The Lyerly Town Council met for their agenda planning meeting on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at Lyerly Town Hall. Those in attendance were:

Jim Ferguson, Mayor

Gwen Fisher

Phil Brooks

Juanita Baker

Shirley Davis

February 5, 2019

Mayor Ferguson began the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Mayor Ferguson said that everyone should have some minutes to review for approval next week.

Mayor Ferguson said that we purchased a new tractor and are currently selling the old one on GovDeals. We purchased the new one from Rhinehart Equipment and we paid $24,500. He said that we got a lower quote from a place in Villa Rica and a slightly lower one from Blue Ridge. Phil Brooks said that would be a long way if it needed servicing. Mayor Ferguson said we also received two bids that were higher. He added that he was able to get Rhinehart down $500 from their original quote of $25,000. He said that he believes that local is better as far as services and if we have a problem, it’s not too far away. After the meeting, everyone can step out back and have a look at it. Clerk Sally Kerce said that the old tractor is up to $4,500 on GovDeals and the auction ends on Friday.

Juanita Baker asked what we are going to do with the old car. Mayor Ferguson asked her what car she was talking about. Juanita Baker said the old security car that has been sitting over there for two years. Mayor Ferguson said that it hasn’t been sitting there for two years. The security guard, Billy Norton, gets in it and drives around at night. Juanita Baker said that she thought we were going to try and get someone else to do security. Mayor Ferguson said that he is still trying to get off duty deputies. He would like to have someone who could actual arrest someone. He said that he doesn’t have anyone interested right now. Shirley Davis asked how many hours a week is it. Mayor Ferguson said that it is 15 hours right now but if start using deputies, it will change to 12 because we would have to pay them more; either three nights at four hours or four nights at three hours.

Mayor Ferguson said that we are still trying to get the concession stand started. As of right now, Georgia Power is not willing to move the power pole between the two ball fields. They said that our revenue wouldn’t be enough to warrant moving the pole. The problem with this is that you can’t build a structure within 15 feet of hanging power lines. Where we would like to put the concession stand is right under those lines. We can move it out a little and build it without moving the pole and it would be fine. We would lose about four parking spaces but it isn’t as wet there so they should be able to go ahead and start. Mayor Ferguson said that he would love to put it behind the ball fields and then pave between the ball fields but we wouldn’t be able to do that until summer because it is so wet. Also, it would probably take $10,000 of additional dirt work. Juanita Baker said that there is a bad ditch running through the ball field grounds. She asked if we could put a small culvert to cover that up. She said that at the walking track on the right side, there is a bad ditch. She said that it is deep and when it rains, it fills with water. If we put a culvert, the water should move on out. There wouldn’t be near as many mosquitoes. Mayor Ferguson asked exactly where she is talking about. Juanita Baker said that it is at the track behind the big ball field. Mayor Ferguson asked if she is talking about where the drainage tile goes under the walking track. Juanita Baker said yes. Why can’t we put a culvert in there and make that water go away. She said that the water collects on the low side of that tile. Mayor Ferguson said that he doesn’t see why we couldn’t dig it out some. He said that he would look at it.

Juanita Baker said that she has something else. She asked if we could we put some rock at the bridge on the sidewalk going to the park and make that pretty. It looks terrible from the park looking toward the highway. Mayor Ferguson said that we should be able to work on that too.

Jimmy Espy asked when we plan to start the concession stand. Mayor Ferguson said that if Georgia Power refuses to move the pole, we will start immediately. If they agree to move the pole, we will wait until the pole is moved so we can have it where we originally intended.

Juanita Baker asked the Mayor if he was going to vote in favor of the SPLOST. She said that she noticed in the paper that several of the communities are asking their Mayor to vote yes. Mayor Ferguson said yes, that it is just a renewal. It is the same thing that we have been paying for six years. Nothing will change. Phil Brooks asked if that is what she is asking or is she asking if he is going to vote for the jail. Juanita Baker said both. She said that we should have had the jail ten years ago and it paid for. Clerk Sally Kerce said that if we get the jail, the town won’t receive any SPLOST money. Phil Brooks said that is why he asked. Gwen Fisher said that she thought that they decided not to build a jail. Mayor Ferguson said that they aren’t. They can’t get the funding. He said that if all of the local governments agreed to give up their SPLOST money, they would use that to build a jail. He added that we are not in a position to give up our SPLOST. We depend on it. If this renewal doesn’t pass, it will hurt us very badly. Shirley Davis asked if Lyerly Mohawk shuts down, will it hurt us financially. Mayor Ferguson said no; they purchase some water from us but it isn’t a lot anymore. He said that the immediate effect would not be an impact on the financials for the town but the long term effect would hurt us. That would be people out of work or having to drive somewhere else to work and they may not want to live here. It would take money from us indirectly for sure.

Mayor Ferguson said that he doesn’t know an answer to the jail problem. Juanita Baker said that we are spending a lot of money at other jails. Mayor Ferguson said that we could give up a percentage of our SPLOST, if everyone did, to help build a jail, but not all of it. Jimmy Espy said that if we got a new jail, you have to figure in the cost that goes with it. They would have to hire more employees to work there and all the expenses would be more than they are now. They will not want to pay those salaries. People don’t look at that aspect of it.

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting ended at 7:31 p.m.

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Mayor Town Clerk