The Lyerly Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 13th, 2019 at Lyerly Town Hall. Those in attendance were:

Jim Ferguson, Mayor

Gwen Fisher

Phil Brooks

Juanita Baker

Shirley Davis

August 13, 2019

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

***New Business:***

*Minutes–* Mayor Ferguson asked if anyone had any problems with the minutes. Juanita Baker made a motion to approve the July 2nd and July 9th meeting minutes. Gwen Fisher seconded. All in favor.

*Millage Rate –* Mayor Ferguson said that he and Sally Kerce did some checking and if they decide not to go with the rollback rate of 10.072% and leave the millage rate the same as 2018, 10.151%, they are required to have the three public hearing. Juanita Baker said that she suggests that we have the three public hearing and leave the millage rate at 10.151% because we are going to need to go up on taxes sooner or later. Gwen Fisher said that no one came to the public hearings that we had before. Mayor Ferguson said that we did have public hearings about raising the water rates and no one came but property taxes push a different button with people. Juanita Baker said that if we keep it the same as last year instead of rolling it back that little bit, it won’t be as bad when we do raise it. Mayor Ferguson said that the council needs to decide. He added that he knew one of them mentioned that if we had to have the public hearings, we could just go ahead and raise it little more. Shirley Davis asked if we are ok financially with it like it is. Mayor Ferguson said that we are. Shirley Davis said that she thinks that we need to just leave it the same. Juanita Baker asked Phil Brooks what he wanted to do. He said that he is thinking that due to Mr. Winters making the dramatic increase for the county that any increase is going to be frowned upon. Gwen Fisher said that she thinks that we should leave it the same. Juanita Baker made a motion to leave the millage rate at 10.151% and have the three required public meetings. Phil Brooks seconded. All in favor.

Sally Kerce said that she has to advertise for the public hearing a week in advance if they want to go ahead and plan the dates for them. Gwen Fisher asked for us not to schedule them next week during the fair which will be August 22nd through August 25th. Juanita Baker asked when this millage rate will take effect. Sally Kerce said that it will be used to calculate the property taxes that she sends out in October. Mayor Ferguson said that we could have the first two hearings on Tuesday, August 27th and Thursday, August 29th. Sally Kerce said that one of the meetings has to be held between 6:00pm and 7:00pm. Mayor Ferguson suggested having the first one on Tuesday, August 27th at 7:00pm and then one on Thursday, August 29th at 6:00pm. Then we could have the third hearing where it is approved on the night of our work session on September 3rd at 7:00pm. We will have the called meeting at 7:00pm and the work session will follow. Everyone agreed to those dates.

Juanita Baker asked if they are going to vote on the garbage service. Mayor Ferguson said yes. Phil Brooks made a motion to accept the bid from Wright’s sanitation. Juanita Baker seconded. All in favor. Mayor Ferguson said that the contract is good for three years. The last contract was for $8.10 per customer with a built in increase of 80¢. This time, the contact will be for $9.10 per customer with a built in increase of 90¢. He added that he agreed to 15 months at $9.10 and the remainder at $10.

Juanita Baker asked what the cost of the fence was. Mayor Ferguson said that it was $6,646. Gwen Fisher said that it draws your eyes to the park so much. Juanita Baker said that it does look nice. Shirley Davis asked if we are going to do something about the opening at the corner of the fence. She suggested putting a small gate there. She said that she doesn’t want a kid to slip through there and get into the highway. Mayor Ferguson said that is a good point.

Phil Brooks said that the parking lot is coming along good. Mayor Ferguson said that they left an open area around the tree where the ladies can have small garden. Juanita Baker asked how much the parking lot is going to cost. Mayor Ferguson said that they haven’t decided whether or not they are going to put gravel on top of it. They have tossed around the idea of paving it at some point in the future so they may not put the gravel because they will have to remove the gravel to pave it. Shirley Davis asked if we leave the parking lot chert with no gravel, won’t it be messy when it rains. Mayor Ferguson said that it will be tightly packed and it should be ok but he wants to see it when he’s finished. Shirley Davis asked what the cost without the gravel is. Mayor Ferguson said that it is $18,000 without buying the gravel but that includes cost includes spreading the gravel if we do get it. We will buy the gravel from the county.

Mayor Ferguson opened the floor to the public at 7:17pm.

Kasia Ferguson said that they have set Trunk or Treat for November 1st. We can’t do it on Halloween night because it is a school night. Gwen Fisher asked if we are going to have a movie again. Kasia Ferguson said that we are; that’s why we didn’t want to have it on a school night. She was thinking that we should have it 6:00pm – 10:00pm. Mayor Ferguson said that we can start the movie about 8:00pm. Kasia Ferguson asked if the ladies would share the date for Trunk or Treat with the churches. She also brought up Christmas in the park. Juanita Baker said that we should have it the second Friday in December. Sally Kerce looked at the list of events for Summerville and they don’t have anything planned for the 13th. Kasia Ferguson said that we’ll have Christmas in the Park on Friday, December 13th if that is ok with everyone. She said that she would like to have a tree lighting but they are afraid that if the tree is left in the park that someone may mess with it but they want the tree lighting to be part of Christmas in the Park. She added that she wants to have a bonfire, a hayride, s’mores, hot chocolate and popcorn. Phil Brooks asked if it would be feasible to move the tree after Christmas in the Park to City Hall. Juanita Baker said that we could even move it to the new parking lot. Shirley Davis said that we could put it at the new concession stand. Mayor Ferguson said that it’s all concrete and asphalt there and the easiest way to do it is to put it in a pipe in the ground so it wouldn’t work at the concession stand.

Kasia Ferguson said that she has a letter for sponsorship fundraising. The letter includes the events for the rest of the year. It explains the sponsorships and the dimensions for the signs for the $200-$500 sponsors and also for the sponsors over $500.

Kasia Ferguson added that she is making a cookbook for the library and anyone with recipes to add needs to have them turned in by August 25th. It isn’t just recipes; it will have home remedies too. She also asked if anyone has any old Lyerly pictures to pass along for the pictures for Town Hall and the concession stand. Juanita Baker said that she has whole book of Lyerly that Kasia can go through.

Phil Brooks made the motion to adjourn. Shirley Davis seconded. All in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.

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Mayor Town Clerk