COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

March 11, 2024

The City of Luverne Council met in regular session on March 11, 2024 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

Eddie Billings, Councilman

Mike Jones, Attorney

Margie Gomillion, Clerk

Absent:

Mike Johnson

Visitors:

Jeff Strowd

Mayor Beasley called the meeting to order. The mayor called on Councilman Billings to lead the pledge of allegiance to the flag and Mike Jones to say a prayer.

The mayor called for the approval of the minutes of February 12, 2024. Councilwoman Smyth made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilwoman Dawson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

Mayor Beasley called for the approval of the special called meeting minutes of February 27, 2024. Councilwoman Smyth made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilwoman Dawson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

The mayor stated under unfinished/old business is the discussion of short term rentals. There was a question if rental houses would fall under short term rental. Mike Jones stated it depends on how you define short term rentals. The point is what you define it, how you define it, and what you make it apply to. After some discussion, the mayor suggested to bring this up at the next meeting when Chief Johnson is present. Councilman Billings made a motion to table this discussion until the next meeting to give the chief an opportunity to be here. Councilman Jones seconded the motion and all was in favor.

Mayor Beasley called on the city clerk for the administrative report. Routine work was performed. The clerk reminded the council to have their statement of economic interest completed by April 30th.

The mayor called everyone’s attention to the chief’s report. Since the last meeting, the police department had 173 calls for service not including building checks, 50 traffic stops, wrote 25 citations, and gave 25 warnings. The department has made 9 misdemeanor and 2 felony arrests. There has been 4 animal control calls since the last meeting.

Mayor Beasley called on Councilman Billings to report on the park. Councilman Billings stated they have completed all restroom painting other than a little trim work. T-ball teams and coaches will be selected Tuesday, March 12th. Girl’s uniforms are ordered and guys are being ordered. There was some pole support work done on the dugout for Flynn Field. We got a new ATV rake to help rake the fields. We do have some lighting issues that the electric department is helping with. Open season is April 1st, but may be pushed to April 8th in order to get uniforms out and pictures made.

The mayor called for a report on the airport. The clerk read a report from Steve Defee. The keyless entry has been installed. The only thing left to do is Brock Flynn has to move the utility pole. Michelle Royals has sent the report to ALDOT for the future plans. We are waiting for ALDOT to determine the resurfacing of the ramp.

Mayor Beasley stated the library is doing well. We have the library benefit coming up Tuesday, March 19th.

The mayor stated he would like to thank Mike Jones for donating an air conditioner/heat unit to the city. It is being used at the street department.

Mayor Beasley called on Councilman Smith to report on Fire/Rescue. Councilman Smith stated everything is good. We meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. We have been training. We still have not heard from ISO, but probably won’t for a few more months. We have 30 volunteer firemen.

Councilwoman Smyth stated the digital billboard that’s coming should be up and running mid-March. We have some economic development funds and didn’t know if the city would like to put an advertisement on the billboard for three months. It’s $350 for the two months and prorating March for $75. The council was in agreement to advertise. Councilwoman Smyth stated I have submitted the Tourism grant again through Senator Barfoot for the Friendly City Festival in November and Representative Sells’ application is on the way.

The mayor stated we will be splitting the Southeast Gas Economic Development Enhancement Funds with Robyn Snellgrove, Crenshaw County Economic & Industrial Development Authority.

Mayor Beasley stated Drew Money’s appointment on the Board of Adjustments will expire in March. Councilman Smith made a motion to reappoint Drew Money to the Board of Adjustments. Councilman Jones seconded the motion and all was in favor.

The mayor stated Bessie Reddock’s appointment for the Board of Housing Commissioners will expire in March. Councilman Smith made a motion to re-appoint Bessie Reddock to the Board of Housing Commissioners. Councilwoman Dawson seconded the motion and all was in favor.

Mayor Beasley stated the council needed to appoint a voting delegate for the Annual Convention of the Alabama League of Municipalities. Councilwoman Dawson made a motion to appoint Councilwoman Kathy Smyth to be the voting delegate for the Annual Convention of the Alabama League of Municipalities. Councilman Jones seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Yea: Betty Dawson Abstained: Kathy Smyth

Kip Smith

Elliott Jones

Eddie Billings

The motion carried.

The mayor stated the council has a request from El Patron of Luverne LLC for El Patron Mexican Grill and Cantina. It is an application from the State of Alabama for restaurant retail liquor. Councilman Smith made a motion to approve the application for 020 – restaurant retail liquor for the El Patron Mexican Grill and Cantina located at 868 S Forest Avenue. Councilwoman Smyth seconded the motion and all was in favor.

Mayor Beasley presented the council with an event application request for an event to be held on March 19th at Turner Park from Kathy Smyth, Southeast Alabama Works to have Careers on Wheels. The event will be from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. After some discussion, Councilman Jones made a motion to approve the Careers on Wheels to be held on March 19, 2024 at Turner Park. Councilwoman Dawson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

Councilman Jones stated, on the applications we received for city manager, I would like to make a motion to call a special meeting Monday, March 18th at 5:30 p.m. to interview the applicants. Councilwoman Dawson seconded the motion and all was in favor.

Councilman Smith stated he went to the Crenshaw County Commission meeting this morning. The commission has tabled for a year the proposal for re-appropriating taxes that was voted on by the people. This would affect the Industrial Development Board, Fire Departments, Municipalities and the County Commission to help support the hospital. They will address next year if needed.

The mayor stated Mrs. Rayburn with Animal Tails Rescue at a previous meeting had asked us about helping them more. Every year they run over their allotted money for their utilities that we give them and the city has just been writing it off which is not budgeted. The mayor recommended to up the amount $400 a year in the budget for their allotted amount for the utilities. In the last three years we have written off about $1,200. After some discussion, Councilman Jones made a motion to increase the budget amount by $400 a year on the utilities for Animal Tails Rescue. Councilwoman Smyth seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

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

Meeting was adjourned.