COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

August 8, 2022

The City of Luverne Council met in regular session on August 8, 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

Mike Jones, Attorney

William Neal, Building Inspector

Michael Johnson, Police Chief

Visitors:

Steve Defee Jeff Strowd Stallion Sasser

Brock Flynn Merrill Sport

Mayor Beasley called the meeting to order. The mayor called on Betty Dawson 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 July 25, 2022. Councilman Billings 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. Councilman Jones reported Jim Marshall and his colleague with Jackson Thornton came Thursday. They met with us for about four and half hours. It was extremely comprehensive with a lot of eye opening information. I have spoken with him again. He is going to be back with us on September 12th to have a presentation for the council, the electric board, and water board that will take about 20 minutes.

The mayor reported he met with Troy Hudson today and one day last week concerning the engineering on the project we are pursuing out at the old Person to Person Park. I have a meeting this Thursday with Mr. Boswell. I also met with Mrs. Snellgrove Thursday. We are going to see if we can’t get some help on the infrastructure out there.

Mayor Beasley called for the administrative report. Routine work was performed.

The mayor called everyone’s attention to the chief’s report. Councilwoman Dawson read aloud the chief’s report. Since the last meeting, the police department had 142 calls for service, not including building checks. The department made 30 traffic stops, wrote 22 citations and gave 8 warnings. The department made 3 misdemeanor arrest. There was 3 animal control calls since the last meeting.

Mayor Beasley called on Mr. Defee to report on the airport. Mr. Defee updated the council that the issue we had at the last council meeting where the credit card machine was down. It turned out there was a wire that was cut at one of the phone pedestals. It has been put back into service and all that is working fine.

The Mayor stated that everything is going well at the library. The summer reading program is over and the kids are heading back to school.

Mayor Beasley stated everyone has a copy of Mr. Neal’s report. Mr. Neal stated that of all the places I’ve tried to get cleaned up the only thing that has happened is Mr. Colvin has bush hogged at 291 W. 6th Street. The vines over the house has been sprayed and it has killed some of them but not all. He said he is going to get them all cleaned up. It’s still over grown real bad at the sidewalk edge. The owner of the house next to 291 W. 6th Street has offered to give that property to the city with an $8,000 lien on it. The removal of the curb at Mr. Sport’s house is still a go and Mr. Defee is going to try to get to it this week. Mr. Jones stated he would like to add to the Fuller property located at 279 W. 6th Street. I’ve made contact with another of the heirs which is Amanda Jones. She is interested in getting the property to try to do some of that work and do some other things. I told her we would give her a little more time to do that.

Councilwoman Smyth reported she received another call of concern for multiple people living in the house on the corner on W. 3rd Street.

The mayor asked about the property off Oak Street. Mr. Neal said that is the Herring house and nothing has happened. There was discussion of several locations in the city that needs addressing to clean up. After further discussion, Mr. Neal will get with Mr. Jones for several locations to send certified letters to the owners to clean up or the city will take action.

Councilman Smith stated the Crenshaw County Volunteer Fire Association held the rodeo this past weekend with a big turnout and real good show. They are shooting for next year.

Councilwoman Smyth stated there is a new restaurant going into the old Annie’s location. It is real close to opening probably about a week away. The farmers market at the Ag Center will be another week or two.

Councilman Jones stated he wanted to mention he spoke with Fred Clark with AMEA. He sent me an email just a short time ago where we had to go up on our levelization rider from 12 mills to 18 mills. We are going to continue that up through probably October. Then we will probably go to 22 mills because of the cost of fuel. Attentively we are going to vote to do another two million dollar credit for all of the cities as far as a rebate which will help us. The first rebate will be about 7.5 million. Just wanted everyone to know there will probably be another 4 mill increase.

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

Meeting was adjourned.