Mr. Sport stated he was here in response to a letter that was sent to him by the city. He stated this complaint was about a curb he put up. The curb was put up because the water was coming off the street onto his property which washed out new sod they put down. Mr. Sport stated nothing he and his wife has done to contribute to the water problem. The second part of the letter is the legality which I don’t have much to say. I did not get permission to put the curb down. I’m basically here to ask the council to reconsider the actions you plan to take up the curb. The curb is not affecting anybody but keeping water from going on my property. If you take it up the message you are sending me is you care more about their property than you do my property. I appreciate the time to tell you all these things. God bless you and have a good night. Mr. Jones stated we have had this several times with people putting things on right of way. We just can’t allow things to be put on right of way. The mayor thanked Mr. Sport for coming.

Mayor Beasley called 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 151 calls for service, not including building checks. The department made over 28 traffic stops, wrote 22 citations and gave 6 warnings. The department made 14 misdemeanor and 1 felony arrest. There was 1 animal control call since the last meeting.

Mayor Beasley asked Mr. Jones if there was any news about turning the lake back over to the State of Alabama that was decided at a former meeting. Mr. Jones stated he was asked to prepare a document and I forwarded it a couple of weeks ago. I emailed him the end of last week and he said he had sent it to their legal department. He is waiting to hear back from them. As soon as he hears from the legal department he will get back with me. Mr. Jones stated just waiting for them to approve the document I sent to terminate it as of September 30th.

The mayor called on Mr. Defee to report on the airport. Mr. Defee stated we are up and running doing well right now.

Mayor Beasley stated that everything is going well at the library. They are winding down on their summer reading program and it was a big success.

The mayor asked William Neal if he had anything to add to the Fire Dept. report. Mr. Neal stated there is still a problem at the fire station with a leak under the north wall. Councilman Smith stated he thought the dirt has built up between the fire station and the bank. Councilman Smith suggested maybe getting the mini excavator to dig a little trench along there and hopefully that issue will be squared away.

Mayor Beasley stated under Economic Development we had discussed earlier turning over the Person to Person park to the County Authority for potential business growth. Mr. Jones stated we talked about this previously but basically there are funds that may be available to assist with the project. For those funds to be gotten the application has to be in tomorrow. For the application to be put in, the property has to be in the name of the Authority tomorrow when they make the application. We wanted to ask the council to go ahead and approve for the transfer of the real property to take place. We will put in the deed that if the project is not completed within two years the land will revert back to the city. But if they make application for these funds and the funds are actually used on the site prep at the property then the property will have to stay in the name of the Authority because they got the funds and used them. After further discussion, Councilman Jones made a motion to authorize the mayor to execute whatever documents are necessary to transfer the property to the Crenshaw County Economic and Industrial Development Authority. Councilman Billings seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

The mayor presented the council with Resolution 071122 PY2022 Alabama Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program authorizing the filing of the application to ADECA and authorizing the mayor to sign all documents related to filing of the application. Councilman Jones made a motion to adopt Resolution 071122. Councilman Billings seconded the motion and all was in favor. The resolution is as follows:

City of Luverne RESOLUTION 071122

PY2022 CDBG Application

WHEREAS, the Alabama Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program has been established to assist local governments in meeting community development and housing needs consistent with the objectives set forth in Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the City of Luverne, acting by and through its Council proposes to apply for Community Development Block Grant funds for the purpose of making necessary sanitary sewer and street improvements on Jeffcoat Street; and

WHEREAS, under terms and provisions of Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, the City of Luverne as a recipient of these funds is required to designate and appoint a Financial Officer to perform certain duties in the administration of said grant.

WHEREAS, the estimated cost of the proposed Jeffcoat Street comprehensive improvement project is $444,600.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City of Luverne, as follows:

THAT, Ed Beasley, Mayor, is hereby authorized to execute and submit an application with appropriate assurances to the State of Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, requesting Program Year 2022 CDBG funds in the amount of $400,000.00; and

THAT, the City of Luverne does hereby approve and commit a 10 percent local cash match in the amount of $44,600.00 to complete the proposed project and that Ed Beasley, Mayor, is hereby designated and appointed as Financial Officer under the terms and pursuant to the provisions of Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and is directed and empowered to make necessary assurances and to perform on behalf of the City of Luverne, those acts and assume such duties as are consistent with said position.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 11th day of July, 2022

Mayor Beasley presented the council with Resolution 071122(a) PY2022 Community Development Block Grant Program awarding the contract to Southern Engineering Solutions for the professional services. Councilman Billings made a motion to adopt Resolution 071122(a). Councilwoman Dawson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved. The resolution is as follows:

**CITY OF LUVERNE**

**Professional Services Resolution 071122(a)**

WHEREAS, the City of Luverne contacted known qualified firms in order to obtain proposals for the provision of engineering services for a PY 2022 Community Development Block Grant Project; and

WHEREAS, based on the City’s rating of all proposals received, using the City’s rating system, Southern Engineering Solutions has been deemed most qualified for the services called for; and

WHEREAS, Southern Engineering Solutions is not debarred from working on federally funded projects per the SAM.GOV search results attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is in the best interest of the City of Luverne to award a contract to Southern Engineering Solutions for CDBG Application, and CDBG-Post Application services contingent upon awarding of the grant.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED by the Mayor and the Council of the City of Luverne, Alabama as follows:

SECTION 1. That, based on the City’s understanding of recent changes to the procurement policy of ADECA, the acceptance of the proposal of Southern Engineering Solutions for the provision of professional services for PY 2022 CDBG Project, has been determined to be in the best interest of the City of Luverne, and that the proposed fee has been accepted as reasonable based on the complexity of the project, ADECA’s acceptable fee scale and the amount and nature of the local match to be provided by the City.

SECTION 2. That the City of Luverne hereby elects to select and award Southern Engineering Solutions for the provision of engineering services pending receipt of CDBG funds and ADECA contract approval as required.

SECTION 3. That this action is based on the current interpretation of ADECA procurement policy with is acknowledged by this resolution and ADECA policy and memorandum on file.

SECTION 4. That Ed Beasley, in his capacity as Mayor, is hereby authorized and directed to execute said contract on behalf of the City of Luverne.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 11th day of July, 2022.

Mr. Jones stated everyone received a copy of the letter in reference to the property located at 368 East First Street. A mortgage company has foreclosed on it and it’s in their name. We won’t ever get a mortgage company to respond. Mr. Jones recommended the city cut the yard. After some discussion, Mr. Jones recommended Mr. Defee to go look at the property and then get back with him. Mr. Jones also discussed property located at 279 W. 6th Street and 291 W. 6th Street that he is writing a letter to about demolishing the structure due to being unsafe.

Councilman Jones stated he spoke with Jim Marshall from Jackson Thornton this past week. He told me probably the first week in August or maybe the second we are calling a managerial meeting for our cost of service study. They will come down and meet with us. Anyone can come but it will be about a five or six hour meeting. This will not be the official meeting but where things will kind of be hashed out. As soon as I get a date and time I’ll get with everyone. The official meeting where they will come down to the council to meet with us and we will invite other board members will take about 30 minutes. They will go over everything with us and have a plan in place for us to adopt to go with their study.

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

Meeting was adjourned.