COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

April 10, 2023

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

Elliott Jones, Councilman

Mike Jones, Attorney

Mike Johnson, Chief

Margie Gomillion, Clerk

Absent:

Kathy Smyth, Councilwoman

Eddie Billings, Councilman

Visitors:

Steve Defee Billy Crumpton Ryan McGhee

Kirk Alsbrooks Jeff Strowd

Mayor Beasley called the meeting to order. The mayor called on Councilman Smith 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 March 27, 2023. Councilman Jones made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilwoman Dawson 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 clerk reminded everyone that their 2022 Statement of Economic Interests is due April 30, 2023.

The mayor called on the chief for his report. Since the last meeting, the police department had 162 calls for service, not including building checks. The department made 25 traffic stops, wrote 11 citations and gave 14 warnings. The department made 2 misdemeanor arrests. There has been 2 animal control calls since the last meeting.

Mayor Beasley stated he has been out to the park several times and it looks really good. If you see Merrill Sport or David Ammons congratulate them on the job they are doing so far.

The mayor called on Steve Defee to report on the airport. Mr. Defee stated everyone received a copy of a quote to install 364’ of 6’ – 11.5 ga. chain link with 3 strands of barbwire at the airport. The material only is $5,179.72. The material and labor will be $7,644.00. I suggest that we move forward with this quote. This quote is only good for 10 days. They will sell us the material only and we put up the fence at our leisure or whenever we can. If the council decides to let them do it with the labor I may be able to get him to go ahead and set the majority of the posts. There are some trees and stuff that still need to be moved, but it is still too wet to get the bucket truck to the trees. After some discussion, Councilman Jones made a motion to purchase the materials and then pay the labor. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

The mayor stated the library is doing well. They are starting some spring programs.

Mayor Beasley called on Councilman Smith to report on fire/rescue. Councilman Smith reported everything is going good. All three trucks passed pump test. We have been in touch with Danny at Deep South and we will possibly get the new pump truck at the end of the year. We are going to sell two of the trucks.

Mayor Beasley stated we signed off on the engineering for the Glenwood Road and Mt Ida Road project.

The mayor stated an appointment to replace Mr. Tom Shows on the Industrial Development Board is needed. Councilman Jones made a motion to appoint Derrick Wright to replace Mr. Tom Shows on the Industrial Development Board. Councilwoman Dawson seconded the motion and all was in favor.

Mayor Beasley stated Jill King, Donna McDougald and June Taylor is up for reappointment to the Library Board. Councilman Smith made a motion to reappoint Jill King, Donna McDougald and June Taylor to the Library Board. Councilman Jones seconded the motion. All were in favor of reappointing Jill King, Donna McDougald and June Taylor to the Library Board.

The mayor stated an appointment to replace Ms. Ellen Solomon on the Medical Clinic Board is needed. After some discussion, the mayor asked the council to be thinking of nominees for the next meeting.

Mayor Beasley presented the request from Chad Turner on behalf of the Crenshaw County Rec Club for the Annual Crawfish Tournament at the Crenshaw County Recreational Club on April 29, 2023. Councilman Smith made a motion to approve the Annual Crawfish Tournament at the Crenshaw County Recreational Club on April 29, 2023. Councilman Jones seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

The mayor stated in the Water Board meeting this afternoon that the Water Board recommended tearing down the 60,000 gallon blue water tank. The board also recommended moving forward with the water tank maintenance program with American Tank Maintenance for the two remaining tanks. After some discussion, Councilman Jones made a motion to move forward with professional services for maintenance for the two remaining tanks with American Tank Maintenance. Councilwoman Dawson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved. The council was in agreement to take bids to tear down the 60,000 gallon blue water tank.

Councilwoman Dawson stated she attended the ACE meeting last Wednesday at the Chamber of Commerce. It went over very good. We had a lot of positive thoughts coming out of it and a lot of good suggestions. We will meet again in May and that will be the end of the five year plan.

Councilman Jones stated he would like to mention Billy Crumpton and his crew. They worked at the library the other day and really did a lot of good work. It looks really good.

Councilman Smith stated he would like to mention four things. First, the north red light is flowing a lot better on east and west and south bound traffic. I was told the state worked on it over the weekend. Second, at the lagoon the hyacinths are coming out and almost full. Everything is looking good down that way. Third, I cut Memorial curve today and the big gun needs a coat of paint. Councilman Smith asked if the city would approve to buys two gallons. The council was in agreement. The mayor stated we have a pole at Douglas Park that really needs attention and there has been a request to paint it in white. Also, there has been a request from Mr. Jim Jackson to recognize the country of Ukraine in a flag so that is something we need to consider. Last, Councilman Smith discussed trucks parking at Vanity Fair that are now parking at the Slacks Factory. The parking lot at Vanity Fair has been torn up by the trucks and they don’t need to do that at the Slacks Factory. The chief stated we are already on it. We have signs ordered they are being sent out on the 21st.

Councilwoman Dawson stated last year when we voted on the Juneteenth holiday we said it would be considered year to year. I thought we could think about it now because the library has a lot of things already scheduled out. Are we going to consider giving the employees the Juneteenth holiday which is on a Monday? The mayor stated we can consider it and discuss at the next meeting.

The mayor asked the council what they wanted to do on the Jim Jackson request about flying a Ukraine flag. The council was in agreement to only fly the United States flag and State flag.

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

Meeting was adjourned.