COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

June 10, 2024

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

Kip Smith, Councilman

Elliott Jones, Councilman

Eddie Billings, Councilman

Mike Jones, Attorney

Mike Johnson, Chief

Margie Gomillion, Clerk

Visitors:

Troy Hudson Jacob Cross Brock Flynn Steve Defee Jeff Strowd Ryan McGhee

Mayor Beasley called the meeting to order. The mayor called on Mike 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 May 13, 2024. 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 Troy Hudson with Southern Engineering Solutions, Inc., to update the council on city projects. The list of projects are:

**Water & Sewer CDBG to Pepsi** – 98% complete with a little under budget.

**Jeffcoat Sewer Rehab** – Have run into some 6 inch lines instead of 8 inch lines which creates a major problem and will need additional funds. There are two options:  Option #1 would be to complete the scope of the entire project by replacing approximately 1,050 feet of 6 inch line and still do the sewer liner on the rest of the project costing approximately $190,000. Option #2 to replace the 6 inch line and not the liner on the rest of the project would be approximately $140,000.

**Industrial Access Road to Pepsi –** approximately 25% to 30% complete.

**ADEM ARPA Sewer**-Woodford, other area - Preliminary plans close to submit to ADEM. Obligate funds by the end of the year and spend funds by the end of 2026.

**ADEM ARPA Water**-Woodford, Hwy 29 – Preliminary plans close to submit to ADEM. Obligate funds by the end of the year and spend funds by the end of 2026.

**ATRIP 2** – Glenwood/Mt Ida intersection – Have a meeting tentatively tomorrow with ALDOT to hopefully see how they want us to do some of the buildup on the highway.

**Splash Pad –** Get something ready to bid at the end of Summer/Fall. Maybe open next spring.

**Future Sidewalk Grant Opportunities-** 80/20 grant now eligible.

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

Mayor Beasley called everyone’s attention to the chief’s report. Since the last meeting, the police department had 188 calls for service not including building checks, 57 traffic stops, wrote 38 citations, and gave 19 warnings. The department has made 4 misdemeanor arrest. There has been 3 animal control calls since the last meeting. The chief stated the council had asked him to get the information on the people who trespassed on the airport. All that is complete and Mr. Defee has looked it over. It’s up to the council if you want to press charges for trespassing on the groom, bride and photographer. Mr. Defee stated he felt something should be imposed to the business/establishment, their license to operate be revoked or a stiff fine from the board. After further discussion, Attorney Jones will look further into an ordinance for unauthorized access.

The mayor called on Councilman Billings to report on the park. Councilman Billings stated we are in the all-star season. We are not hosting anything. Everyone is on the road. The 8U boys won their region finishing first. The girls kick off this week. Outside of that is just general ball practicing and repairing. We hope to have a splash pad in time for spring of 2025. I did meet with Merrill today and he wants to meet with me and the mayor to plot out some ideas for the park and also discuss where to go with leadership as well. Councilwoman Dawson asked about working on updating the policies and procedures for the park since it hasn’t been updated since 2013. The mayor stated once all-stars is over we will have plenty of time to get ready. The council was in agreement.

Mayor Beasley called for a report on Fire/Rescue. Councilman Smith stated last week we had our SCBA compressor serviced which is no cost to the city. The city owns the compressor, but the association pays for service of it. We ordered some new pagers for communication through the fire department since we haven’t really ordered many in the last four years. We are having to look at different programs where we report our information for our calls into with the feds which comes back with grant money etc., so we will be making a big change there in the next few months.

Councilwoman Smyth reported the chamber event, Taste of Crenshaw is coming back again this year to the Dei Center at the Methodist Church on Tuesday, June 25th. It is $10 per person unless you are a member of the chamber then you get two free tickets. It will be local restaurants, food trucks and caterers.

The mayor stated Jimmy Black with Southeast Gas will be here tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. to present a check for Community Betterment Funds to the city for $4,500 and a check to Crenshaw County Economic & Industrial Development Authority for $4,500. The mayor stated he has been working with ALDOT to get things organized to meet with Michael Cole from Dothan. Mr. Kenneth Boswell will be coming from Montgomery. Steve Defee and I will be sitting in a meeting hopefully the next week. We will report back to the council if we hear something.

Mayor Beasley showed everyone a thank you plaque the city received from the Crenshaw Community Hospital. The plaque read: City of Luverne, Alabama Mayor and Town Council As a Symbol of Your Enduring Commitment to Crenshaw Community Hospital Thank You for your support May 30, 2024.

Councilwoman Dawson stated there is an event at the park Saturday morning for Juneteenth from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Councilman Jones stated with the AMI project in process I know we have talked about would we have to get some cyber security put in place. If we go live with that without property security in place hackers could shut down the city. We can tie in all and any cyber security upgrades for all departments to be paid for and tied into the AMI project through our levelization rider. It won’t cost us anything out of the budget. I would like to ask the council to allow me to handle this from beginning to end. We need to think about this new move to the armory. And, if we are we going to also move city hall we don’t need to do any planning or work to city hall with the cyber security upgrade if we will be moving to the new building. The mayor stated we will have to see what the move would cost. After some discussion, Councilman Smith made a motion to allow Councilman Jones to move forward with putting cyber security in place. Councilman Billings seconded the motion and all was in favor.

Councilman Jones stated he will start working on the budget next month so everyone please be thinking of anything we need as far as special projects.

Attorney Jones stated Tarpon Towers who is renting from the city has contacted me about extending the terms for 40 years with no increase in the payment. The council was not interested.

Attorney Jones stated we had anticipated there was going to be some legislation that may have remedied the situation with Verano. There was no legislation to address that so basically back to the litigation. They are hopeful they can solve it with litigation. They are still paying the city every month and are going to pursue it.

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.