The Lyerly Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at Lyerly Town Hall. Those in attendance were:

Jim Ferguson, Mayor

Gwen Fisher

Phil Brooks

Juanita Baker

Shirley Davis

April 9, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Phil Brooks at 7:06 pm because Mayor Jim Ferguson wasn’t in attendance yet.

***New Business:***

*Minutes–* Phil Brooks said that the first thing that we have are the meeting minutes from March 5th and March 12th. Shirley Davis made a motion to approve the March 5th work session and March 12th meeting minutes. Juanita Baker seconded. All in favor.

Shirley Davis asked if we need to vote to change the ordinance to require a certain amount of land to put a mobile home on and to make it where there is only one residence per property. She then asked what the other council members thought. Phil Brooks said that he doesn’t have a problem with that at all. Shirley Davis then asked if they thought we need to require a ¼ acre or a ½ acre. Juanita Baker said that people can always come before the council and ask for a variance. It doesn’t have to be approved but they have the right to ask. Shirley Davis said that her neighbor is trying to figure out how much land that he needs to deed each of his kids so that they will both have enough for a residence. If we require 1 acre, he doesn’t have enough land to give to them both but if we only require ½ acre, he can give each of them ½ acre. Phil Brooks asked if they would both have city sewer and water. Shirley Davis said yes. Clerk Sally Kerce said that Shirley’s neighbor had called her and she told him to deed his son an acre just to be on the safe side just in case the council voted to require an acre. Gwen Fisher said that she thinks that we should do ½ acre if it perks and ¼ acre if it doesn’t. The other council members said that it doesn’t have to perk because it will go onto city sewage. Sally Kerce said that anyone that lives in the city limits has to be on sewage. Shirley Davis said that she isn’t doing this for her neighbor but he doesn’t have 1 acre to give each of his kids. He has his house and about 2 acres. She added that there aren’t but about 2 or 3 places in this town that is an acre lot. Gwen Fisher asked how much property that Shirley has. Shirley Davis said that hers is only ½ acre. Juanita Baker read from the March minutes and it says that Mayor Ferguson said that he thinks an acre is reasonable. Shirley Davis asked if at one time, wasn’t it required to have 2 acres. Juanita Baker said that Daniel Cook changed it to require an acre. Shirley Davis said after that is when it was changed to ¼ acre. She then asked if we are going to change it or leave it alone. Phil Brooks said that he is acting as mayor and can’t make a motion. Sally Kerce said that one of the council members can make a motion to change it to an acre, ½ acre or leave it as it is. Shirley Davis made a motion to change the ordinance to require at least ½ acre per residence. Gwen Fisher seconded. All in favor. Shirley Davis said that she thinks that will be reasonable enough because there aren’t many 1 acre lots in town. She said it is now 1 residence per ½ acre and that should cover anyone building or moving in a mobile home or anything.

Justin Thompson, a member of the fire department, asked if they would change how old the mobile home can be to be moved into Lyerly. He said that 20 years for a mobile home is really too old. Sally Kerce said that state did away with the age limits on mobile homes. Justin Thompson said that it is in our ordinance that a mobile home can’t be over 20 years old to be moved in. Sally Kerce said that is in our ordinance but if the state doesn’t have an age limit, we can’t either. We can’t trump the state. Justin Thompson asked if we couldn’t put in ordinance that it has to be 15 year old or less due to the structure of the mobile home. Sally Kerce said that she would look into it but she is pretty sure that when the state did away with the age limits, we had to too. Justin Thompson said that he is looking at it from the fire protection part of it. Shirley Davis said that she doesn’t think they should be older than 10 years old. Justin Thompson added that with the older mobile homes, they are paying fire protection for a home that burns up within 4 minutes. Shirley Davis asked if the newer ones are more fireproof. Justin Thompson said that the newer ones take 9 to 13 minutes.

Mayor Ferguson called Sally Kerce and said that he is on his way.

Gwen Fisher asked if anyone thought that we would have any volunteers for decorating for the Easter egg hunt. Shirley Davis said that they could ask everyone but they need to set a time for volunteers. She said that her church is stuffing eggs.

Shirley Davis wanted to add, while they are waiting on the Mayor, that the Baptist Church will begin having Hope for the Hungry on April 23rd at 10:00am. Anyone who lives in or around Lyerly and needs food, they can come to the Baptist Church. They will have it once a month.

Mayor Ferguson came in and everyone informed him of everything that has been talked about.

Mayor Ferguson said that the concession stand is coming up quick. He said that he went to Lowe’s today and bought the air conditioner, the OSB and Formica board. We aren’t going to use drywall; we will use the Formica board. You glue it to the OSB and you can hose it down or whatever. Jimmy Espy asked if the Mayor has an estimate on when it will be finished. Mayor Ferguson said that if the weather holds out, maybe 2 weeks. Shirley Davis asked what was ever done about the power pole. Mayor Ferguson said that Georgia Power agreed to move the power pole and they aren’t going to charge us for it. Jason Morris is coming tomorrow to start the electrical work. We were going to do a lot of it ourselves but after the cost of supplies and everything, we can pay him and it won’t cost much more, if any.

Juanita Baker said that the guys have done a great job over at the Railroad Park; they just need to bring some dirt in. Mayor Ferguson said that Michael Cabe has been calling about the dirt every day.

Juanita Baker told Mayor Ferguson that he was supposed to be getting a sign for the Community Center. The little one that is out there isn’t cutting it. Mayor Ferguson said that had been put on the back burner with everything that we have had going. He said that he plans to get one made for the Community Center, one for Town Hall and one for the Fire Department.

Juanita Baker then asked what happened to the Welcome to Lyerly sign that used to be at the city limits. Sally Kerce said that it fell apart and they trashed it.

Sally Kerce then said that Michael Caldwell is supposed to be coming to talk with the mayor about having a small program in the park for Memorial Day to promote and recognize our crosses and flags. She just wanted to give everyone a heads up. Juanita Baker said that she thinks that will be good.

Mayor Ferguson opened the floor to the public at 7:25pm.

Sally Kerce introduced everyone to the new head of the Chamber of Commerce, Cindy Rivers. Shirley Davis asked what the Chamber is working on now. Cindy Rivers said that the Chamber is trying to get into the different communities. They have started “Jump Start Mondays”. She comes to the Lyerly Community Center on the first Monday of the month from 8am-10am and has coffee and pastries for anyone who would like to stop by. She then goes to Menlo on the second, Summerville on the third and Trion on the fourth Monday of each month. She said that she would like to get to know everyone better.

Juanita Baker made the motion to adjourn. Phil Brooks seconded. All in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:29 pm.

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 Mayor Town Clerk