COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

February 13, 2023

The City of Luverne Council met in regular session on February 13, 2023 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

Margie Gomillion, Clerk

Visitors:

Jeff Strowd Ryan McGhee Leon Hiebert

Merrill Sport Steve Defee Heather Hiebert

Mayor Beasley called the meeting to order. The mayor called on Kip Smith 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 January 23, 2023. 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 the approval of the special called meeting minutes of February 6, 2023. Councilman Jones made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

Under unfinished/old business, Attorney Jones brought up the Glenwood situation. He stated that the city should do some investigation and an assessment of the system then get back with Glenwood. Brock Flynn will go to Tuscaloosa and look at their system then the city will get back with ADEM. Attorney Jones stated the only thing we would lose if we don’t take on the system is the two million dollars for the lagoon. We would still get the other project money.

Councilwoman Smyth asked about the tank maintenance presentation. Margie stated that it has been rescheduled for Monday, March 13.

The mayor called on the city clerk for the administrative report. Routine work was performed.

Mayor Beasley asked Councilwoman Dawson to read the chief’s report. Since the last meeting, the police department had 210 calls for service, not including building checks. The department made 31 traffic stops, wrote 15 citations and gave 11 warnings. The department made 9 misdemeanor arrests and 3 felony arrests. There has been 2 animal control calls since the last meeting.

Councilman Billings stated each of you have a letter of resignation from Lee Simmons. We’ve got some hurdles and obstacles to work out. Lee has said that he wouldn’t leave us in a bad way. Councilman Billings asked the mayor if he had gotten someone temporarily. The mayor said he spoke with David Ammons and he seemed interested as serving as interim. Merrill Sport offered his services and hopefully the park can stay on schedule to provide all services.

Mayor Beasley stated Mr. Defee is retiring April 1, 2023. He introduced me to someone in the department with CDL and I’ve agreed with Mr. Defee that he would make a good replacement upon his retirement. Mr. Defee’s department is still one person short and we’re working on that. Councilman Smith knows a hard working guy that may be interested. Mr. Defee stated he got the survey back to make sure property lines are where they should be to proceed with the fence between the airport and the venue. Markings have been put in place and I have reached out to Tim White again about putting a fence up. Mr. Defee said he was under the assumption that we were going to get the facility from where the present fence is down in front of the venue at this point up to FAA regulations and the move forward on removing and replacing some of the older existing fence later. Councilman Smith agreed that it should be safety first and then work on the leftover fence later. The mayor asked about trees that may have been planted on city property. Mr. Defee said one tree has to be removed but others can be trimmed but would have to be maintained. Mayor Beasely will ride with Mr. Defee one day to look at the trees and report back to the council. The mayor asked Attorney Jones to write Daryl McGough about the trees to find out if he wants to do his own survey before the city takes down some of the trees. Mr. Defee stated that Daryl McGough contacted ADEM to do an inspection on the hangar where Leon Hiebert has his paint shop. The filtering system was looked at and he wanted to come back when Leon was spraying. The person from ADEM has been contacted a couple times and hasn’t returned. Councilman Smith stated maybe the city could relocate some of the trees if Daryl wanted to try to move them.

The mayor stated he has talked with Mrs. Kathryn at the library. The reading program is going well.

Mayor Beasley called on Councilman Smith for a report on Fire/Rescue. Councilman Smith said everything is running good right now. Officer elections will be tomorrow night and we will send letters to the council members with new officers for their approval.

Nothing under new business.

Councilwoman Dawson stated she went to Evergreen to a meeting with Councilwoman Smyth. The meeting was interesting and they had a good time. Councilwoman Smyth stated the meeting was the League of Municipalities Economic Development.

The mayor mentioned that some of the Industrial Development Board went to Montgomery on an ADECA grant that might help boost our hospital operations

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

Meeting was adjourned.