

The Lyerly Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at Lyerly Town Hall. Those in attendance were:

Mayor Jim Ferguson
Juanita Baker
Shirley Davis
Jim Gilliland

December 7, 2021

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

New Business:

Mayor Ferguson said that the only thing for tonight is the budget. He said that the only thing different from last year is that SPLOST is separate. He said that everyone should have 3 pages, a General, a Water and a SPLOST budget. He said that \$64,000 of the roughly \$100,000 that we get each year has been allocated. Juanita Baker asked how it is allocated. Mayor Ferguson said it's to the Ragland building, a flail mower so we can mow the ditches.....Juanita Baker asked what that is. Michael Cabe explained that it is a mower that will allow us to keep up with the ditches that we get behind on weed eating. Jim Gilliland asked if it is a tow behind. Michael Cabe said that it will go on the Kubota Tractor that we have. It is like a side arm but smaller and more compact. It goes up and down; it doesn't reach out. Mayor Ferguson said that closing on the back part of the shop is also allocated in the SPLOST budget. Jim Gilliland asked about the stimulus money that we received. Mayor Ferguson said that we still don't have anything to spend it on. Jim Gilliland asked what the qualifications for it are. Mayor Ferguson said that Sally Kerce could print out the paper about it. It's a lot of pages. They keep changing the qualifications. Sally Kerce said that right now, it is expenses that are COVID related only. Sally Kerce said that the other SPLOST allocation was for the Welcome to Lyerly signs. Mayor Ferguson said that the Water budget and the General budget look almost the same as last year with the exception of the ARC grant that we had last year for the sewer is not in there. Jim Gilliland asked how much was allocated for the Ragland building. Mayor Ferguson said that he allocated \$35,000 for the Ragland building. Jim Gilliland asked if we got a quote for it. Mayor Ferguson said that was his best guess as far as how many windows need replaced and the door out front. It may end up costing more. Juanita Baker said that the door on the side needs to be replaced too. Mayor Ferguson said yes, all of the doors, windows and paint. Shirley Davis asked if we could get salvaged windows to replace them with. Mayor Ferguson said that the windows are odd sized so we will probably have to have them made. Jim Gilliland said that we need to go ahead and get some bids on that and maybe we could get started this year. Mayor Ferguson said that we have had trouble getting people to come and give us a ballpark estimate because everyone is so busy. Jim Gilliland said that if we advertise enough, someone will come. Mayor Ferguson said that once we have an exact idea of what we want and how much it will cost, we will advertise for bids. Jim Gilliland said that we aren't going to get anywhere until we advertise. Mayor Ferguson said that we need a contractor to come give us a roundabout price because if it is going to be some outrageous amount that we can't afford, there is no point in taking bids. Shirley Davis said that she knows that the building is old and it is a

big part of Lyerly but what would be the cost to just tear it down and make a parking lot. Mayor Ferguson said that he doesn't want to do that. Shirley Davis said that she just knew that we need more parking. Mayor Ferguson said that he thinks that if we get the building to a presentable point and get the structure of the building to a usable point, that we can find someone that will want to partner with us and put something in there that will be beneficial to the Town. Jim Gilliland said that he would feel bad about demolishing it since it was donated. Mayor Ferguson said that he would feel bad too. He would like to preserve it in some homage to the Ragland family. Shirley Davis said that was just something that she threw out there. Jim Gilliland said that to pave from the Ragland building to Alpine Street would cost \$25,000. Shirley Davis said that it was just a suggestion since we didn't have enough parking for the Halloween thing. She said that she doesn't want it torn down. She said that she has fussed and fussed about getting something done to it. Mayor Ferguson said that he wants something in there to bring in tax revenue. Juanita Baker asked if we spend all that has been allocated for it and we need more, could not use more SPLOST money. Mayor Ferguson said yes. Shirley Davis said that she wants to make it clear that she did not want it destroyed; she thanks the Ragland's for giving it to the town. Mayor Ferguson said that with the state that it is in, it would be hard to take a meeting with someone and make them think we were serious about doing something.

Juanita Baker asked if anyone knows what has happened with the man and woman that have the produce stand. She hasn't seen them out there. Shirley Davis said that they had discussed the lady putting in an antique store in there.

Mayor Ferguson said that the council can approve the budget now or wait and approve it in January. He said that he usually hands them out at the work session and then they approve it at the regular meeting. We didn't have a work session this month. Juanita Baker said that since the only thing that is different is the SPLOST being separate, why don't we go ahead and approve it. Shirley Davis said that she would like for Phil Brooks to be here to approve it but it doesn't matter. Juanita Baker made a motion to approve the 2022 budget. Shirley Davis seconded. All in favor.

Mayor Ferguson opened the floor to the public at 7:12pm.

Shirley Davis asked Michael Cabe when they are going to fix the whole in the road in front of her house. Michael Cabe said that it is next on the list; hopefully next week. Shirley Davis said that gravel isn't going to cut it. If he puts gravel in it, it just comes back out. Michael Cabe said that he isn't planning on putting gravel in it. He is going to clean it out and concrete it.

Juanita Baker made the motion to adjourn. Shirley Davis seconded. All in favor.
Meeting was adjourned at 7:14 pm.

Mayor

Town Clerk