COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

April 8, 2024

The City of Luverne Council met in regular session on April 8, 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 Johnson, Chief

Margie Gomillion, Clerk

Absent:

Mike Jones, Attorney

Visitors:

Jeff Strowd Kirk Alsbrooks Brock Flynn Tom Perdue

Leon Hiebert Heather Hiebert Nichole Oliver

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

The mayor called for the approval of the minutes of March 25, 2024. Councilman Billings made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilman Jones seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

Mayor Beasley called on Tom Perdue to speak. Mr. Perdue stated he wanted to report that in late January on a Sunday afternoon he went to his ministorage. Not one of my customers, but someone in the county had put out a load of trash on the no dumping sign that the city put up. I went by the city barn that Monday morning at 6:55 a.m. and Billy Crumpton was in his truck and told him what had happened. I went back around 7:30 a.m. and there was not one piece of trash there. The City of Luverne had picked up everything that had been dumped there. Billy Crumpton needs a pat on the back. He went above and beyond.

The mayor called on Leon Hiebert. Mr. Hiebert stated the fence at the airport is amazing. Thank you so much for that. The remaining trash from the other fence has been taken out. It looks absolutely gorgeous. We still have to get the weeds off the tarmac.

Next, the mayor stated under unfinished/old business is to discuss City Manager. The mayor gave each councilmember an opportunity to comment. After some discussion, Councilman Smith made a motion to reject all City Manager applications due to the potential change from City Manager to City Coordinator. Motion failed for lack of a second. Councilman Billings made a motion to table the City Manager discussion and come back more organized in the fact of whether we want to pursue a City Manager or pursue a City Coordinator. Councilwoman Smyth seconded the motion to table the discussion. The vote was as follows:

Yea: Eddie Billings Nay: Kip Smith Abstained: Elliott Jones

Betty Dawson

Kathy Smyth

Motion carried.

Councilman Billings stated the chief, Councilwoman Smyth, myself and attorney Jones have not had an opportunity to get together to discuss the short term rentals.

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 226 calls for service not including building checks, 91 traffic stops, wrote 70 citations, and gave 21 warnings. The department has made 1 misdemeanor arrest. There has been 6 animal control calls since the last meeting.

The mayor called on Councilman Billings to report on the park. Councilman Billings stated tonight is opening night for girls and tomorrow night is opening night for boys. Ballgames start next week.

Mayor Beasley called for a report on Fire/Rescue. Councilman Smith stated we received a letter today from Deep South Fire Trucks about our new fire truck we ordered. International is still having trouble suppling chassis. They should have a chassis somewhere in the 3rd quarter this year. Hopefully we will have a truck sometime late 3rd quarter - early 4th quarter of this year.

The mayor stated everything is good at the library.

Councilwoman Smyth stated the Citizen of the Year Banquet is this Thursday night at the DEI center honoring Dale Shepherd.

Councilman Jones stated going back to the City Manager/Coordinator we need to let the individuals who applied know that we are having to go back and revisit for some legal title changes and to be patient with us.

Councilman Billings stated he would like to tip his hat to the guys for working late hours.

The chief stated he spoke with Casey Chambley on the fireworks this afternoon. July 5th is good with the same amount of money and time as last year. The rain date would be the 6th if everyone is ok with that. The council was in agreement.

Also, the chief stated SERVPRO finished up today on the Vanity Fair building where we had the water leak. We had Blackmon Construction to come look Friday to give an estimate and I have a guy out of Atlanta coming tomorrow at 10 a.m. to look and give an estimate. The mayor recommended getting three estimates if possible. Mayor Beasley stated to check with Taylor Construction for a third estimate.

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.