COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

March 13, 2023

The City of Luverne Council met in regular session on March 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 5:38

Elliott Jones, Councilman

Eddie Billings, Councilman

Mike Jones, Attorney

Mike Johnson, Chief

Margie Gomillion, Clerk

Visitors:

Arthur Bishop Keith Waites Brock Flynn Ryan McGhee

Merrill Sport Chris White Jeff Strowd Butch Speed

Kirk Alsbrooks Eric Harrell Steve Hermeling

Mayor Beasley called the meeting to order. The mayor called on Councilman Smith to lead the pledge of allegiance to the flag and Councilman Billings to say a prayer.

The mayor called for the approval of the minutes of February 27, 2023. Councilman Billings made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilwoman Dawson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

Under unfinished/old business, the mayor stated everyone is aware that Lee Simmons retired as park director. We’ve made arrangements to get the park open on time. Mayor Beasley called on Councilman Billings to speak. Councilman Billings stated Merrill Sport and David Ammons are going in jointly to help us with the park. So far most of the facility is ready to start play. The schedules are set and will be posted on Facebook if they are not already posted there. The staff is secured to run the concession stand and everything along those lines. The items that were surplus at the last meeting have been selling. They have raised $260 so far. Pepsi has put two new drink boxes in. The security lighting is working around the playground again and Troy Cable has come out to redo the Wi-Fi so we won’t have to use the police department’s hot spot anymore. We are now looking to get the umpires in and trained. The opening day for the girls will be April 3rd and the boys April 4th. T-ball has been pushed back to a later start this year but they have been drafted and uniforms have been ordered. They will start April 17th. Councilwoman Dawson asked if we will hire for the park director’s job later on or keep the two we have. The mayor stated we will let the two that’s there do it this year and then it will be up to the council in 2024. Councilman Billings asked the council to surplus the two pedal boats.

Mayor Beasley reported he has been talking with Troy Hudson a couple of times a week. We have been funded, from what I understand, for the Mt Ida Road and Glenwood Road turn project. The County has agreed to split the cost with the city because it benefits as many people in the county as it does the City of Luverne.

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

Mayor Beasley called on the chief for his report. The chief stated the only thing he wanted to add to his report was some pictures of the parking lot at the old Vanity Fair building and stated it was pretty bad from log trucks turning around and parking. The clerk read the chief’s report. Since the last meeting, the police department had 178 calls for service, not including building checks. The department made 26 traffic stops, wrote 39 citations and gave 13 warnings. The department made 21 misdemeanor arrests and 3 felony arrests. There has been 3 animal control calls since the last meeting.

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

Mayor Beasley called on Councilman Smith for a report on Fire/Rescue. Councilman Smith stated everything is moving right along.

Mayor Beasley called on Arthur Bishop with AMEA to discuss electric vehicle charging stations. Mr. Bishop handed out a spreadsheet and stated that it lays out some of the cost that is typical of the ADECA EV Charging Grant. The grant requires that you install two fast chargers and also have future capabilities for two more. You don’t have to actually install or purchase the other two. You just have to put conduit in, size your transformer large enough just that type thing. We looked at the public parking area. We are looking at this now before ADECA releases something in April that would be due June 10th. That doesn’t give time to be brought before a council to get quotes on everything and go through that whole process before you can apply for the grants. That’s the reason Councilman Jones wanted to bring everything forward with you to get all the quotes if you want to proceed and have everything ready when the grants come out. Mr. Bishop discussed the fast chargers and some of the specifics on the grant. The total cost for the chargers would be $227,800. The grant is $182,000, AMEA match is $45,800 and the city’s match (in-kind) would be $23,900, so other than minor things that you would do for a normal customer for installation the city would really have no output to put money on. Councilman Jones wanted clarity on the grant writer, Sara Byard Consulting. If I understand correctly, we would be able to use some of the monies from AMEA to pay for the grant writer. Mr. Bishop stated you can’t put what she charges under the grant to get back from a grant, but you can put it on to our initiative. So anything you spend with her you can ask for the funds through AMEA’s initiative. Councilman Jones stated he would call Sara Byard if the council agrees to move forward with the grant. The council was in agreement. Mr. Bishop stated ChargePoint would be the manufacturer to handle all the customer information. They handle the credit cards and all the processing. Quarterly or annually they would send a check to the city of what has been charged less 10 percent. ChargePoint is a Sourcewell customer so you don’t have to bid anything out. Councilman Jones stated we had talked about any leftover monies could be used for smaller charging stations around the city. Mr. Bishop stated yes those are called Level 2 chargers. It’s more typical of what you would have in your home. They are more for places like the city parks, rec centers, and high schools where you will be there for three or four hours at a time. There will be some monies left there from the second round of AMEA funds. The mayor thanked Mr. Bishop for coming.

Next, the mayor called on Keith Waites with American Tank Maintenance for his presentation on tank maintenance for the city’s water tanks. Mr. Waites presented a power point presentation with pictures of what they saw when they climbed the city’s water tanks. Our mission statement is basically American Tank Maintenance is committed to providing the highest quality of service with superior customer satisfaction at a price that accommodates the current physical climate for water providers. Our focus is on the Southeastern Region. We maintain over a 1,000 tanks under our maintenance program and we’ve never had a maintenance program cancel us. Mr. Waites discussed some of the customers who are under their tank maintenance and some of the logos they have on their tanks. The presentation showed Tank #1 – 60,000 gallon elevated water tank located on W. 6th Street, Tank #2 - 500,000 gallon elevated water tank (Checkerboard) located on Cement Plant Road and Tank #3 – 400,000 gallon stand pipe water tank located by SMART. Mr. Waites discussed the condition of each tank in detail. Mr. Waites also discussed the cost of the projected schedule of work & fees for full-service maintenance program. The Maintenance Program Summary of Benefits are:

* ATM assumes all RISK and LIABILITY for Maintenance
* Save $$$ short term by spreading costs over 5 years
* Save $205,904 long term over the next 16 years!
* Annual inspections (Washout/Visual) with reports
* Emergency Services and Repairs
* Interior and Exterior Renovations are included
* Lifetime warranty on the paint coatings
* Set annual budget figure
* No Change Orders
* Hassle free tank maintenance

The mayor stated he was definitely impressed with the presentation. We will think about it a day or two and get the Water Board together to make a recommendation.

Mayor Beasley stated Mack Williams is up for reappointment to the Board of Housing Commissioners. Councilman Smith made a motion to reappoint Mack Williams to the Board of Housing Commissioners. Councilwoman Smyth seconded the motion. All was in favor of reappointing Mack Williams to the Board of Housing Commissioners.

The mayor recommended to surplus the two paddle boats that was purchased when the city had the county lake. Councilman Jones made a motion to surplus the two paddle boats. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and all was in favor.

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

Meeting was adjourned.