

The Lyerly Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at Lyerly Town Hall. Those in attendance were:

Jim Ferguson, Mayor  
Phil Brooks  
Juanita Baker  
Shirley Davis

June 2, 2020

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

Jim Gilliland was not in attendance.

**New Business:**

**Playground Equipment** - Mayor Ferguson said that the last time the council had spoke, it was about the playground equipment. He said that there was some division over the amount of money and whether or not we can afford it. He said that he would like to point out a few things. Before 2018, Lyerly had used a line of credit to pay the bills. Money was borrowed from the bank to keep the lights on basically. And we have not used that line of credit since January 2018. Phil Brooks said that is excellent. Mayor Ferguson said that we have operated the General fund at a profit every year. The only new debt that we have incurred is \$100,000 for improvement to the sewer ponds which is matching funds for a \$400,000 grant and \$25,000 for the fire department which was matching funds for a \$75,000 grant. The only debt that we have incurred that wasn't matching funds to a grant was for one of the work trucks. We have built a concession stand, put a fence around the park, built the new parking lot, replaced the tractor, replaced the lawnmower, replaced almost all of the fire fighters equipment and added some that they needed and didn't have, replaced both work trucks, kept up paving and ditches, put a roof on Town Hall and we have almost gotten all of the infiltration eliminated from the sewer system and we have done all of that plus added two events per year without borrowing any money and running at a profit. Mayor Ferguson said that he isn't even talking about taking money from the General fund to purchase the playground equipment. Shirley Davis said that he didn't say that last month. Mayor Ferguson said that he had said that we are talking about money from SPLOST which is a separate budget. It can only be used for parks, public road and public buildings. It can't be used for anything else. That is exactly what he wants to use it for, playground equipment. He added that we have been talking about playground equipment since our first meeting of 2018, if he remembers correctly. We have been accepting sponsorships and donations to the tune of \$3,600 for the past 14 to 18 months for playground equipment. He said that he got us a grant for \$20,000 for playground equipment. The playground equipment was in the budget which was approved in November 2019 for this year. He said that with all of that being said, he would like to hear from the council. Shirley Davis said that if he had told her that the money for the playground equipment would be paid for with SPLOST funds and not out of the general fund, she would have been for it to start with. She said that he didn't say that until she had already voted against it. Mayor Ferguson said that they can agree to disagree but he did say that we would be using SPLOST funds. Juanita Baker

said that she is sorry; she thought that everyone knew it. Shirley Davis said that she didn't know what SPLOST will pay for and what it won't. Juanita Baker said that if we don't spend the \$20,000 from Tillotson, we will have to give it back. Phil Brooks made a motion to approve the purchase of the playground equipment. Juanita Baker seconded. All in favor. Shirley Davis said that she will vote for it since it isn't coming out of the budget.

Mayor Ferguson said that there are two burnt houses in town. One next to the Lyerly Drive Thru and the other is on ball field road. He said that he has arranged for the fire department to destroy them both. We will then have our guys use our equipment to haul the debris off. Jason Winters said that he would accept whatever we brought up there along the lines of cleaning up the town for free. So it will only cost us our labor and use of equipment to get rid of those two houses. He added that we have made a preliminary list of all of the properties that need to clean their yard up. He said that he is talking about the places that have a real mess, not just one or two things. He said that he will take suggestions from the council but he was thinking that he would just go to the property owners in person and tell them that he will offer our equipment and dump truck and haul off what needed to be hauled off. Phil Brooks said that it has to be within reason. Mayor Ferguson added that he is confident that he can get the county to help with the cost of disposing that stuff. He said that this is a solution instead of penalizing people who can't afford to be penalized. Juanita Baker asked if we can start with the liquor store. She said that the burnt house and the liquor store make her place look awful. Shirley Davis said that she doesn't live on Cemetery Road.

Mayor Ferguson opened the floor to the public at 7:08pm.

Juanita Baker made the motion to adjourn. Shirley Davis seconded. All in favor.  
Meeting was adjourned at 7:08 pm.

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Mayor

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Town Clerk