

The Lyerly Town Council held a phone conference call meeting on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at Lyerly Town Hall. Those on the call were:

Jim Ferguson, Mayor  
Phil Brooks  
Juanita Baker  
Shirley Davis  
Jim Gilliland

October 6, 2020

Mayor Ferguson began the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Ferguson said that everyone should have financial reports to look at before next week and minutes that will need to be approved.

There is a question of if we are going to try and pave the track next year. It has been talked about. Mayor Ferguson said that the Land and Water Conservation Fund has a grant that is 50/50. To do the entire track over with concrete ten feet wide will cost around \$50,000. Phil Brooks asked if that would be our half. Mayor Ferguson said, no. That would be the total. To redo the chert on the dirt track will be \$15,000. Shirley asked what chert on which dirt. Mayor Ferguson said the dirt walking track in the back. Phil Brooks said it's the part out through the benches. Juanita Baker said that it's the part she'd much rather walk on than that asphalt. She would much rather walk on dirt. Shirley Davis said so it's \$25,000 for the repaving. Mayor Ferguson said no, \$49,000. Shirley Davis said that he said that we are getting a grant for half of it. Mayor Ferguson that he is stating how much everything is going to cost regardless of what we get a grant for. He said that it will be \$50,000 to concrete the track, \$15,000 to redo the back trail with chert and \$33,000 if we want to do the back trail in concrete also. Juanita Baker said that she doesn't want the back part concrete, chert will be ok. Shirley Davis said that she doesn't think we need to do anything back there except keep it clean. Phil Brooks said that he would like to see us concrete the main track and chert the back part, if we can afford it. Shirley Davis asked what you mean chert it. Phil Brooks explained it and Shirley Davis said that she didn't realize there was a back trail. Shirley Davis said that we should just leave it natural and let them walk on it if they want to. Juanita Baker said that is what she wants too. Jim Gilliland asked about the asphalt. He asked if the mayor got a price for asphalt. Mayor Ferguson said that the durability was very disappointing last time. Shirley Davis said that all we need to do to the back is keep it clean. Phil Brooks said that it is in excellent shape right now beside the cans and stuff that people throw down. Shirley Davis said that she doesn't see putting any money into it right now. Phil Brooks said that if we can, we should go ahead. Shirley Davis said that we should just do the track for now. Phil Brooks said that he could go for that. Shirley Davis said that with the economy like it is, we don't know what might happen. Juanita Baker said that if we don't get the grant, we won't do the concrete, right? Mayor Ferguson said that we don't have to. Phil Brooks asked the mayor if he thinks that we will get the grant. Mayor Ferguson said that if we don't, we can try for the Recreational Trails Grant next year. This one is for next year and next year there will be one for the following year. If we don't get this one, we can ask for another one. Juanita Baker said that we could ask Tillotson for some money. Mayor Ferguson said that he doesn't want to ask them for anything else right now because they just gave us money for the playground. He said that it kind of feels greedy to ask right after they gave us some. And he doesn't think they would award us anything right after they gave us some. Shirley Davis said that her opinion is that we just take care of the regular track and then maybe next year if we want to do something with that in the back, we can. Jim Gilliland said that he doesn't see any point in doing the back side. Phil Brooks said that there are several people that only walk the back part. He said that he doesn't have a problem with whatever. Shirley Davis said that the back would be a good place to walk your dog. Juanita Baker said no. Keep the dogs out of the park. Phil Brooks said that people just need to clean up after them. There are signs posted that say that. Jim Gilliland asked what we have found out about the TV monitor. Mayor Ferguson said that before we leave this topic, he will need a resolution next week if they want him to go ahead and try to get the Land and Water Conservation Grant. He said that the preliminary application is done, he just needs the council's approval to go forward.

Mayor Ferguson said that we had two bids for the camera systems. One is from Sweet Water Security in Gadsden, Alabama. It is a lease not a purchase. It is \$450 a month for two years. Shirley Davis asked if they maintain it and everything. Mayor Ferguson said that during that time, if anything breaks, they will replace it. At the end of the lease, we can purchase the equipment or we can replace it with new equipment and sign another lease agreement. Juanita Baker asked how many cameras that is. Mayor Ferguson said that is for 15 cameras. Jim Gilliland asked if this is IP cameras. Mayor Ferguson asked what that is. Jim Gilliland said Internet Protocol. Mayor Ferguson said yes. Jim Gilliland then asked if we can monitor them. Mayor Ferguson said yes. They will be live. This one didn't offer to make the sewer pond live. It will just be recorded. Jim Gilliland asked who the other bidder was. Mayor Ferguson asked if anyone had any other questions about this one before we move on. Shirley Davis asked how long the lease was for. Mayor Ferguson said two years. Shirley Davis said that's \$450 for two years and they keep everything up. Phil Brooks said and then we can purchase the equipment. Mayor Ferguson said yes. Once the lease is up, we can purchase the equipment for like \$1 each. Mayor Ferguson said that the other quote was from someone local, Jeremy Elrod, in Summerville. It is a strait purchase of \$23,917. Shirley Davis said that the other would be \$450 per month for two years. She said she thinks that would be better than buying them for \$24,000 and us having to keep them up. She then asked if he would keep it up or we have to. Mayor Ferguson said that we would purchase it and it would be our responsibility. He added that Jeremy Elrod's quote is for 33 cameras. Juanita Baker said that is twice as many. She then asked if that includes the sewer pond. Mayor Ferguson said yes and the sewer pond would be live. Shirley Davis asked where we would need 33 cameras. Mayor Ferguson said that he doesn't know precisely. Juanita Baker said that all trough town would take a lot. Mayor Ferguson said that he knows it would be the park, town hall, the fire hall, the community center and the sewer ponds. Juanita Baker then said so this one is \$24,000 is that for a year. Mayor Ferguson said no, it is a strait out purchase, a onetime thing. The one from Sweet Water is a lease. Jim Gilliland then asked if Jeremy Elrod made any offers to maintain them for any amount of time. Mayor Ferguson said not without charging us. Shirley Davis said that she thinks that the Sweet Water sounds better. Jim Gilliland said that we could just buy our own cameras to do that. We would be better off with the rental agreement. Mayor Ferguson said that it is up to the council. He said that he would rather not have a \$450 monthly payment but it's up to them. Juanita Baker asked if we have it. Shirley Davis asked if it's in the budget. Mayor Ferguson said that we can put it in the budget for next year. He said that he just isn't a huge fan of monthly payments. Shirley Davis said that she isn't a huge fan of putting something in and then two weeks later it tearing up and then we are responsible for fixing them. Jim Gilliland said that he isn't either, He has cameras everywhere and he knows what a pain they are. Jim Gilliland then asked who is going to keep them up if we buy them. Mayor Ferguson said that Jeremy can come and work on them. Phil Brooks said that there should be some kind of warranty on them. Sally Kerce said that he had emailed her today and she told him the council was discussing it tonight and would vote next week. She said that she can ask him about a warranty. Phil Brooks said that there is usually 90 day or 6 month warranty on stuff like that. Shirley Davis said she likes the lease option. Juanita Baker said that by the end of the lease, we will know how everything works. Shirley Davis asked how many cameras that was. Mayor Ferguson said 15. Shirley Davis said that she thinks that 15 will be enough. She then said that they won't cover the Dollar Store and Liquor store and places like that, right? They will just cover our stuff. Mayor Ferguson said yes, just the town's property. He said that there is an oblivious difference in 15 and 33 cameras on what you will be able to see. Shirley Davis asked how many would we need; one in the front and one in the back? Phil Brooks said that it would take more than that especially at the park. Jim Gilliland said that we need to find out how much an extra camera would cost. Mayor Ferguson said that they cost \$30 per camera per month. The 15 includes two at the park, four at town hall, four at the community center, three at the sewer ponds and two at the fire hall. Juanita Baker said that she thinks we need more in the park since we have that new playground equipment. Shirley Davis said that we only need three at the community center because the backside is fenced. We could use one of those four at the park. Juanita Baker said that we'd need at least six in the park. Shirley Davis and Jim Gilliland both said, six? Juanita Baker said that with all that playground equipment, we need one when you come in the gate, Jim Gilliland interrupted and said that if they are 1080p cameras, one on each end will cover all of that. He then said that we can add 7 or 8 cameras if need be. Mayor Ferguson said that if you add 7 cameras, you'll be getting up to about \$700 per month. Shirley Davis said if the cameras cover a good area, she doesn't see why we would need more. Juanita Baker asked if that will cover the pavilion and everything, right? If we had three, we would have one at the concession stand, one at the pavilion and one at the playground. Phil Brooks said that we need to cover

the bathrooms also. Shirley said that we could use one from the community center for that. Phil Brooks said that we need to cover the ball fields too. Juanita Baker said that it is something to think about. Mayor Ferguson added that two doesn't seem like enough for the park. Shirley Davis said that we don't need four at the community center. Mayor Ferguson said that we already have cameras inside there. So we may be able to take two from the community center for the park. Jim Gilliland said that at \$30 a camera, we could still get a couple extra if needed. Shirley Davis asked if the cameras at the sewer pond can still be accessed to look at with your phone. Mayor Ferguson said not with the lease. Shirley Davis said so it will just be recorded for three days. Mayor Ferguson said that is right. Shirley Davis then asked if people mess with the sewer pond much. Mayor Ferguson said not so far. Shirley Davis said that we have a fence around it. Jim Gilliland said that it stays unlocked. Sally Kerce said that they lock it every day. Mayor Ferguson said that we are getting ready to store more equipment at the sewer pond. Juanita Baker said that she was going to ask about the pole barn. She knew they were getting ready to build one. Mayor Ferguson said that it is done. Juanita Baker said that we will need a camera down there. Mayor Ferguson said that everyone can think about it and decide on cameras next week.

Mayor Ferguson asked the council if they want to do something in the park for Halloween. Everyone else has cancelled their Halloween stuff. Phil Brooks asked what the mayor thinks. Mayor Ferguson said that on the one hand he just wants to go ahead and do something but he doesn't want to be responsible for half of Lyerly catching the corona virus. Everyone agreed. Mayor Ferguson asked, so no to Halloween? Shirley Davis said no to Halloween. Next year maybe we can. Phil Brooks said that he hates to say no because it's good community spirit and everything. Juanita Baker said that even if we don't have something for Halloween, we should still decorate up there. Mayor Ferguson said that we are going to do that. Shirley Davis said that we haven't spent the money set aside for events this year so couldn't we use that toward the cameras. Mayor Ferguson said on paper sure. Shirley Davis asked what we will do with the money allocated for events. Mayor Ferguson said that it will just roll over. Shirley Davis said that she was just trying to find money to pay for the cameras. Mayor Ferguson said that unfortunately that money isn't just laying there. Shirley Davis said that it was just a thought since we didn't use that money. Mayor Ferguson said that the budget is always just a plan. Juanita Baker made sure with the mayor that they will decorate the park. Mayor Ferguson said yes. He went and got some hay and the guys will be getting corn stalks. Shirley Davis said that she was thinking that we may could do the trunk or treat but you'll be handling the candy and people coming through so that wouldn't work. Mayor Ferguson said that he his thinking that we may just call this year a wash and then in January, not even question it and do everything that we normally do. Juanita Baker said that it may die down by Christmas and we could have Christmas in the park.

Mayor Ferguson said that everyone should have a survey from the North West Georgia Regional Commission for our Comprehensive Plan, if they would please fill it out. They want everyone in the county to fill one out but logistically, we haven't figured out how to do that yet. Joking, Mayor Ferguson said that it would be great if everyone would stop by town hall and fill one out. He said that we can't put them in the water bills because they are self sealing and they won't fit. We will figure out how to distribute them. Sally Kerce said that the survey really is to try and help the county.

Mayor Ferguson said that one last thing to think about with the cameras, if you knock Jeremy Elrod's bid down to the same number of cameras, his bid drops from \$23,917 to \$18,683. Jim Gilliland asked if anyone has specs on the cameras. Mayor Ferguson said that they are 1080p and that's all that he knows. He asked what else they would like to know. Jim Gilliland said that the manufacture would be good and what kind of warranty. Phil Brooks said that he knows it may be aggravating but could they give us a block or stick drawing of the covered areas. Sally Kerce said that she would email and ask both bidders for specs on the cameras.

Jim Gilliland asked what happened to the fire chief. Mayor Ferguson asked, Ron? Jim Gilliland said yes. Mayor Ferguson said that it was just time to change. Shirley Davis asked if we have a new fire chief. Mayor Ferguson said yes, Kenneth Thompson. He said that he thought they knew. Phil Brooks said that he hadn't heard that. Mayor Ferguson apologized for not telling them. He thought he did. Jim Gilliland asked if it is because he didn't live right here. Mayor Ferguson said that he lives close enough but he has been in there a real long time and for overall day to day, Kenneth and Lance had been doing everything and they have been for a while now. Ron had been talking about stepping back. Jim Gilliland asked who the chief is now. Mayor Ferguson said Kenneth Thompson. Jim Gilliland asked where he lives. Mayor Ferguson said he lives on Chattooga Avenue. Jim Gilliland said oh, he's Robbie's son. Mayor Ferguson said yes. He does a good job.

Jim Gilliland said that he has one other question. He said that he had asked Sally who our insurer was for the town. He then asked, do we do drug test on the employees? Mayor Ferguson said not without cause. If there is an accident or they give us a reason to think they need a drug test, then we do. We do not randomly drug test. Jim Gilliland said that is what he was asking. He said that if there is an accident, then we are liable. If the town is liable, he doesn't think it would be a bad idea to do it randomly. Most cities, counties or any governments do.

Mayor Ferguson said that they will be upgrading the street lights to LED in the next few weeks. Phil Brooks said that they have been a little lax. Sally Kerce said that she has been bugging the street light guy about this. Juanita Baker said that the day her street light went out, they got right on fixing it. Shirley Davis asked if she got in touch with them. Juanita Baker said that she got in touch with Sally. Sally Kerce said that if people will call and tell her exactly where they are, she can turn them in and they usually fix them pretty quick.

Phil Brooks said that he was going to ask about garbage cans for the park but after thinking about it, it will be more trouble than it's worth. Mayor Ferguson said that he doesn't like the big plastic barrels that we have sitting around at the park. He said that he hasn't looked to see if they make something that's 50 gallons or more that is decorative and durable. We could set a frame for it in concrete with a locking lid so people won't steal it. He said that if they want him to, he can look into it.

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting ended at 7:40 p.m.

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Mayor

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Town Clerk