COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

March 27, 2023

The City of Luverne Council met in regular session on March 27, 2023 at 5:30 p.m., in the City Hall Building. The following members were present:

Mayor Ed Beasley

Betty Dawson, Councilwoman

Kathy Smyth, Councilwoman

Elliott Jones, Councilman

Eddie Billings, Councilman

Mike Johnson, Chief

Margie Gomillion, Clerk

Absent:

Kip Smith, Councilman

Mike Jones, Attorney

Visitors:

Brock Flynn Billy Crumpton Ryan McGhee

Mayor Beasley called the meeting to order. The mayor called on Councilman Jones 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 March 13, 2023. Councilman Billings made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilwoman Smyth seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

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

The mayor called on the chief for his report. Since the last meeting, the police department had 206 calls for service, not including building checks. The department made 34 traffic stops, wrote 28 citations and gave 6 warnings. The department made 16 misdemeanor arrests and 2 felony arrests. There has been 5 animal control calls since the last meeting.

Mayor Beasley called on Councilman Billings for a report on recreation. Councilman Billings stated everyone has a copy of a written report. Everything is going pretty smoothly at the park. Everything that needed to be fixed or updated such as locks, keys and lights have been taken care of. I appreciate the Street & Sanitation Department and Electric Department for helping us out in the areas we needed them. I would like to bring one thing to your attention so you can start thinking about it. A potentially pressing issue is the state of the John Deere Gator that is used extensively for all duties at the park. Our current one is falling apart faster than anticipated. We were hoping (and continue to hope) that we would (will) be able to make it through this season and address it in next year’s budget. However, I am asking that you be aware of this situation in case it fails us before the season is completed. There is no way that we can accomplish what we need with the staffing we have if it fails. It’s a 2007 model purchased from Dowling Tractor around 2008. Again, I’m not asking for anything to be done at this time. I’m just bringing it to your attention, so that you know we could be in a little bit of emergency situation out there if things go wrong. I did ask Merrill and David to research to see what a new gator and other things along those lines that are close to the same models would cost. The mayor stated we cancelled that order on the $19,000 piece of equipment, so still have that in the budget for a gator if that’s what you decide. The mayor stated he discussed with Merrill about the tennis court lights coming on at 6:00 p.m. and thought we could reprogram them to come on at 7:00 p.m. since we’ve had the time change. I recommended to Merrill since the tennis court is not used after 10:00 p.m., to change the lights to 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., instead of 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. It cost us $90 an hour to burn those lights. That’s $180 a day in savings. Mr. Flynn stated we have put six timers on the lights at the bottom of the walking trail and I do not know why they will not hold up. Today we changed those lights and put them on photocell, so I don’t think we will have to worry about a timer again. Also, in front of the concession stand those lights aren’t working, but they are ordered and will hopefully be here tomorrow. I will get them put up this week.

The mayor stated everyone has a report from Steve Defee on the airport. The clerk read the report. As of today there has been no action taken on the cleanup of the Crowell property. The ditch line beside the venue has not been cleaned due to the wet area, but will be completed as soon as the city can access the site. We are waiting on quotes for fence that is to be installed between the venue and airport property. Everything else is in order.

The mayor stated he attended the library’s Dinner Theatre fundraiser the other night. I spoke with Kathryn and everything is going good. Councilwoman Smyth stated the fundraiser was very well attended and enjoyed.

Councilwoman Smyth stated our League of Municipalities Economic Development Academy that Councilwoman Dawson, myself, the mayor, Robyn Snellgrove and Samantha Bagwell are part of have a field trip this week to Opelika to discuss signage. Just looking at our signs and where we need to be. We have completed one of our meetings and have another one coming up in April.

Mayor Beasley stated he would like to mention some names tonight. He told Councilwoman Smyth and Councilwoman Dawson how much he appreciates the work they are doing with the League of Municipalities and other things they have been involved in. The mayor thanked Councilman Jones for taking care of AMEA, Councilman Billings for dealing with the park, and the Chief for taking over the building inspector’s job. He also thanked Brock Flynn for the services he gives us and Billy Crumpton for grabbing the bulls by the horn by getting in there with our Street & Sanitation.

The mayor stated an appointment to replace Mr. Tom Shows on the Industrial Development Board is needed. After some discussion, the mayor stated for the council to be thinking of nominees for the next meeting.

Mayor Beasley stated Martha Thomas is up for reappointment to the Board of Adjustments. Councilman Billings made a motion to reappoint Martha Thomas to the Board of Adjustments. Councilman Jones seconded the motion. All were in favor of reappointing Martha Thomas to the Board of Adjustments.

The mayor stated David Noble is up for reappointment to the Board of Adjustments. Councilman Billings made a motion to reappoint David Noble to the Board of Adjustments. Councilman Jones seconded the motion. All were in favor of reappointing David Noble to the Board of Adjustments.

Mayor Beasley stated Beth Brown is up for reappointment to the Planning Commission. Councilman Billings made a motion to reappoint Beth Brown to the Planning Commission. Councilman Jones seconded the motion. All were in favor of reappointing Beth Brown to the Planning Commission.

The mayor stated Martty Jones is up for reappointment to the Mental Health Board. Councilman Jones stated Ms. Jones does not want to continue to serve. I spoke with Donna Beasley the other night and she is retired from that. She said she would love to serve on that board and I couldn’t think of a better fit. Councilman Jones made a motion to appoint Donna Beasley to the Mental Health Board. Councilwoman Smyth seconded the motion. The votes was as follows:

Yea: Betty Dawson Abstained: Eddie Billings

Elliott Jones

Kathy Smyth

The motion carried.

Mayor Beasley presented Resolution 032723 that the City enter into an agreement with the State of Alabama, acting by and through the Alabama Department of Transportation relating to a project for: Intersection improvements on US-331 (SR-9) at Glenwood Rd and Mt Ida Rd intersections, including realignment and turn lanes; Project# ATRP2-21-2023-325; CPMS Ref# 100076131, 100076547 and 100076548. Councilman Jones made a motion to adopt Resolution 032723. Councilwoman Smyth seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Yea: Betty Dawson Abstained: Kathy Smyth

Elliott Jones

Eddie Billings

The motion carried. The resolution is as follows:

RESOLUTION NUMBER 032723

BE IT RESOLVED, by the City of Luverne as follows:

That the City enter into an agreement with the State of Alabama, acting by and through the Alabama Department of Transportation relating to a project for:

**Intersection improvements on US-331 (SR-9) at Glenwood Rd. and Mt. Ida Rd. intersections, including realignment and turn lanes; Project# ATRP2-21-2023-325; CPMS Ref# 100076131, 100076547 and 100076548.**

Which agreement is before this Council, and that the agreement be executed in the name of the City, by the Mayor for and on its behalf and that it be attested by the City Clerk and the official seal of the City be affixed thereto.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon the completion of the execution of the agreement by all parties, that a copy of such agreement be kept on file by the City.

Councilman Billings stated at the last council meeting we declared those pedal boats surplus. We need to set a time for those bids. The mayor recommended taking sealed bids on Monday, April 24, 2023 for the two pedal boats that were declared surplus. Mayor Beasley stated we will post on the bulletin board and Facebook. The council agreed to open sealed bids on Monday, April 24th.

The chief stated he’s had some stuff to come up with our ordinances that we don’t address with our ordinances. I know we started updating and revising our ordinance five or six years ago, but never finished it. Some of the stuff that has come up doesn’t address it at all in the ordinance, for instance, Airbnb. I spoke with Attorney Jones today and I am going to get up some stuff and let the council look at it so you can adopt whatever you want. The mayor asked the clerk to contact Attorney Jones to let him know we need to get back to work on the city ordinance at his earliest convenience.

Councilwoman Dawson discussed truckers having to move their trucks and trailers from the old Vanity Fair parking lot and not having anywhere to park them. The chief stated a couple have moved theirs to the Oxford parking lot. Billy Crumpton has ordered some signs for no parking. We are going to put signs at the entrance of both the Vanity Fair and Oxford parking lots. Billy Crumpton stated the signs should be in either this week or next.

Brock Flynn stated he has two things. First, there is a Dollar General that is coming to Rutledge between Scott Hudson’s and the Shriner Building. They have sewer and water in front of them. The sewer is ours and the water is Rutledge’s. The Dollar General does not want to install a pump like they have in Glenwood to pump it to Rutledge. They are asking to get on our sewage system and buy the water from Rutledge. Rutledge would charge them their rates which is more than ours. They would reimburse us for the tap and we would receive a check every month from Rutledge for their sewer usage based off the water usage. After some discussion, Councilman Jones made a motion to allow sewage to the Dollar General Store in Rutledge. Councilman Billings seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved. Second, with the bond money would the council be in favor for us dropping a dump truck and buying a sewer camera. A dump truck is about $130,000 and a camera is about $150,000. It is very nice, I took Councilwoman Smyth on a little field trip one day. You can pinpoint where to dig. Councilwoman Smyth stated the problem is that the City of Troy has been coming over to do this maintenance for us at all times of the day, night and weekend. They have politely asked if we can look into purchasing one of our own. The council was in agreement to leave this up to Mr. Flynn.

Councilwoman Smyth stated she wanted to make a note the Citizen of the Year event from the Chamber of Commerce last week recognizing Mr. Mack Wise as the Citizen of the Year. Also, stated welcome to department head to Mr. Billy Crumpton.

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

Meeting was adjourned.