COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

April 22, 2024

The City of Luverne Council met in regular session on April 22, 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:

Perry Catrett Terry Mears Dr. Charles Tompkins Robyn Snellgrove

Ryan McGhee Johnny Pearl Wood

Mayor Beasley called the meeting to order. The mayor called on Councilman Jones 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 April 8, 2024. Councilman Jones made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

Mayor Beasley called on Perry Catrett to speak. Mr. Catrett stated he is the General Manager of the Luverne Cooperative Service. Mr. Catrett discussed some issues with speeding in front of the store. Mr. Catrett stated he is requesting some type of speed breaker right before you get to the store and we will pay for whatever the cost is for it. Mr. Catrett stated if the council would consider putting a speed breaker and putting a dead end sign up that would really help. I just don’t want anyone to get hurt. The mayor stated he would check with our insurance agent about our liability insurance and tell them what the problem is. I will probably refer him to Attorney Jones to discuss it with him. If we can get it approved with our insurance and if the council is in favor we will do it. Mr. Catrett stated if not, we will figure out where the road ends and I will put something in. The mayor stated we will certainly love to help you if we can. Mr. Catrett stated he appreciated the council’s consideration and time.

Next, the mayor called on Dr. Charles Tompkins to discuss a resolution to guarantee an AMEA loan for him to build an urgent care center. Dr. Tompkins stated we are proposing to open a new business an urgent care center. Which is sort of an extension of what we now have. I went through the CCEIDA and spoke with them. The loan has to come through the city. Dr. Tompkins discussed adding about 2,000 square feet. The loan is available up to $500,000 and that’s what we have requested. It would give us immediate walk in type care beyond normal hours. Something in the evenings and weekends. We are the only county around us that doesn’t have medical care after hours. We will hire more people, so there will be more jobs to keep more folks in Crenshaw County. Councilman Jones stated the loan he is talking about is a Capital Fund Loan program that is funded through AMEA. It is a zero percent interest loan over a five year term to be paid back $100,000 per year. The policy is the economic development makes application for the loan. The City of Luverne has to guarantee the loan by resolution. The money would be funneled as such: to economic development, the City of Luverne and then we would turn money over to Family Practice Associates. Each year Family Practice and Associates will pay the City of Luverne $100,000 a year and we will forward that to CCEIDA they will pay AMEA. Mrs. Snellgrove stated the CCEIDA will require the city to pay the cost for the letter of credit that the authority will have to gift and any expense we may incur. The city will need some kind of agreement between the city and Dr. Tompkins. After some discussion. Councilman Jones made a motion to adopt Resolution 042224 to allow Family Practice Associates to proceed. Councilwoman Dawson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved. The resolution is as follows:

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 042224**

**WHEREAS,** Family Practice Associates, LLC, desires to construct an urgent care center in the City of Luverne; and

**WHEREAS,** Family Practice Associates, LLC, desires to borrow Five Hundred Thousand and no/100 ($500,000.00) Dollars from the AMEA Capital Fund for the construction; and

**WHEREAS,** The City of Luverne would be required to guarantee the loan, which would be an obligation of the Crenshaw County Economic and Industrial Development Authority; and

**WHEREAS,** The City of Luverne desires to assist with the project, which should provide much needed medical care to the City of Luverne;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Luverne does hereby approve the process through which Family Practice Associates, LLC, will receive a loan through cooperation with the Crenshaw County Economic and Industrial Development Authority and AMEA; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to execute any and all documents to facilitate the loan and to evidence the City of Luverne’s guarantee of the repayment of the loan;

**RESOLVED FURTHER,** that the Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to execute any and all other documents necessary to facilitate and complete this transaction.

**DONE** this 22nd day of April, 2024.

Councilman Billings discussed whether the council would like to proceed with the existing splash pad or try to find more funding to increase the size back to what we originally had planned. After further discussion, Councilman Billings made a motion to proceed with the existing grant for the splash pad at Turner Park. Councilman Jones seconded the motion and all was in favor. Councilman Billings reported on the park that all leagues are up and playing and t-ball kicks off tonight. The electric department has helped with breakers and lighting. The street department helped with bad wash on walking trail. Pepsi serviced all the score boards. We have an issue with a home plate that we are working on. We’ve also had an increase on drink sales because of the food trucks that have been out there. Preston’s is paying $150 for two nights a week and Red Rock is paying $300 for four nights a week. We are getting an extra $450 weekly for them being out there. They cannot any sell any drinks or the main items we sell in our concession stands.

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 191 calls for service not including building checks, 47 traffic stops, wrote 38 citations, and gave 9 warnings. The department has made 3 misdemeanor and 2 felony arrest. There has been 6 animal control calls since the last meeting.

The mayor stated we have a request from Councilwoman Dawson for a speed bump on Woodford Avenue. Councilwoman Dawson stated it’s sort of like the problem Mr. Catrett has. If the council decides to do Mr. Catrett a speed bump would you please give one on Woodford Avenue also and a children at play sign. After some discussion, Councilman Jones made a motion if we find we can do a speed bump for Mr. Catrett at the Luverne Cooperative Service that we also do one for Councilwoman Dawson’s request on Woodford Avenue. Councilman Billings seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Yea: Kip Smith Abstained: Betty Dawson

Kathy Smyth

Elliott Jones

Eddie Billings

Motion carried.

Councilwoman Smyth recommended getting Billy Crumpton to order a dead end sign and children at play sign. The council was in agreement to order the signs.

The clerk stated Brock Flynn asked her to report that Mr. Moore at the funeral home had purchased three more pieces of pipe. The street department installed the pipe, packed the dirt and put straw hay on top so it wouldn’t wash.

Councilwoman Dawson stated she had to take her mom down to the hospital and the equipment looked so good.

Mayor Beasley called for a report on Fire/Rescue. Councilman Smith stated the fire department had pump test done today and all three passed. We are going to start stacking containers to build a training facility on the property the county commission give to the city for the fire department. Once the facility is finished it won’t be just for Luverne. Any of our sister departments that want to train would be able to train there. We want Attorney Jones to draw up a release so that the city would not be responsible for other fire departments. Attorney Jones stated we need to check with our insurance.

Councilwoman Smyth referred to the follow up on the City Coordinator position. The last time we discussed this we talked about informing the three candidates that the title would be different than it had originally been discussed and presented. Each of those three candidates have been contacted and they say it doesn’t make a difference to them about the title just as long as the roles and responsibilities were the same. The mayor stated as far as the City Coordinator goes he is 100% against it, but I will honor and be happy with whatever the council decides. I think we have other ways we can use that money that we are going to have to come up with for some other stuff we need to tend to. After further discussion, the council was in agreement to make a decision at the next meeting on the City Coordinator. The mayor stated in his opinion we are getting pretty good at spending our citizen’s money.

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

Meeting was adjourned.