COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

January 22, 2024

 The City of Luverne Council met in regular session on January 22, 2024 at 5:30 p.m., in the City Hall Building. The following members were present:

 Mayor Pro-tem Eddie Billings

Betty Dawson, Councilwoman

 Kip Smith, Councilman

 Kathy Smyth, Councilwoman

Elliott Jones, Councilman

 Mike Jones, Attorney

Mike Johnson, Chief 5:35

 Margie Gomillion, Clerk

 Absent:

Mayor Ed Beasley

 Visitors:

 Billy Crumpton Kirk Alsbrooks

 Mayor Pro-tem called the meeting to order. The mayor pro-tem called on Councilwoman Smyth to lead the pledge of allegiance to the flag and Mike Jones to say a prayer.

 The mayor pro-tem called for the approval of the minutes of January 8, 2024. Councilman Smith made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilman Jones seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

 Mayor Pro-tem called on the city clerk for the administrative report. Routine work was performed.

 The mayor pro-tem called everyone’s attention to the chief’s report. Since the last meeting, the police department had 165 calls for service not including building checks, 31 traffic stops, wrote 7 citations, and gave 24 warnings. The department has made 4 misdemeanor arrests. There has been 2 animal control calls since the last meeting.

Mayor Pro-tem stated everything is pretty much standard for recreation. All the bathrooms have been repaired and painted. The base anchors they are changing up the fields a little on the size of the fields. They are going to try to use a little differently by moving everything up towards the front. Going to move the fences in a little bit and lengthening the infield dirt so it can be used both duel softball and baseball. All the top soil was relocated to the wash areas around the batting cages and also in the area of the new shed is where is gets a lot of water runoff. We are going to try to set up a new credit/debit card system. With Wi-Fi out there a lot of people don’t carry cash anymore so they’re going to try to increase concession sales. They’ve also started ordering small supplies that we will need for baseball. This week is sign up for baseball and softball. The mayor pro-tem stated he had the opportunity to sit down with Troy Hudson and his group this past Thursday to discuss the splash pad. I brought some information for all of us to look at. We aren’t going to have to make any decisions tonight but we will have some to make. The $175,000 we were going to pay in 2019 doesn’t go as far in 2024. I asked Troy to see how much the City of Elba has in their splash pad. It is a medium size one. The city would have to come up with another $125,000 of local money. The council will have to decide whether we can come up with another $125,000 or go with what we have. Councilwoman Smyth stated Melanie Hill with Senator Katie Britt’s office is requesting a needs assessment for Crenshaw County in the next couple of weeks maybe one evening. She is interested in hearing what sort of grant needs we have for the city and county. This might be something that can come from funds they have access to. If anybody is interested in attending that we just need to set a date for late one afternoon. And if you can think of anything else that we need with infrastructure.

The mayor pro-tem read a library report from Mrs. Kathyrn. It stated on Wednesday, January 24th a representative from the Dolly Parton Imagination Library will be at the Luverne Public Library from 3:30 – 5 p.m. to discuss the program and answer any questions anyone has about starting the program in Crenshaw County. The mission of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library is to assist in the early educational development of children by providing children from birth to five with monthly age appropriate books, free of charge to families of children in that age bracket. To have a successful program requires funding. The Alabama Partnership for Children is providing seed money for the first two years in the following counties: Blount, Chilton, Conecuh, Crenshaw, Henry, Lawrence, Shelby and Winston. We are fortunate to have been selected to receive the seed money, but we also know that the program will need firm commitments for continued funding. I know the City of Luverne will want to help fund this program and have a part in a program that very well may change the trajectory of a child’s life. I hope that all of you can attend the meeting and have any questions or concerns addressed by the representative that will be here. We are very fortunate that she would agree to come to our County.

Mayor Pro-tem called on Councilman Smith to report on Fire/Rescue. Councilman Smith stated we have new flags up at Memorial Curve. I received an email from Robyn Snellgrove today stating the feds are offering grant money for EMS for up to $400,000. I forwarded that on to Lynda Turner. This money is for equipment, help with certifications for employees and things like that. The fire department put new tires on two trucks this week. We try to keep the tires under a certain age for safety purposes. Tomorrow night we will be sizing for some men for new turn out gear. Councilwoman Smyth stated the HOSA program for the Board of Education has a newly renovated building for their health science program. There is an ambulance simulator in that building for their training.

Councilwoman Smyth stated we still have some funds left in our AMEA grant funds. We have a quote from Jeff Waites who has spoken with Brock Flynn on this project for spot lighting on the trees downtown. That quote is for $5,700. After some discussion, Councilwoman Smyth made a motion to accept the Jeff Waits proposal in the amount of $5,700 for downtown lighting. Councilman Jones seconded the motion and all was in favor.

Councilwoman Smyth also stated, through our Ace program, we have completed the strategic plan. The next step is the leadership program that we are working on in conjunction with Southeast Alabama Works and the Chamber. The last part is the Comprehensive Plan. Tracey Delaney, South Central Alabama Development Commission has already made a donation to go towards that Comprehensive plan of $9,000. The plan would be more than that and Tracey has spoken with USDA about a grant to take care of that, which is a no match grant. She ask that we get permission to go forward with that grant process. Hopefully we will receive it but there is no guarantee. After further discussion, Councilman Smith made a motion to move forward with the grant process with USDA for the Comprehensive Plan. Councilwoman Dawson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

The mayor pro-tem reported the mayor is doing better, but is weak. He needs to get his energy up, just continue to remember him and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Mayor Pro-tem stated Rome Odom is up for reappointment to the Industrial Development Board. After some discussion, Councilman Smith made a motion to reappoint Rome Odom to the Industrial Development Board. Councilman Jones seconded the motion and all was in favor.

The mayor pro-tem presented the council with Resolution 012224, ALDOT Project No. IAR-021-000-007 to the low bidder for the Industrial Access Road to S.A. Graham Company, Inc, in the amount of $585,479.45. Councilman Smith made a motion to adopt Resolution 012224. Councilwoman Smyth seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously approved. The resolution is as follows:

**AWARD RESOLUTION**

**NO. 012224**

 **WHEREAS, the City of Luverne plans to construct** Industrial Access Road,

ALDOT Project No. IAR-021-000-007 **and**

 **WHEREAS, the City of Luverne, Luverne, Alabama did legally advertise the bid**

**opening date of November 30, 2023, in accordance with Alabama State Law,**

**and on that date opened all bids in public and read them aloud, and**

 **WHEREAS, the engineers have subsequently checked all bids received, and have**

**recommended that the contract be awarded to the low bidder.**

 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the contract for the** Industrial Access Road,

ALDOT Project No. IAR-021-000-007 **be awarded to the low bidder as follows:**

S. A. GRAHAM COMPANY, INC.

**In the amount of** $585,479.45

 **Passed this 22nd day of January 2024, by the City of Luverne**

Mayor Pro-tem stated next is the discussion of a city manager. Councilman Jones stated everyone has a job description that we looked at several weeks back. There is one adjustment, instead of a salary listed it will read the annual salary will be negotiated and contracted for a term of three years. I think it’s important that we move forward and open this process up for application. If the council agrees let’s open this process up to start immediately through March 1st. Councilwoman Smyth stated she knew it’s been Mayor Beasley’s thoughts to look within our ranks for this position. After having spoken to Brock about that, I’d rather you all talk to him about that as well, he indicated to me he is not interested. Councilman Jones also stated he has spoken to Brock and he is absolutely not interested. After further discussion, Councilman Jones made a motion to open advertisement of application acceptance for the position of city manager starting immediately through March 1st of close of business. Councilwoman Dawson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Dawson stated Mr. Moore has signed the agreement and Attorney Jones brought it to the last council meeting. I thought because the mayor told me three or four weeks ago they had ordered the pipe that we already had it here. I spoke with Billy and the pipe can be here tomorrow or possibly Wednesday. She asked if they could get started on it now because everything has been signed and Mr. Moore has already paid for the pipe. The city is supposed to do the labor and the dirt. Mr. Crumpton stated they could if weather permits. Councilman Smith stated unless something breaks and we have to pull everybody out. Councilwoman Dawson stated that is understandable.

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

Meeting was adjourned.