COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

March 25, 2024

The City of Luverne Council met in regular session on March 25, 2024 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 Jones, Attorney

Mike Johnson, Chief

Margie Gomillion, Clerk

Absent:

Kip Smith, Councilman

Visitors:

Jeff Strowd Kirk Alsbrooks Steve Defee 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 Steve Defee to say a prayer.

The mayor stated I checked on the ARPA money. We have $652,325.18 which we will use for our matching funds for the Jeffcoat Street and Woodford Avenue projects. We have been assured it will be in a timely manner and we will get it all in before the time expires on it.

Mayor Beasley called for the approval of the minutes of March 11, 2024. Councilman Billings made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilman Jones seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

The mayor called for the approval of the special called meeting minutes of March 18, 2024. Councilman Billings made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilman Jones seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

Councilman Jones stated we conducted interviews this past week for City Manager and wanted to see if the council wanted to discuss it. The mayor stated Councilman Smith is out of town and asked if we could hold off until he is here, but that is strictly up to the council. The council was in agreement to wait until all council was in attendance.

Mayor Beasley stated under unfinished/old business is the discussion of short term rentals. The chief stated everyone has a copy of what other cities charge and what the state requires. The zoning will be based on what kind of license you require them to purchase. We do have some starting to pop up and people are staying in them. We need to define what short term is. The mayor stated we need to decide on a percentage and what zones to allow it in. Attorney Jones stated it’s basically up to the council to decide where and then how you’re going to regulate, what you’re going to make them do and how much you’re going to charge, etc. After some discussion, it was decided to form a committee with Councilman Billings, Councilwoman Smyth, Attorney Jones and Chief Johnson to come up with a plan and bring it back to the council to vote on. The mayor asked the clerk to read the chiefs report. Since the last meeting, the police department had 181 calls for service not including building checks, 33 traffic stops, wrote 16 citations, and gave 17 warnings. The department has made 19 misdemeanor and 3 felony arrests. There has been 1 animal control call since the last meeting. Also, the chief stated Casey Chambley contacted him today about the fireworks. Everyone has a copy of a calendar for July in front of them. July 3rd and July 4th are out, so I need a budget and a date, and then he will give us a couple of rain dates I can bring back to you. He doesn’t want to set the contract until we have a tentative date. The mayor recommended Friday, July 5th for first choice and then Tuesday, July 2nd if the 5th is not available. Last year we paid $10,000. The mayor stated we need a 15 minute show paying no more than $10,000. The council was in agreement.

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

Mayor Beasley called on Councilman Billings to report on the park. Councilman Billings stated pretty much everything is still steady. We are leading into ball season. Opening night for girls is Monday, April 8th and the boys Tuesday, April 9th. The first games will be that Thursday, April 11th for the girls and Friday, April 12th for the boys. T-ball will kick off Monday, April 22nd.

The mayor called for a report from Steve Defee on the airport. Mr. Defee stated the fence and new gate is up. Brock has since put up a new power panel and the service pole will need to be relocated to be put on airport property. Waiting on Michelle Royals to get back with me about the trip back to Montgomery to ALDOT as far moving forward with the asphalt.

Mayor Beasley stated he wasn’t able to attend the library benefit. Councilwoman Smyth stated it was an excellent night. One of the band members commented about how nice and clean our city always is when they come through.

Mayor Beasley called for a report on Fire/Rescue. The clerk stated Councilman Smyth said they have started on the training facility at the old jail.

Councilwoman Smyth stated we have applied for a federal allocation from Senator Britt’s office. One of her staffers came a couple of months ago and met with some department heads. There are four outstanding grant requests; our city services, law enforcement, Crenshaw County Board of Education and the hospital. Beverly Sport has been kind enough to work on those to get them submitted for us. Also, we have received a letter for the Comprehensive Plan grant that we applied for through USDA for the ACE project stating that the application is complete and it will go to the next round of consideration.

The mayor asked Mr. Alsbrooks about the lagoon situation. Mr. Alsbrooks stated it is back up, repaired, and ready to go. The new valve is in and pipe is fixed. The pumping station needs some work. We might could get it done for around $80,000 with us doing some of the work ourselves.

Mayor Beasley stated Alan Carpenter’s appointment on the Medical Clinic Board will expire in March. Councilman Billings made a motion to reappoint Alan Carpenter to the Medical Clinic Board. Councilman Jones seconded the motion and all was in favor.

The mayor stated everyone has a copy of a lease agreement between the City of Luverne (“Tenant”) and Lurleen B. Wallace Community College (“Landlord”) for 886 Glenwood Road. Attorney Jones stated it has been revised and can be used basically for anything city related. It’s a 10 year lease for a $1 a year. After further discussion, Councilman Billings made a motion to accept the lease agreement between the City of Luverne (“Tenant”) and Lurleen B. Wallace Community College (“Landlord”) for 886 Glenwood Road. Councilwoman Smyth seconded the motion and all was in favor.

Mayor Beasley stated next on the agenda is the Verano Letter of Intent. Attorney Jones stated it was changed a little to reflect what we agreed with them on. They will pay $1,000 a month until they get a license and a right to occupy the building. Then we will do a lease. After further discussion, Councilman Jones made a motion to approve the Letter of Intent with Verano. Councilwoman Dawson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

The mayor presented the council with an event application request for an event to be held on April 27th at Crenshaw County Recreational Club by Chad Turner to have CCRC “Crawfish” Tournament. The event will be from 5 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. After some discussion, Councilman Billings made a motion to approve the CCRC “Crawfish” Tournament to be held on April 27, 2024 at Crenshaw County Recreational Club. Councilman Jones seconded the motion and all was in favor.

Councilwoman Dawson stated she will attend the CMO training in Troy on April 4th.

Councilwoman Smyth stated everyone received a copy of a thank you card from Devin and Garrett Walley for the city’s participation in the digital billboard. Also, the Board of Education, The Career Academy and The Southeast Alabama Works had a Career on Wheels event this past Monday a week ago. Haley Kilcrease was in charge of that. Our city participated in it. We had multiple trucks, agencies and departments there for all the first graders to sort of understand what a truck and a job was together. They seemed to really enjoy it and got a lot out of it. I appreciate the departments and our workers going out talking to the students. Our vehicles were well represented.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Councilman Billings made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned.