COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LUVERNE

May 13, 2024

The City of Luverne Council met in regular session on May 13, 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:

Steve Defee Billy Crumpton Merrill Sport Ryan McGhee

Rodney Wyrosdick Jessica Wyrosdick Cora Wyrosdick Drake Mills

Abbigail Vickery Zyan Peterson Delicia McGhee Leon Hiebert

Heather Hiebert

Mayor Beasley called the meeting to order. The mayor called on Councilman Billings 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 April 22, 2024. Councilman Billings made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilwoman Dawson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

Mayor Beasley called on the city clerk for the administrative report. Routine work was performed.

The mayor called on the clerk to read the chief’s report. Since the last meeting, the police department had 254 calls for service not including building checks, 71 traffic stops, wrote 39 citations, and gave 32 warnings. The department has made 13 misdemeanor and 2 felony arrest. 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 he would yield to Merrill Sport. Mr. Sport reported we have pretty much wrapped up everything except we have three nights left for ages 7/8 and 5/6. All-star selections for the boys are tonight at 6:00 p.m. and the girl’s tomorrow night at 6:00 p.m.

The mayor called on Steve Defee to report on the airport. Mr. Defee discussed Saturday was a week ago that we had another incident at the venue with a wedding party out on the runway. On this occasion, a plane owned by Kenny Campbell with K&W Plastics flew down the runway three times trailing smoke with people standing on the runway. I have the names of the parties who are from Enterprise. I’ve reached out to all the board members to make them aware of it. They all agreed to present it to you as a council to determine what you want to do to him. We, from a board’s perspective, present to the council to make a rule on how you want to deal with it from his perspective as the venue as well as pursuing the pilot and K&W Plastics who own the plane. After further discussion, Mr. Defee will get with the chief and present their findings to the city attorney and council.

Mayor Beasley stated he spoke with Ms. Kathryn and everything looks good at the library.

Mayor Beasley called for a report on Fire/Rescue. Councilman Smith stated we have stacked containers where the old jail was in the process of building a training facility. That’s going good but looks like it will go slow now that we have to build stairs and get the inside.

The mayor called on Councilman Jones to present the AMEA scholarships to the high school students. Since 1992, the Alabama Municipal Electric Authority and its member cities which Luverne is one of them have given out over 3.5 million dollars in scholarships money to various students. The students have been given this for their hard work and dedication, but also for their strong character and strong moral compass. Councilman Jones stated he would like to congratulate everyone. Councilman Jones presented the AMEA scholarships to: Cora Wyrosdick, Zyan Peterson, Abbigail Vickery and Drake Mills.

Mayor Beasley stated due to the fact our 4th of July program at Turner Park has gotten more expensive every year I have contacted the Mayor of Brantley, Mayor of Rutledge and the Crenshaw County Commission. They have agreed to help us out with our expense. The Town of Brantley and the Town of Rutledge are each donating $500 and the Crenshaw County Commission is donating $2,000.

The mayor stated he went through some old documents and it reminded me since we have been in office we are still working with the policies and procedures at the city park. We need to sit down with Mr. Jones and Councilman Billings to see if we can update them. The last time they were updated was in 2013. The council was in agreement to update the policies and procedures of the city park.

Mayor Beasley presented the council with an event application request for an event to be held on June 15th at Turner Park by Lauree Cowart with the Crenshaw County NAACP Branch 5022B to have a Juneteenth Celebration. The event will be from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. After some discussion, Councilman Jones made a motion to approve the Juneteenth Celebration to be held on June 15, 2024 at Turner Park. Councilman Billings seconded the motion and all was in favor.

Councilwoman Dawson stated she would like to thank the city for putting a slow children at play sign on Woodford. The mayor stated we will get around to the speed bumps that the council approved. To keep the cost down we need to wait until the hot mix in Brantley is running.

The mayor stated Shelia Butler has agreed to take on the city’s grant writing. She is experienced in that field and has been doing it a long time. The fee would be no more than 5% of the grant. A lot of the grants come with grant writing fees included in the grant.

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.