

The Lyerly Town Council met for their agenda planning meeting on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at Lyerly Town Hall. Those in attendance were:

Jim Ferguson, Mayor
Phil Brooks
Juanita Baker
Shirley Davis
Jim Gilliland

February 4, 2020

Mayor Ferguson began the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Mayor Ferguson said that he apologizes but he needs to make this meeting quick because he has to go do a sleep study at the hospital. He said that everyone should have a financial report for the Water and General accounts to review this week and we can discuss them next week at the regular meeting if anyone has any questions. Juanita Baker asked if anything has changed. Mayor Ferguson said that this is just the monthly reports showing the spending. He added that the only major expense that we have had is the roof which is the next item on the agenda.

Mayor Ferguson said that we had to replace the roof on Town Hall and he didn't bid it out because it was an emergency. He said that we had leak right above the breaker panel. Phil Brooks said that the roof has been there a while, hasn't it. Mayor Ferguson said yes. It hasn't been replaced in 30 years. Jim Gilliland asked who fixed the roof. Mayor Ferguson said that he got Josh Wyatt. He said that the next time that we have an emergency, we will use someone else to keep things fair. Jim Gilliland said that does look like nepotism a little bit. Mayor Ferguson said that he had to get someone that he knew would do it quick. He added that there turned out to be over a dozen leaks that we didn't know about. Juanita Baker asked if it was just because the roof was old. Mayor Ferguson said yes. All of the rubber gaskets on the screws were bad. Jim Gilliland asked if he recovered the whole roof. Mayor Ferguson said yes. Shirley Davis asked how much it cost. Mayor Ferguson said it was \$8,400. He added that we took the rest of the letters off of the front of the building where it used to say City Hall.

Mayor Ferguson said that as far as the drainage on Chattooga Avenue at Jan Kilgo's house, we had Joe Reed with the county come over and he, Joe and Michael went over there to look at it and the first thing that we are going to do is to dig out the ditches all the way from past the tiny houses down to Jan's corner. Then we will dig out the ditch on the other side of the road down to the next drainage tile. We are then going to dig a ditch between Robbie White and the tiny houses that will carry the water to the street. Mayor Ferguson said that he doesn't think that this will fix Jan's problem but he thinks that it will help. Jim Gilliland said that we are going to have to fix her problem or we will be in a lawsuit. Mayor Ferguson said that he thinks this is a good first step to fixing it. If it doesn't fix the problem, then we will have to look at grading from her house down to the ditch. Shirley Davis asked if it came down to it, could we just build a retaining wall to help keep the water from her house. Mayor Ferguson said that the next step will be sloping her yard. Phil Brooks said that area has always been susceptible to flooding. Mayor Ferguson said that we may not ever be able to solve the problem 100% because her house sits so low but we will do the best that we can to alleviate the problem. Shirley Davis said that maybe she can put blocks around the foundation to keep the water from going under her house. She is responsible for

doing that. Jim Gilliland said that the town is only responsible for the right of way. Mayor Ferguson said that he is willing to use our labor and resources to move dirt around her yard and change the slope of her yard, even if it's on her property. If it will help her out, we will by all means do it.

Jim Gilliland asked if we are going to be doing any paving. Mayor Ferguson said yes. We will receive money from LMIG. He said that when he gets through the agenda, he will go get the paperwork and let him know where we will be paving. Jim Gilliland said that he noticed that the asphalt on the walking track at the park is coming up and we need to get that repaired. Juanita Baker said that they discussed that before.

Mayor Ferguson gave everyone a paper that had the amounts of the three bids that we received for the sewer pond project. He said that we have \$417,000 total budgeted for the project however around \$76,000 worth of engineering and inspection has to come out of that. The actual lowest bid, from Schmidt Environmental Construction of \$343,000, is actually \$10,000 over budget. Ladd is breaking down there bid of make sure everything is right. Mayor Ferguson said that is everything he has.

Levi Ragland addressed the council and said that he would like to bring forth that a very good friend of his from Rome, Claudia Hamilton, is over the clubhouse in Floyd County called Living Proof Recovery. He said that he had asked her if we could get some AA or NA meetings in Lyerly. He said that her response was that there are not enough funds to pay to rent a space to have the meetings. He then said that he was wondering what the council would be willing to do. He added that we may not be a big city like Rome but we need to do more outreach within the community as far as alcoholics anonymous and narcotics anonymous. Sally Kerce added that he is wanting to know if the council would make it possible for this group to use the community center once every other week for an hour or so at no charge. Shirley Davis asked if they would be responsible for making sure it is kept clean and no one destroys anything. Levi Ragland said yes. Phil Brooks then asked if this is a free service to the community. Levi Ragland said yes. Shirley Davis asked if the lady who does it is certified. Levi Ragland said yes, she is a certified drug councilor. He added that it may not be her that comes every time. Jim Gilliland said that he worked with AA and NA when he worked at the prison and they will get guest speakers and other people who have been involved for a long time. Juanita Baker asked how many people will most likely be involved. Levi Ragland said that he has gotten around 20 or 30 people that will be willing to come to the meetings. Mayor Ferguson asked for Claudia Hamilton's phone number. Levi Ragland said that he will get it to us. Shirley Davis said that she would like the mayor to look into this and get back with them about it at the meeting next week.

Juanita Baker said that she had a phone call about some people wanting to park at the park but there was a party going on so they were going to use the new parking lot but it was locked. Mayor Ferguson asked why they wanted to park there. Juanita Baker said that they didn't want to intrude on the party that was going on. Mayor Ferguson said that he just didn't want the new parking lot to become a collecting place for people to pull in. He said that the gate isn't locked, it's just closed. He said that he doesn't mind leaving it opened during the day but he thinks that it needs to be closed at night. Juanita Baker said that she doesn't see the problem for people to park there if they are going to walk the track and something is going on at the pavilion. Phil Brooks said that there is no need opening it up for just one person. Shirley Davis said that it is more or less for our special events. Juanita Baker said she just told them that she would ask. Mayor Ferguson said that he just doesn't want it to be a turnaround spot or people up there slinging gravel.

Sally Kerce said that it will be posted on the bulletin board but on March 2nd, the Chamber and the Registrar's office will be setting up at the community center from 9am – 11am to have a demonstration on how to use the new voting machines.

Mayor Ferguson said that as far as the paving that Jim Gilliland had asked about, from Highway 114 we will pave .18 miles down Lyerly Dam Road and .13 miles up Georgia Avenue. Shirley Davis said that her road would need to be paved before long. Juanita Baker said that we did talk about having the walking track repaved when we built the concession stand. Jim Gilliland said that he isn't asking about repaving the whole thing. Mayor Ferguson said that it needs it but it will be extremely expensive. He added that the concession stand was built last year, this year we will be getting the playground equipment and maybe next year we can fix that small ball field and maybe at the same time, we can get the track fixed.

Mayor Ferguson said that he talked to David Parker about us having fire works for the 4th of July. He said that it will probably cost us about \$10,000. He said that for the amount that he is willing to do, it is a pretty good deal. He told the mayor that he can shoot them from the park. Juanita Baker said that when she was mayor for those few months, she went to Cedar Bluff where they have the fireworks at the lake and asked them how they do it. They told her that every oil well that hits Alabama has to pay the city so much money and they used that for the fireworks. Mayor Ferguson told the council to think about it and see if that is something they want to do.

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting ended at 7:20 p.m.

Mayor

Town Clerk