COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

April 24, 2023

The City of Luverne Council met in regular session on April 24, 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 Johnson, Chief

Margie Gomillion, Clerk

Absent:

Eddie Billings, Councilman

Mike Jones, Attorney

Visitors:

Steve Defee Billy Crumpton Brock Flynn

Mayor Beasley called the meeting to order. The mayor called on Councilman Jones 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 April 10, 2023. Councilman Jones made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

Councilman Smith asked Steve Defee if he spoke with the company about the labor for the fence at the airport. Mr. Defee stated yes, the material has been ordered and we will pay for it and then pay them the labor when the job is finished. The question was they only had a 10 day quote, so I obligated them to honor that quote since we were going ahead buying the material they would hold truth in quote for the labor to finish it.

Mayor Beasley called on Brock Flynn to speak. Mr. Flynn stated we are working at the Sister Schubert’s pumping station which is part of the ADECA grant we received. We are finishing it up with a new pump panel and the second pump will be installed I think May 3rd. We have been doing routine maintenance changing out some poles. The mayor called on Billy Crumpton. Mr. Crumpton stated we have been cutting grass, weed eating and spraying. The mayor asked Mr. Crumpton if he got the new weed eater and he stated yes. Councilwoman Smyth stated the Cemetery Board met last week and they are grateful for the city to have provided the lawnmower to the city a couple of years back. I know the street department just got one weed eater but Mr. Crumpton stated they needed three. I don’t mind going to the Cemetery Board and asking them if they would do one 1½ and the city do the other 1½ since they do a lot of that during the summer. After some discussion, the mayor stated he will contact Mr. Turner with the Cemetery Board about the weed eaters.

Councilman Smith stated yesterday he had a request from one of the organizers for the Festival at the Well. He asked if we could supply a dumpster, which they would pay for when they have the festival. Their normal garbage collection company does not do dumpsters. They would need it on that Thursday and pick it up on Monday. I told him they needed to get a letter from the company stating they do not have dumpsters and would allow us to bring one for this only. It’s the 3rd weekend in May. Mr. Crumpton stated we do have one we could take. It would be around $125 for an 8 yard dumpster. Mr. Smith stated he would contact them to let them know. The council was in agreement.

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

Mayor Beasley read the chief’s report. Since the last meeting, the police department had 155 calls for service, not including building checks. The department made 32 traffic stops, wrote 26 citations and gave 6 warnings. The department made 4 misdemeanor arrests. There has been 3 animal control calls since the last meeting.

The mayor stated he spoke with Merrill Sport today and said everything is going smooth at the park. Everything looks nice and cleaned up. Mayor Beasley discussed when to have the July 4th fireworks at the park. After some discussion, Chief Johnson will contact Mr. Chambley about having the event, if available, July 1st or 3rd and if he is not available then have the event after the 5th. The council approved the chief to negotiate up to $10,500.

Mayor Beasley called on Steve Defee to report on the airport. Mr. Defee stated we did commit to Triple E Fencing for the quote they gave us that we had at the last meeting. They will honor the quote. The materials have been ordered and they will do the work after the trees are cut and removed. It is still too wet to get the equipment in to remove the trees. Mr. Defee also stated the gas price at the airport is at 6.69 a gallon which is the highest in the area at the moment. Mr. Defee recommended dropping five tenths down to stay competitive with Troy and Greenville. The adjacent property that was supposed to be cleaned to this day still hasn’t had anything done to it. The council was in agreement to lower the price of fuel at the airport to keep it competitive.

The mayor stated the library is doing well. They will start the summer reading program shortly. They will need adult volunteers to come read.

Mayor Beasley called on Councilman Smith to report on fire/rescue. Councilman Smith reported everything is going smooth.

The mayor called on Councilwoman Smyth to report on Economic Development. Councilwoman Smyth stated she sent around an AMEA grant email with some suggestions on it. We need to get that to AMEA if there are any other options, suggestions or edits otherwise I will submit as is. This is the Economic Development grant that was $20,000 but is $30,000 this year. The council was in agreement with what Councilwoman Smyth submitted. Councilwoman Smyth also stated we have two other grants that both are Tourism grants. One from Will Barfoot’s office and one from Chris Sells’ office. We received one last year for the Friendliest City Festival. This year we are up to $6,500. Last year it was $2,500 but they doubled it to $5,000. We will use that for the festival again along with some sponsorships. The chamber has talked about combining that day with the Treats-on-Us by doing it that night at the park instead of downtown. Let me know if there is any objection to it.

Mayor Beasley called on Brock Flynn to speak. Mr. Flynn stated he has two things. First, we had to go to the Town of Glenwood last week to fix a sewage leak. Does the city want to charge for going? The mayor stated for Mr. Flynn to prepare a bill and he would go see the mayor and clerk to see what we can do. Second, there are some grants that we have been applying for that are out of my league. We don’t need to lose these grants. The mayor stated if Chief Johnson and Councilman Jones can’t assist we will have to hire someone. Mayor Beasley stated he was told there is a very good grant writer in Dothan and that he can get his contact information. After some discussion, the council was in agreement to contact the grant writer in Dothan.

The mayor stated an appointment to replace Ms. Ellen Solomon on the Medical Clinic Board is needed. Councilwoman Smyth suggested Joyce Boswell. Councilman Jones made a motion to appoint Joyce Boswell to replace Ms. Ellen Solomon on the Medical Clinic Board. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and all was in favor.

Mayor Beasley presented the following Resolution to comply with the annual wastewater report. Councilman Jones made a motion to adopt the resolution. Councilwoman Dawson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved as follows:

**MUNICIPAL WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION (MWPP) PROGRAM**

**RESOLVED** that the City of Luverne informs the Department of Environmental Management that the following actions were taken by City Council.

1. Reviewed the MWPP Annual Report which is attached to this resolution.

2. Set forth the following actions and schedule necessary to maintain effluent requirements contained in the NPDES Permit, and to prevent the bypass and overflow of raw sewage within the collection system or at the treatment plant:

1. Continue daily checks and monitor process control.
2. Determine heavy loading into the Lagoon.

Passed by a majority vote of the City of Luverne on April 24, 2023.

The mayor stated we have sealed bids to open for the two (2) pedal boats. The clerk opened the only two bids received. The bids were as follows for One (1) Sun Dolphin Laguna Pedal Boat:

Eddie Billings - $175.00

Kathy Smyth - $168.00

Councilman Smith made a motion to accept the two bids. Councilman Jones seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Yea: Betty Dawson Abstained: Kathy Smyth

Kip Smith

Elliott Jones

The motion carried.

Councilwoman Dawson stated she attended the ALM Economic Development Academy class last Friday. It was good. It was on retail development process. It took us through how hard it is to get new business to come in. Also, the dedication for St John Baptist Church historical plague will be Sunday at 12:00 p.m. at the church.

The mayor stated according to Section 40-3-2 Code of Alabama 1975, requires that the governing body of the largest municipality in each county shall nominate three persons for consideration in the selection of a County Board of Equalization. One member of the Board of Equalization is to be chosen from the list submitted by our municipality. After some discussion, Councilman Jones nominated Erica Conner for consideration in the selection of a County Board of Equalization. Councilwoman Smyth nominated Shantel Barginere for consideration in the selection of a County Board of Equalization. Councilman Smith nominated David Smyth for consideration in the selection of a County Board of Equalization. After further discussion, Councilman Jones made a motion to accept the nominations of Erica Conner, Shantel Barginere and David Smyth in the selection of a County Board of Equalization. Councilwoman Dawson seconded the motion and the vote was as follows:

Yea: Betty Dawson Abstained: Kathy Smyth

Kip Smith

Elliott Jones

The motion carried.

Councilman Jones stated he had a concerned citizen contact him about when we might get the flag pole at Douglas Park painted white. Brock Flynn stated he will get the flag pole painted white.

Councilwoman Dawson stated we talked about the Juneteenth holiday at the last meeting. Councilman Jones made a motion to have Juneteenth as a holiday this year. Councilwoman Smyth seconded the motion and all was in favor. Councilman Smith stated we need to approach our holiday schedule that we have.

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

Meeting was adjourned.