The Lyerly Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at Lyerly Town Hall. Those in attendance were:

Jim Ferguson, Mayor

Gwen Fisher

Phil Brooks

Juanita Baker

Shirley Davis

January 8, 2018

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

Everyone welcomed by Mayor Ferguson.

***New Business:***

*Financial Reports –* Mayor Ferguson told the council that they should have a copy of the financial reports from last year in front of them. Gwen Fisher said that we went over a little. Mayor Ferguson said that the last administration got $70,000 from the line of credit but it is paid off. He added that any minuses on the reports have been taken care of. Juanita Baker asked if the old administration used the SPLOST money for the community center, is it still designated for that. Clerk Sally Kerce said that Mayor Wyatt had the SPLOST set up where it could be used for recreation, water, sewer or downtown development. Juanita Baker asked about Mayor Pro Tem. Clerk Sally Kerce said that she is checking on that. It is supposed to be the council member with the most votes but Gwen Fisher wasn’t on the ballot in this past election. She said that she would get with GMA and see what they say. Mayor and Council agree to wait on designating a Mayor Pro Tem.

*Approval of Minutes –*Juanita Baker asked where we are on the paving job. Mayor Ferguson said that the paving is complete but we have had some issues with the driveways and we will be having Randy Patty come back and fix them. Shirley Davis asked if the extra dirt could be used beside the stop sign where there is a drop off. Phil Brooks said that property belongs to Diane Gilliland and she would need to be consulted before anything is done. Juanita Baker made a motion to approve the December 5th meeting minutes. Gwen Fisher seconded. All in favor.

Mayor Ferguson asked if the council had anything else. Gwen Fisher said that she has an announcement. We are now officially a Tree City. Also, someone sent her a bunch of seeds that are native plants and they need to be put out now. She wanted to know if she could plant them on the bank of the creek at the park. Mayor Ferguson said he thinks that would be fine, we just need to make sure they don’t get mowed. Juanita Baker agreed.

Juanita Baker said that Mr. Hartline has been supposed to fix the ditch at the tiny houses so the water wouldn’t run down that street and as far as she can tell, they haven’t done anything about it. Gwen Fisher asked if they ever put up a silk screen. Juanita Baker said that he only has the hay that has been there. He has the tiles but they haven’t been put in. Jim Ferguson said he would talk with Mr. Hartline.

Mayor Ferguson said that if no one has anything else, Fire Chief Ronald Stephens would like to address the council. He introduced himself and began to explain some of the fire departments expenditures for 2017. He broke down fuel cost, vehicle repairs, equipment and equipment inspections. He also explained about the incentive checks for the firefighters which are $10 per call. The highest incentive check for 2017 was $590 which was for 59 calls. He also explained about the pension fund, which cost $25 per firefighter, per month. Juanita Baker asked who all are on the pension fund. Chief Stephens said that there are three, Kenneth Thompson, Dwayne Hampton and Justin Ward. Phil Brooks asked for a copy of the report that Chief Stephens was reading. Juanita Baker asked about the incentive checks. She said that Chief Stephens said that the largest check was for 59 calls. She asked how many calls did we have total for 2017. Chief Stephens said he think that we had around 80 calls. Phil Brooks asked if that was for inside the city limits. Chief Stephens explained that it was for the Lyerly Fire district which goes to the Alabama line out Oak Hill Road, to the Berryton Bridge on Highway 114, half way to Holland going out Taliaferro Springs Road and all the way to Highway 100 out Popular Springs Road. He explained that most of these calls are wrecks. Phil Brooks asked if we charge a fee to go to these calls. Chief Stephens said that if you are on our water system, there is a charge on the water bill. Clerk Sally Kerce explained that people who live inside the city limits do not get charged fire dues. If you are outside the city limits but on our water, the charge is on the water bills and its $4 per month. If you are not on our water but you live in our fire district, they get sent a bill at the beginning of each year for $42. Phil Brooks asked if that covers the cost for the fire department’s expenses. Mayor Ferguson said that part of the expenses is covered but probably not all of them are.

Gwen Fisher asked if we are going to renew our contract with AirMedCare. It covered all the firefighters, employees, council and mayor. Mayor Ferguson asked the cost. Chief Stephens said that it is $55 per household. In his opinion, it is a great deal. He added that this company is in 33 states so no matter where you are, you are covered. Mayor Ferguson said that last year, 16 people were covered for $880. Jimmy Espy asked why the taxpayers are paying for the council to have this. Gwen Fisher said that it is a good incentive for council. Mayor Ferguson said that there is no healthcare offered to city employees so if that is all that is offered to city employees as far as from a healthcare point of view, he doesn’t think it is an outrageous amount of money. Phil Brooks asked if he thought we would have a public outcry. Mayor Ferguson said he doesn’t think that anyone will bring torches and pitchforks.

Mayor Ferguson said, back to about the $10 incentive; is that what other volunteer fire departments pay? Chief Stephens said that Summerville pays more. Gwen Fisher added that some firefighters were getting trained here and then leaving. She thought that we were going to pay more than $10 per call. She asked if we could find out what other departments pay. Shirley Davis said that we have to consider how much money that we have that we would be able to pay. Juanita Baker asked if there is something that the fire department really needs. Chief Stephens said that we do have some air packs that are going to have to be replaced because they are about to expire. Mayor Ferguson explained that we have about four years left on those but they cost a lot and it is something that we need to take care of every year instead of all at once. Chief Stephens said that we have a total of eight that are going to expire and we are short four. Shirley Davis suggested that on future budgets, we put it in there so we can buy a few packs a year and not all at once. Mayor Ferguson said that Chief Stephens had asked for a set budget so that the fire department would know what they have to spend. Shirley Davis also asked if we could any grants to help with the fire department. Mayor Ferguson said that he is looking into that. He is hoping to find one to help replace the oldest fire truck. Juanita Baker said that we got the last fire truck with grant money. Mayor Ferguson said that he would like to find someone to write grants for the town.

Jan Kilgo asked about security. She said that she is having things stolen from her yard and that there are a lot of people out roaming the streets at night. Mayor Ferguson said that John, the security guard, will not be coming back to work. His health wouldn’t allow it. Jan Kilgo said that if we do get someone, that the hours need to change. She said that we need someone riding around in the middle of the night. Mayor Ferguson said that he is actively working on his replacement and the hours will be late. He is trying to get him replaced as soon as possible, before people catch on that he isn’t here anymore.

Shirley Davis said that she thinks that we need a street light on the corner of Lyerly Dam Road and Highway 114. She said that it is very dark there at night.

Juanita Baker made the motion to adjourn. Gwen Fisher seconded. All in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:59 pm.

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Mayor Town Clerk