COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

July 25, 2022

The City of Luverne Council met in regular session on July 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

Kathy Smyth, Councilwoman

Elliott Jones, Councilman

Eddie Billings, Councilman

Margie Gomillion, Clerk

Absent:

Mike Jones, Attorney

William Neal, Building Inspector

Michael Johnson, Police Chief

Visitors:

Steve Defee Jeff Strowd

Brock Flynn

Mayor Beasley called the meeting to order. The mayor called on Kip Smith 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 July 11, 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 called for any unfinished/old business. Councilwoman Smyth stated she had mentioned at a prior meeting of Representative Chris Sells having a grant through the Department of Tourism. He called today to say the deadline has now passed and others did not meet the deadline so we will receive some of their money. Our award amount will be doubled from $2,600 to $5,200. Councilwoman Smyth asked the council if they had any ideas. We have been partnering with the chamber on a town wide event to utilize those funds for sometime this fall. Councilman Jones discussed a grant through AMEA to install two electric vehicle stations. Councilman Jones stated we had talked about having to find a couple of locations and recommended locating the charging stations in the middle of town in parking spaces beside the old gulf station. There was also discussion of the city parking lot across from B&B Drugs. Councilman Jones stated the grant opens up in January.

The mayor called 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 132 calls for service, not including building checks. The department made over 10 traffic stops, wrote 2 citations and gave 8 warnings. The department made 2 misdemeanor arrest. There was 3 animal control calls since the last meeting.

The mayor called on Councilman Billings for a recreation report. Councilman Billings stated the season is pretty much over. We didn’t win anything at state but we had a pretty good year. Councilman Billings stated the advisory committee will be meeting in a couple of weeks and one thing we are going to discuss is allowing inflatables on city property. We received an event request to have inflatables in November. The council for the city is against us allowing inflatables on our property due to liability issues. I would like some direction from the council with what your thoughts are on this. We are looking at putting a policy in writing for Turner Park like we did for Douglas Park. After further discussion, the mayor stated for Councilman Billings to talk with the committee and whatever you come up with he felt sure the council would support 100 percent.

Mayor Beasley called on Mr. Defee to report on the airport. Mr. Defee reported the card system at the airport is down again. Centurytel should be there tomorrow. I hope it is a line issue that just needs to be reconnected and looked at. The only way to sell gas is to manually bypass it and then pump it. We have inquired several times to get the property that’s behind the airport from Tom Crowell’s widow. Daryl McGough is requesting that this property be cleaned up because it’s an eyesore to his place. When I spoke with Deborah Crowell she stated she couldn’t do anything because it was in an estate. I checked and there is no estate on it. I’ve asked Mr. Carter and some of the airport board about asking Mr. Jones if we can send a letter to Ms. Crowell requesting her to clean the place up if she doesn’t want to sell it.

Mr. Defee reported we got one of the greenhouses at the lagoon torn down today and hopefully tomorrow the other one will be down too. We still have to clean up the debris around it from the demolition. We just have to do a little additional work inside the pond itself. The mayor asked if we would eventually have to get someone to dredge the lagoon to clean it out. Mr. Flynn stated they usually need to be cleaned out every 25 to 30 years. I don’t know the last time they were cleaned out. Mr. Defee stated just in case the council gets any complaints from citizens, these projects are taking us away from some of our other things but they have to get done. We are doing our best to stay on top of the other things too. So if anyone calls we haven’t neglected them we will get to them. The mayor stated we know you’re working hard and we appreciate it. Mr. Flynn stated some of the greenhouse is still laying in the lagoon so we have to be committed now to get it out. We have a little good news. We have an extended reach trackhoe that should be here Wednesday that will reach over half way. Then we can go to the other side to get the rest of it.

The Mayor stated that everything is going well at the library.

Councilwoman Smyth reported the chamber has made a decision for the day of the Christmas parade which will be Thursday, December 1st and the Christmas Tree Lighting will be Tuesday, November 29th.

Mayor Beasley presented the council with Resolution No. 072522 to award the bid for Lift Station No. 17 Renovations to South Alabama Contracting, LLC. Councilman Jones made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 072522 to award the bid for Lift Station No. 17 Renovations to South Alabama Contracting, LLC. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved. The resolution is as follows:

**AWARD RESOLUTION**

**NO. 072522**

WHEREAS, the City of Luverne plans to construct **Lift Station No. 17 Renovations**

and

WHEREAS, the City of Luverne, Luverne, Alabama did legally advertise the bid

opening date of June 30, 2022, in accordance with Alabama State Law, and on that date

opened all bids in public and read them aloud, and

WHEREAS, the engineers have subsequently checked all bids received, and have

recommended that the contract be awarded to the low bidder.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the contract for the **Lift Station No. 17**

**Renovation** be awarded to the low bidder of the Base Bid as follows:

**SOUTH ALABAMA CONTRACTING, LLC**

In the amount of **$136,120.00**

Passed this 25th day of July, 2022, by the City of Luverne

Councilwoman Dawson stated we have a new business coming in the old Annie’s building. It’s J&M Catering and I’m not sure if they will change the name but she also has a food truck. Her license is under J&M which is Juawana Walker. They should be opening up next month. Also one of the people in my district sent me an email today concerning the Person to Person Park. I referred them to the development board stating the city turned it over to them for future growth and development.

Councilman Smith stated he would like to remind everyone that next weekend is the rodeo so there will be a little extra traffic through town.

Councilman Jones stated he would like to inform everybody that Jackson Thornton has contacted me. There will be a managerial type meeting scheduled for August 4th at 8:30 a.m. that will be at least five hours. This will not be the official meeting. They will come to a council meeting which will take about 20 to 30 minutes. They will have a plan in place for what we need to do.

Councilman Billings stated I know we are all aware that Luverne has made the news for the SMART plant. I know no one sitting around this table is in favor of child workers or anything along that line. I think we have to make sure we are vocal in the fact that we did not know and do not support it. But we also need to remind people that is a legal thing and has nothing to do with the city council.

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

Meeting was adjourned.