

The Lyerly Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at Lyerly Town Hall. Those in attendance were:

Mayor James Ferguson
Phil Brooks
Juanita Baker
Shirley Davis
Jim Gilliland

May 10, 2022

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

Approval of Minutes – Mayor Ferguson said that everyone should have minutes. He said that he needs a motion to approve them unless someone has a problem with them. Phil Brooks made a motion to approve the January 4th, February 9th, March 9th and April 12th meeting minutes. Shirley Davis seconded. All in favor.

Juanita Baker said that she would like to discuss something from the minutes. She asked if it had been addressed where Steven Hall came to a meeting about the grass growing in the asphalt. Mayor Ferguson said that Michael is not here. Sally Kerce said that Michael did go and look at it and it is on the edge of the asphalt. Phil Brooks said that grass will grow right in it. Mayor Ferguson agreed and said that there isn't enough traffic on that road to kill it. Sally Kerce said that Delbert has not come back yet but still plans to.

Juanita Baker asked about the Ragland building. Mayor Ferguson said that we are waiting on him to order the windows. This will probably be a long process. We may not get the windows for six months. Phil Brooks said he was going to say that it may take a while. Juanita Baker then asked about the concrete out back of Town Hall. Mayor Ferguson said that we are waiting for Hamptons Heating and Air to come and move the unit so we can pour the concrete. Sally Kerce said that he is trying to come this week.

Mayor Ferguson said that, as the council knows, we have recently had three house fires back to back and someone passed away in one of them; it was terrible. He said that on one of them, we had a real problem with how far the house that burned was from the fire hydrant. He asked Fire Chief Kenneth Thompson how far the hydrant was from the house. Kenneth Thompson said it was about 3,000-3,500 feet away. Mayor Ferguson said that they had to run 3,500 feet of hose and by the time the water got to them, there wasn't much pressure. We are going to have to add more fire hydrants to Brooks Road because they are too far apart. Jim Gilliland asked if they are talking about Nadene Espy's place. Mayor Ferguson said yes. Assistant Fire Chief Lance Walker said that there is a fire hydrant on each end of the road; we need one in the middle. Mayor Ferguson said that he think Michael wants to add three to Brooks Road. Jim Gilliland asked if this is people that pay fire protection to the city. Mayor Ferguson said yes. He said that our fire department serves an area significantly larger than the town limits. Juanita Baker asked if we had a hydrant at the house fire where the man passed away. Mayor Ferguson said yes. It wasn't an issue with the water there. Juanita Baker asked if someone needs to make a motion to add the fire hydrants. Mayor Ferguson said yes. Juanita Baker started to make the motion but Jim Gilliland asked if anyone has looked at the cost for this. Mayor Ferguson said yes. It will be about \$20,000. Jim Gilliland then asked Sally Kerce if she had checked to see if we could use the stimulus money for that.

Sally Kerce said that SPLOST money could be used but not the stimulus money because that money is to cover things that happened or were planned to happen during COVID back in March 2021. Kenneth Thompson said that he doesn't think they should worry about the cost because that's people's lives and property. Mayor Ferguson said that he doesn't think this is a want, it is a need. He thinks that it needs to be done. Everyone agreed. Juanita Baker said that she thinks we need more fire hydrants in the subdivision off of Dovers Cut Road. Mayor Ferguson said that might be an issue as well. He said that this may be something that we need to tackle on a yearly basis. Kenneth Thompson said that the state requires them to be 1,500 or 1,600 feet apart. Mayor Ferguson said that we are definitely not there on Brooks Road. Phil Brooks asked what makes us responsible for those. Mayor Ferguson said that is a good question. Phil Brooks asked why the county is not responsible for that. Mayor Ferguson then asked Sally Kerce if they are our water customers. Sally Kerce said that they are our water customers but technically they are not in our fire district. They are in Menlo's fire district. Phil Brooks said that is what he was wondering. Sally Kerce said that our fire district stops before Brooks Road. Mayor Ferguson said but they are on our water. Sally Kerce said yes. She said that she just knows about the fire districts because she has had people not wanting to pay our fire dues because they get a bill from Menlo or Summerville because they are in their fire district. Mayor Ferguson said that he could always approach Menlo's mayor and ask them to share the cost. Phil Brooks and Juanita Baker said that he should. Mayor Ferguson said that all he can say is no. It is our water line but they should kick in a little. He said let him figure out how to approach him. Kenneth Thompson said that all of Dovers Cut is in our fire district. Jim Gilliland asked if he is talking about Dovers Cut road all the way to Smallen Road. Kenneth Thompson said yes. Mayor Ferguson asked how far apart the hydrants are on Dovers Cut Road. Kenneth Thompson said that he doesn't know. Mayor Ferguson asked if he could check on that. Kenneth Thompson said yes. He then said that he knows there are two in the subdivision that Juanita Baker was talking about. Mayor Ferguson asked if two is enough. Kenneth Thompson said there are quite a few residents out there but Cannon Road isn't that long. It goes down in to a cul-de-sac and there is one right there in the cul-de-sac that will reach at least four to five houses. Juanita Baker asked where the other one is. Kenneth Thompson said that it is on Dovers Cut Road. Jim Gilliland asked how far does our jurisdiction go. Kenneth Thompson said that we go from the Berryton Bridge all the way to Ragland Road down Highway 114. And we go to the Alabama line on Oak Hill Road, then down LM Thomas JR Road and then back this way. On the Highway 100 side, we go down Lick Skillet Road to Dave Moore Road and then Summerville picks up. Sally Kerce brought in a small map that shows our fire district. Phil Brooks asked who determines the fire district. Kenneth Thompson said that 911 determines the jurisdiction but it is up to fire chiefs as well to sit down and make sure that it is divided up the way it is supposed to be. He said that as far as ISO is concerned, it is our jurisdiction and we have to go by them as well because that helps people with their fire insurance and house insurance. He said that we have to abide by ISO or we get penalized and it comes out of the pocket of the town. Phil Brooks said that the price of covering this big area is coming out of the pocket of the town as well. Jim Gilliland said that all of these people aren't paying. Mayor Ferguson said that we also get money every year from the county for the fire department and that comes from some of those people that may not be paying us directly. Sally Kerce said that if people are in our fire district but not on our water, she sends them a yearly bill for fire dues. Juanita Baker said that she bets that there haven't been any fire hydrants added in a long time. Mayor Ferguson said that there haven't. And we have a few that need to be replaced also. Michael Cabe told him that we need to replace the damaged ones and put more on Brooks Road so we need five. The cost for five is \$21,581.69. Kenneth Thompson said that it is a need. Shirley Davis asked how many hydrants are in Reynolds subdivision. She said that she doesn't remember seeing but one. Kenneth Thompson said that there is more than one. Phil Brooks said that there is several. Mayor Ferguson said that Juanita Baker made the motion to replace the broken hydrants and add some to Brooks Road, does anyone second it. Phil Brooks seconded. All in favor.

Mayor Ferguson said that we have 4th of July coming up. He asked how everyone feels about June 25th for the celebration in the park. The 4th of July is on a Monday and this would be the weekend prior. Juanita Baker asked what our plans are. She then asked if we will get singers. Mayor Ferguson said that we will have our normal stuff. Shirley Davis said that we don't do food for the fourth. Mayor Ferguson said that we will have vendors there selling food. Shirley Davis said that we won't give away hot dogs since vendors will be there. Mayor Ferguson said no, we won't be giving anything away. We may sell some out of the concession stand as long as it doesn't take away from the other vendors. Jim Gilliland said that he has heard good things about the local guy with the food truck. Mayor Ferguson said that his BBQ sandwich with coleslaw was great. And it was huge. Sally Kerce said that he will be set up on the gravel lot at the Ragland building this weekend. She said that it is his parents that own the produce place.

Jim Gilliland said that he has had people complaining about the gambling machines in town. He is wondering if they give out money. Shirley Davis said that she went out to the Pure Stop and there were signs that said games in the back room. The next time she went out there, the signs were gone so she asked the girl what happened to the games in the back room. She was told that they still have them. Shirley Davis then asked if they are legal. She was then told that that they are as long as they get something from the store, gas or lottery. They can't give out cash. Mayor Ferguson said that someone would have to call the state and ask.

Mayor Ferguson asked if anyone has anything else. He then asked if anyone has any question for Fire Chief Kenneth Thompson. Jim Gilliland said that he saw that the refrigerator got brought back this week. Kenneth Thompson said yes, it is back out there. Jim Gilliland asked if we still have a tanker truck. Kenneth Thompson said that the tanker they had years and years ago is now the town's dump truck. The fire department has a pumper. Mayor Ferguson asked how many fire fighters we have. Kenneth Thompson said 13. Mayor Ferguson asked how many are certified. Kenneth Thompson said 12. Jim Gilliland asked if they all have turnout gear. Kenneth Thompson said that we are going to have to order three sets for the three that just got certified. That was a stipulation that if you get certified, you get new gear. Mayor Ferguson said that we are doing way better than we were years ago. Juanita Baker asked if they are going to have any classes with the other fire departments. Kenneth Thompson said that they have a chiefs meeting once a month where they try to figure out a county wide training. They are scheduling one now and some guys are coming from New York to teach the class.

Jim Gilliland made the motion to adjourn. Shirley Davis seconded. All in favor.
Meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm.

Mayor

Town Clerk