The Lyerly Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at Lyerly Town Hall. Those in attendance were:

Jim Ferguson, Mayor

Gwen Fisher

Phil Brooks

Juanita Baker

Shirley Davis

September 11, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ferguson at 7:00 pm.

***New Business:***

*Down Home Day –* Mayor Ferguson said that Clerk Sally Kerce has added the vendors that have signed up so far for Down Home Day to the bottom of the agenda but she’s sure that there will be more. Jimmy Espy asked how much the vendor fee is. Mayor Ferguson said $15. Shirley Davis asked about the music. Mayor Ferguson said that we are taking suggestions on that. We were going to get Small Town Rumor to come and play again but that’s $800 that we really don’t need to spend right now. Juanita Baker said that she mentioned it to the pickers and grinners that play at the Community Center on Thursday’s and they didn’t seem interested.

*Sewer a t Smith Iron Works–* Mayor Ferguson said that Smith Iron Works has been connected to our water for four years but not to our sewer. So they have been paying for sewer that they haven’t been using every month because our sewer charges are based on water usage. Now they want to be connected to the sewer. He said that he was talking to Blake Weaver and he was wondering if they could get any credit for the four years of sewer that they have paid for but not used. Juanita Baker asked why we just don’t give them a free hook-up. Gwen Fisher asked what kind of amount we are talking about. Mayor Ferguson said that they will pay for the hook-up. They have paid about $4,800 in sewer charges over four years. Mayor Ferguson said that he told Blake Weaver that he would run it by the council and see what you all thought. Personally I feel that two years is reasonable. Shirley Davis said that she would say half. Juanita Baker asked how much a sewer hook-up is. Mayor Ferguson said that the expansion to our sewer, their part would be about $30,000. That is not our cost; that is what it will cost them. Phil Brooks asked what they will be putting into our sewer. Mayor Ferguson said just water and wastewater. Juanita Baker asked if we are just going to let them have free sewer for two years and would they be satisfied with that. Mayor Ferguson said that he seemed like they would be happy with anything. Phil Brooks said that they really don’t have a bargaining chip. Mayor Ferguson said that it is completely them with their hand out. Before, it made no sense to hook onto our sewer but now that they are expanding, it makes more sense. Juanita Baker said that it sounds good that they are going to expand. She added that she hopes, and this has nothing to do with Smith Iron Works, but she hopes that whoever buys the 56 acres beside Hannah, the solar panel people, isn’t Hannah. She said that is the ugliest stuff she has ever seen coming down the highway. Juanita Baker made a motion to let Smith Iron Works have free sewer for two years. Gwen Fisher seconded. All in favor. Clerk Sally Kerce asked if that will start when they hook on or now. Shirley Davis said that she thinks that we should have a set date for it to begin and a date for it to end. Mayor Ferguson asked if we want to make it effective immediately or contingent on their expansion. Phil Brooks said that they are in the process of expanding now. Shirley Davis said that we could just make it effective the first of January and then after two years, they will start paying for sewer again or would you rather go now, November 1st or October 1st. Phil Brooks said he thinks November 1st. He asked if that is ok with everyone. Everyone agreed. Mayor Ferguson said, so effective November 1, 2018 Smith Iron Works will not pay a sewer bill until November 1, 2020.

Mayor Ferguson said that he has something that is not on the agenda. The grant from ARC/GEFA to do the pumps for the wastewater treatment plant is contingent upon us adopting the High Efficiency Plumbing Fixtures part of the State of Georgia’s building code. Shirley Davis asked what that means. Mayor Ferguson said that in practicality, nothing because we don’t have an enforcement mechanism. We can make a commitment to this now but in a couple years from now, if we have an enforcement mechanism, it might have an impact. Shirley Davis asked if everyone would have to change their plumbing. Mayor Ferguson said no. You wouldn’t have to change anything. Gwen Fisher asked if this is for renovations and new buildings. Mayor Ferguson said yes, it’s for both. He said that the other thing is that if you go somewhere to buy a toilet, you are getting a high efficiency one and your shower head and faucets will have restrictors in them. Mayor Ferguson said that ARC/GEFA wants a commitment from us. Gwen Fisher made a motion to adopt the resolution for High Efficiency Plumbing Fixtures. Phil Brooks seconded. All in favor.

*Halloween –* Mayor Ferguson said that he was wondering if the council thought that we should get the churches to do their trunk or treats all together at the park. Shirley Davis said that she thinks that they should discuss it with the churches before jumping into something. Shirley said that one year the Baptist and Methodist Churches got together at the Baptist Church and they had a fire pit for everyone to stand around and each car had their own thing. Then on the inside, they had games because it was cold and rainy. We could have some games inside the pavilion. But she thinks that before we commit to it, it should be discussed with the churches. Gwen Fisher said that she thinks that the traffic would be heavier at the park and we could advertise for it so much better. Also, we need to make sure it is not the same time as Summerville’s. Shirley Davis asked if we do it, what would be the churches responsibility and what would be the towns. Mayor Ferguson said they could talk to the churches about that and we will figure it out at the work session next month. Juanita Baker said that she has a suggestion. Since we have the new truck, we could decorate it and it could be the fishing pond.The kids would pull up candy or little doo dads. Juanita Baker said that we have this beautiful new truck and we will be at the park so people can look at it.

Mayor Ferguson opened the floor to the public at 7:20pm.

Phil Brooks made the motion to adjourn. Shirley Davis seconded. All in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:21 pm.

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 Mayor Town Clerk