COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

October 10, 2022

The City of Luverne Council met in regular session on October 10, 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

Eddie Billings, Councilman

Margie Gomillion, Clerk

William Neal, Building Inspector

Absent:

Elliott Jones, Councilman

Mike Jones, Attorney

Visitors:

Steve Defee

Diane Richardson

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

The mayor called for the approval of the minutes of September 26, 2022. Councilman Billings made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilwoman Dawson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

Mayor Beasley called for any unfinished/old business. Councilwoman Smyth stated on the discussion of the medical cannabis issue. There seems to be a form from the League of Municipality so maybe we can ask Attorney Jones to see about that. Then an ordinance needs to be passed before we can consider any business. The mayor asked Councilwoman Smyth to get with Attorney Jones.

The mayor called on Mr. Defee for any updates on projects. Mr. Defee reported November 1st is the deadline to close out the FEMA project for the flumes and rip rap. There are still funds that are out that we will be reimbursed for and Michelle Royals is still working on that. The mayor asked if there were any more rocks for behind the Family Care Center area. Mr. Defee stated no and he has already spoken to someone from the hospital. I told them until they fixed those downspouts coming off that building our hands were tied because it would wash out everything that we did.

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 171 calls for service, not including building checks. The department made 22 traffic stops, wrote 15 citations and gave 7 warnings. The department made 4 misdemeanor and 1 felony arrest. There was 3 animal control calls since the last meeting. The mayor stated he thought Animal Tails Rescue is doing a really good job. We had an extremely hot summer so we extended their credit a little for the utilities for the rest of the year.

Mayor Beasley stated on the recreation side the state has taken over the county pond. From what I understand they are draining it now. I think they are giving away fish if anyone would like to go get some.

Mr. Steve Defee stated everything was good at the airport.

The mayor stated everything at the library is running smooth. They are having a pumpkin painting for the kids with little prizes for the winners.

Mayor Beasley stated everyone has a copy of Mr. Neal’s report.

Councilwoman Smyth discussed a situation with the banners downtown. In September we had a resident who made and wanted to put up the childhood cancer banners. We don’t have anything in place that says that sort of request needs to go through the council or committee. We felt like we needed that just in case there are other request to do the same thing. The banners aren’t really the same size, they are not two sided and don’t really fit on our poles that well. Maybe consider it and talk about it at our next meeting so there is sort of a protocol for doing that. The second thing is the plan for Councilwoman Dawson lights from the RC&D grant. They were going to go on the buildings downtown to finish out the north light. That turned out not to be the best idea according to the ones who had to implement that, so the plan is to put them in Douglas Park. It will not impede that green space there but will go across the green space. The electric and street department have been working on that. We will have the Friendliest City Festival in Douglas Park on October 29th. That is thanks to a grant by the Department of Tourism and Chris Sells. We have six or seven food trucks, multiple vendors and entertainment, etc. coming up for that. We are hoping for a pretty fall afternoon. Bring a chair and maybe a blanket.

The mayor stated he met with Mr. Boswell about potential grants. We are working with ALDOT about possibly getting some assistance to help with the Pepsi project. Robyn Snellgrove, Troy Hudson, Councilwoman Smyth and a Pepsi representative is going tomorrow to meet with ALDOT about that project. Mayor Beasley stated he has been working on another project with Troy Hudson about two intersections in town that are awful. One is in front of Reimagined at the intersection of Glenwood Road and the other at Mt Ida Road. They have a proposed solution for both intersections. Councilman Smith stated Engineer Royals had a proposal and was hoping that we could get some money to redo that intersection. The mayor stated we got it but I think the only holdup is the project likes $200,000 funding it. Since it involves county traffic also, I have asked Mr. Hudson to talk to Chairman Sankey about possibly $100,000 and the city paying the other $100,000 to get rid of that traffic congestion. The mayor passed around a copy of the proposal. He asked the council to take their time and look over it.

Mayor Beasley presented the council with Ordinance 22-02 amending the City of Luverne Code of Ordinances Section 20-2-5 water rates. After some discussion, Councilman Smith made a motion for unanimous consent to consider Ordinance 22-02. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Dawson and the vote was unanimously approved. Councilman Smith made a motion to adopt Ordinance 22-02 effective November 1, 2022 after being published in the paper. Councilwoman Dawson seconded the motion and all was in favor. The Ordinance is as follows:

ORDINANCE 22-02

AMENDING THE CITY OF LUVERNE CODE OF ORDINANCES

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Luverne, Alabama, that Section 20-2-5 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Luverne is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 20-2-5 Rates

The following water rates shall apply to each user of water.

**Residential**

0-1,000 gal $13.00

Over 1,000 gal $1.95 per 1,000

**Commercial**

0-1,000 gal $13.00

Over 1,000 gal $2.25 per 1,000

**Industrial**

0-1,000 gal $13.00

Over 1,000 gal $2.38 per 1,000

Sewer rates as follows:

**Residential**

0-1,000 gal $15.00

Over 1,000 gal $2.35 per 1,000

**Commercial**

0-2,000 gal 34.00

Over 2,000 gal $2.45 per 1,000

This ordinance shall become effective on the 1st day of November, 2022.

Adopted and approved this 10th day of October 2022.

The mayor stated Steve Sanders’ appointment for the Industrial Development Board will expire. Councilman Smith made a motion to re-appoint Steve Sanders to the Industrial Development Board. Councilman Billings seconded the motion and all was in favor.

Councilwoman Smyth stated the Planning Commission met and you saw the report that the rezoning for the Person to Person park for Crenshaw County Economic Industrial Development Authority was approved. Councilwoman Smyth read out loud a letter from Mrs. Paulette West with the Luverne Garden Club saying: The Luverne Garden Club has been taking care of the plaza at the Cultural Center for several years. At the last meeting we discussed the condition of the awnings located at the plaza. The Pepsi awning is in good shape but the others are torn and have faded badly. We didn’t know who we should contact about the matter to see if they could be replaced with new ones or have them removed completely. Also there are four bags of quikrete at the back of the plaza under the arbor and would like to know if it can be removed. Thank you and the city council for any consideration on this matter. After some discussion, the council decided the city will remove the quikrete, but the Luverne Garden Club should contact the businesses of the awning to replace the awnings or take them down. If they aren’t down by January 1st the city will remove them.

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

Meeting was adjourned.