The Lyerly Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at Lyerly Town Hall. Those in attendance were:

Jim Ferguson, Mayor

Gwen Fisher

Phil Brooks

Juanita Baker

Shirley Davis

June 11, 2019

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

***New Business:***

*Minutes–* Mayor Ferguson said that he would entertain a motion to approve the minutes unless someone knew of changes to be made. Phil Brooks made the motion to approve the May 7th and May 14th meeting minutes. Juanita Baker seconded. All in favor.

Mayor Ferguson said that the Shriners do not want the fire truck. They said that they don’t do many parades anymore and they have gotten to be a different operation and they wouldn’t be able to maintain it. Phil Brooks said that he was thinking that it would be perfect for them since it was open cab. The very reason that we can’t get rid of it would be an asset for them. Shirley Davis said that the insurance they would have to carry would probably be expensive. Phil Brooks said that Shirley Davis is correct.

Kasia Ferguson came in and started discussing possible sponsors for the 4th of July Festival with the council. Each one got a list of people to ask for donations. Mayor Ferguson said that he would ask Try-Con, Chrysan Thomas, Georgia Power, Bryant & Sons, Mohawk, Smith Ironworks, Lewis Johnson, Ford Dealership, Rhinehart Equipment and the liquor store. Juanita Baker said that she would ask Pine Ridge, Weesner’s Wild Game Processing, Gilliland’s Pawn Shop and Lyerly Drive Thru. Gwen Fisher said that she would ask Crushed Tomato, Jefferson’s, Farm Bureau, Sweet Pea’s and China. Kasia Ferguson said that she would call Wayne Pace. Phil Brooks said that he would ask Hammond’s Auto and BJ’s convenient store. Kasia Ferguson asked Juanita Baker to see if the pickers and grinners would come and play before Michael Lee gets there. She also said that everyone should have envelopes with info about the event and our tax exemption certification. As a sponsor, they will get advertisement on our Facebook, Instagram, on the flyer, a sign on the fence at the park and they will be added to our advertisement in the paper.

Mayor Ferguson asked if anyone has any suggestions for the fire truck. Shirley Davis said to relist it and take what it brings. Mayor Ferguson said that he will just contact the last highest bidder and see if he will still give $2,100 for it.

*Date for Down Home Day –*Mayor Ferguson asked if anyone has a suggested date for Down Home Day. Kasia Ferguson said she spoke with David Burkhalter, the president of the North Georgia Cruisers, and they book all of their events in January but they were talking about having a cruise in here with us. The dates that they are available are September 28th and October 12th. She said that they decided on the 12th of October, if everyone is ok with that. She said that she also spoke with Hunter Chastain, a country music artist from Rome, GA. He is playing at Rome River Jam this year and he would be able to come perform at Down Home Day. Mayor Ferguson said that people from Rome will come to see him perform. Gwen Fisher said that having it on the 12th we won’t be competing with Sloppy Floyd or Summerville. Kasia Ferguson said that Hunter didn’t think that we pay for entertainment at all so he is going to come up with how much to charge us and get back with her. Gwen Fisher asked if it will still be 10-2. Mayor Ferguson said that he was thinking of having it later in the day. We will make it tentatively 10-5.

*Fence at the Park –* Mayor Ferguson said that he would like to replace the section of chain link fence between the pavilion and Highway 114. He said that he wants to put a three rail wood fence from the corner, where the chain link fence starts, all the way to the bridge between the sidewalk and the park. Juanita Baker asked how we are going to pay for it. Mayor Ferguson said that it can be paid for with SPLOST. It is 791 feet. He said that he had a hard time getting anyone that builds fences to call him back. He said that he finally got two people to give him quotes. One was $5,000 less than the other. Shirley Davis asked with that big of a price difference, is it that same type of fence. Mayor Ferguson said yes. The low bid was $6,600 and the high bid was $11,000. He said that it is a shade over the threshold of what he can spend without having to bid it out but he didn’t see the point of bidding it out when no one would talk to him about it. The two that did talk to him about it went ahead and gave their price. Gwen Fisher asked if that includes labor. Mayor Ferguson said yes. Jimmy Espy asked what the number is when you are required to bid it out. Mayor Ferguson said that he hasn’t written that policy yet. Jimmy Espy said that the state requires that you bid it out over a certain amount. Mayor Ferguson looked it up and said that HB1079 states that construction projects costing $100,000 or more have to be bid out. Mayor Ferguson said that what he and the council discussed last year was setting it that $5,000 or more has to be bid out. Shirley Davis asked if we are going to have a low board on the fence so that little kids can’t get through. Mayor Ferguson said yes. Gwen Fisher asked if we have a tractor and we could just dig the holes ourselves. Mayor Ferguson said that it would not get done in a timely fashion if we try to do it ourselves. Shirley Davis asked if it will be finished before the 4th of July Festival. Mayor Ferguson said that he would like to have it done by then. Juanita Baker said that it would look nice if it was finished by then. She said that it would look nice if we had the money to repave the walking the trail too. Mayor Ferguson said that he is going to try to lump that together with some other park projects and submit for a grant next year. There is a Georgia DNR grant and the deadline is in September. Shirley Davis asked if the council needs to vote on the fence. Mayor Ferguson said yes. He needs their permission to not bid it out. Juanita Baker made a motion to go ahead with the fence. Phil Brooks seconded. All in favor.

Mayor Ferguson said that he wanted to talk about making an additional parking lot on the corner of Hammond Street. Phil Brooks said that we do need more parking. Shirley Davis agreed. She said that someone is going to get killed running across the road trying to find a place to park. Mayor Ferguson said that it is a high spot and if we put down chert and gravel, it should work. He said that he really wants it for Down Home Day. The North Georgia Cruisers may bring 100 cars, just of theirs and we plan to put them on the big ball field. So everyone that attends Down Home Day will need to park on the new parking lot. Phil Brooks said that he doesn’t think that it is a bad idea anyway, to get people parking away from the events. Shirley Davis said that they can get on the sidewalk and walk to the entrance of the park. She then asked how much this will cost. Mayor Ferguson said that he is looking into that. Juanita Baker said that there was a cruise in several years ago and there were several complaints that there was only one restroom. Mayor Ferguson said that we have four now. Shirley Davis said that we don’t have enough parking for any of our events.

Mayor Ferguson asked if any of the council members had anything else to discuss. Shirley Davis said that someone is living in a camper trailer on Lyerly Dam Road right after you cross the little bridge. The people at the brick house are also still living in a camper trailer. That is two in her neighborhood. Gwen Fisher asked if they have water and sewer. She thinks that if someone is going to live in trailers or anything else, we need to make them have water and sewer. Shirley Davis said that the house that they are parked in the yard of does have it. She added that we had already voted on that and the longest anyone can live in a camper is 14 days but no one is doing anything about it. Mayor Ferguson said that he doesn’t have a way to enforce it. Shirley Davis said that the council had agreed to cut the water off to the people who own the house that are allowing them to live in the camper in their yard. Mayor Ferguson said that he isn’t sure that it is legal to cut their water off. Shirley Davis said we can just let Lyerly be a camper town. It keeps growing. Mayor Ferguson said that we will have to pay someone to come be our enforcement officer and that will cost about $30,000 to $40,000 per year. Gwen Fisher asked if there isn’t a county enforcement officer. Mayor Ferguson said that they are not violating a county ordinance. They are in the city limits of Lyerly. Shirley Davis said that there was no point to making that ordinance. Phil Brooks said that it may help us. Mayor Ferguson said that he can look into hiring a code enforcer if the council wants to do that. Shirley Davis said that we can’t afford that. Juanita Baker said that we may be able to have one part time. Mayor Ferguson said that the $30,000 to $40,000 is part time. Jimmy Espy said that Joey Norton does it for Summerville. Juanita Baker said that they tried to get him years ago and he wouldn’t do it. Jimmy Espy said that we may be able to get Eddy Willingham. He knows that he has several of the qualifications for it from Trion. Phil Brooks said that he could talk to him, if they wanted him too. Mayor Ferguson said that would be great. Phil Brooks said that he could talk to Joey Norton also. Gwen Fisher asked if we did get an enforcement officer, how it would work. She then asked if he would go over there and give 14 days to get in compliance. Phil Brooks said that it would probably be 14 days from the time they were notified. Mayor Ferguson said that we would need to come up with a fine schedule. Phil Brooks said that it will require a lot of work. Mayor Ferguson said that we may be able to get the probate judge from Summerville to come and hold court maybe once a quarter.

Kasia Ferguson said that she spoke with Zach White with 4-H and we will have our first movie night on Thursday, June 20th at 8pm. The library is doing a universe of reading theme and we will stay within that same genre so we will be showing Wall-E. She said that she hasn’t decide about concessions but she had thought about free popcorn and selling drinks unless they want to sell everything. Gwen Fisher suggested giving free popcorn and water and if they want something besides water, we can sell cokes and Capri suns. Juanita Baker said to just get the small waters.

Mayor Ferguson opened the floor to the public at 7:39pm.

Juanita Baker made the motion to adjourn. Shirley Davis seconded. All in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:23 pm.

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Mayor Town Clerk