COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

February 27, 2023

The City of Luverne Council met in regular session on February 27, 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

Mike Jones, Attorney

Mike Johnson, Chief

Margie Gomillion, Clerk

Absent:

Eddie Billings, Councilman

Visitors:

Danny Holmberg Ryan McGhee Brock Flynn Robin Dillard

Merrill Sport Steve Defee Jeff Strowd Mason Adcock

Mayor Beasley called the meeting to order. The mayor called on Betty Dawson 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 February 13, 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, the mayor stated everyone knows Lee Simmons resigned as park director at the beginning of the season. We were able to get Merrill Sport and David Ammons to help us out. Mayor Beasley called on Mr. Sport to speak. Mr. Sport stated everyone has a detailed report on the park from Councilman Billings. Mr. Sport stated we are on track to start on time. In Councilman Billings’ report we are asking to declare surplus all unused/old supplies such as pants, helmets, etc., because we plan to have a yard sale tomorrow night. Also, the park has requested no delivery of a $19,000 infield groomer to help with budgetary constraints. We feel this money would be better utilized in future purchase of a new gator that is multipurpose. Mr. Sport stated the proposed budget I’ve given each of you, in lieu of Mr. Simmons salary, will be based on $39,200 for next year for a full time park director. Councilwoman Dawson complimented the park on their new Facebook page. The mayor thanked Councilman Jones for getting a computer up and running. Mr. Sport stated Pepsi is putting vending machines back at the park with Gatorades. Water and sodas will be sold in the concession stands.

Councilman Jones gave an update on the Electric Vehicle Charging Stations that we have been working on. Myself and Mr. Flynn met with Arthur Bishop this week. We have got some matching funds from AMEA in the amount of $42,000. Mr. Bishop said he believes with in-kind work we could probably get away with about $20,000 and the other $20,000 we can use to put some smaller stations around at different spots. Mr. Bishop has agreed to come to the next council meeting.

Mayor Beasley stated Chief Johnson has decided to get qualified for Building Inspector. I am getting with Mr. Jones to see exactly what he needs to get certified. We can add a little to his salary and do the same things in that department that Mr. Neal was doing if that pleases the council. I will have more details once I look into it a little further.

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

Mayor Beasley asked Councilman Smith to read the chief’s report. Since the last meeting, the police department had 154 calls for service, not including building checks. The department made 30 traffic stops, wrote 19 citations and gave 11 warnings. The department made 15 misdemeanor arrests and 1 felony arrests. There has been 1 animal control calls since the last meeting.

The mayor called on Steve Defee for a report on the Airport. Mr. Defee stated everything is good. We are still waiting for the quote back on the fencing. As soon as the grounds permit we are going to have to remove some trees. We are just waiting for a little bit of dryer weather to get that done without tremendously making a mess. The mayor asked if anyone contacted Mr. McGough to see if he wanted to do any surveying before we proceeded. Mr. Defee stated Attorney Jones spoke with him and he is willing to comply, but we don’t know anything about a survey.

Mayor Beasley stated he has talked with Mrs. Kathryn at the library. Everything is going well and they are excited about the new summer reading program.

The mayor called on Councilman Smith for a report on Fire/Rescue. Councilman Smith stated this dryer weather and wind has sparked up the brush fires. We are taking one of our trucks to have tires put on it Wednesday morning.

Mayor Beasley stated under Economic Development he believes we will get an increase from Southeast Gas Economic Development Enhancement Funds.

The mayor stated he was in a meeting last week in Troy with Southeast Gas and our profit share this year was $122,133.33 which is up from last year.

Mayor Beasley opened the gasoline and diesel bids. The only bid received was from J. Bryce Smith Oil Company. J. Bryce Smith bid 22 cents per gallon above dealer cost for gasoline and 22 cents per gallon above dealer cost for diesel. After some discussion, Councilman Jones made a motion to accept the bids from J. Bryce Smith Oil Company. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously in favor.

The mayor stated the council needed to appoint a voting delegate for the Annual Convention of the Alabama League of Municipalities. Councilman Smith made a motion to appoint Councilwoman Kathy Smyth to be the voting delegate for the Annual Convention of the Alabama League of Municipalities. Councilman Jones seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Yea: Betty Dawson Abstained: Kathy Smyth

Kip Smith

Elliott Jones

The motion carried.

Mayor Beasley stated Mr. Danny Holmberg with Krebs Engineering is here tonight to discuss the Glenwood Sewer. Mr. Flynn stated this started with Glenwood to kind of get an assessment of what is going on down there. We talked with Councilwoman Smyth and some of the others who agreed a third party would probably be better. Mr. Holmberg is kind of wanting to know what kind of evaluation we are looking for and looking for some feedback from the councilmembers as well. Mr. Holmberg stated it is a pleasure for Krebs Engineering to be asked to offer some assistance. It’s my understanding you have the opportunity to take the Glenwood communities low pressure sewer system. You may simply need some advice which I am prepared to offer tonight or if you need some paper documentation we are prepared to do an evaluation for you. Look at the money in, money out, and the infrastructure itself and make some recommendations about what you would be taking over, what sort of liabilities you might be accepting. Look at long term cost not just for routine operations, but for the capital improvements you might have to make to maintain that system. There are a number of things that might go into a report to come back and offer you some solid advice/evaluation of whether or not accepting that system would be beneficial to the City of Luverne or maybe a combination of benefit Luverne and assistance to the community of Glenwood. Essentially that’s what I am here to ask tonight is to offer our assistance. We can work on an hourly basis and give you a report or if you want to talk it over in another informal setting can offer you our thoughts of what you might be getting into. Mr. Flynn stated he thought ADEM wanted the assessment. Attorney Jones stated his last understanding was Troy Hudson was going to talk with ADEM. The last I recall it was if there was a possibility that Glenwood could maintain its own system. If we went forward with our participation they wanted an evaluation of some kind and indicated depending on the price they would be willing to pay for it. So I think the question was what sort of evaluation could be provided and how much it was going be. Councilman Jones asked about what it would cost. Mr. Holmberg stated the best he could do is offer an hourly basis which would cost somewhere between $4,000 and $6,000. The mayor asked Mr. Flynn if they made the trip to Tuscaloosa. Mr. Flynn stated actually they visited Lincoln. It was basically a sales pitch and I don’t know any more about it than when I left about the situation. Mr. Holmberg stated he would not charge over $6,000. After some discussion, Attorney Jones will contact Troy Hudson and let him know what was discussed tonight because he is the person who is communicating with ADEM to be sure we are all on the same page and can get approval for this and the amount then we will get back with Mr. Holmberg. The mayor stated we appreciate you coming down, your presentation and your service.

The mayor stated we have an event application from Sherry Prevett for the Spring Fling 2023 on the Airport Road at the Historical Society Museum. After some discussion, Attorney Jones stated this is on county property so the city does not need to do anything.

Mayor Beasley called on Robin Dillard to speak. Mrs. Dillard stated she has a new position as a contractor as a Community Health Worker and Program Assistant with Southern Alabama Area Health Education Center (AHEC) with the new Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Veterans Suicide Prevention Grant. This is information only. I wanted to make sure you know I am here. I am the Crenshaw County representative. We also are in Butler, Conecuh and Covington counties. We are working at this point to do outreach and to identify at risk veterans. We are going to be doing some community education by offering to maybe the school providers. We would really like to partner with law enforcement, emergency services and anything that we can do to partner to assist veterans in crisis situations, hopefully before a crisis happens. We are going to probably start in April. The King’s Chapel has graciously offered their building for us to have webinar events and general information for Veterans to know what their benefits are and to help them apply if they don’t have them. So please give me a call and I will try to reach out to you when events and trainings will be coming up that we will be offering. The mayor stated we certainly want to support our Veterans and thanked her for coming.

Councilman Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Smyth seconded the motion.

Meeting was adjourned.