

The Lyerly Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at Lyerly Town Hall. Those in attendance were:

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

March 9, 2021

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

New Business:

Easter – Juanita Baker asked if we are going to have Easter in the park. Mayor Ferguson said yes, we are going to have all of our events. He then said that he just needs to know when they want to have the Easter egg hunt. Jim Gilliland said that Easter is April 4th. Mayor Ferguson said that is when Easter is but sometimes we don't have it on Easter because people are in church and other things. Clerk Sally Kerce said that the last time we did it; we had it on the Saturday before Easter. Everyone on the council said that was a good idea. Juanita Baker said that we can have it the Saturday before or on Saturday the week before. Mayor Ferguson asked if the council could get the churches involved. Shirley Davis said that she now attends South Summerville. Jim Gilliland said that she could ask them. Shirley Davis said that she would if they don't have something planned. Juanita Baker said that she would tell the Lyerly First Baptist preacher about it. Sally Kerce said that she would talk to Gwen Fisher about Lyerly Methodist. Phil Brooks said that he would talk with Steve Collins from Pentecostal Power Ministries. Mayor Ferguson said that we will be doing plastic eggs with stuff inside so we will need help putting the stuff into the plastic eggs. Juanita Baker said that if people bring eggs, don't bring them not stuffed. Shirley Davis asked if we already have the eggs. Mayor Ferguson said not yet. Sally Kerce said that usually the churches bring some and we get the remainder of what's needed. Mayor Ferguson said that we can order them. Juanita Baker said that we can get all that we want from the dollar store. Mayor Ferguson asked how many we had last year. Sally Kerce said that the Town didn't contribute any the last time. The churches brought all of the eggs. Mayor Ferguson asked how many did we end up with. Shirley Davis said too many. Mayor Ferguson said that we had close to 1,000. Shirley Davis said that we had some that we didn't use. Juanita Baker said that the kids loved the gold dollars more than anything. She said that it tickled them to death to get a gold dollar. Mayor Ferguson said that he was planning to do that again. Sally Kerce asked if we are still going to have hot dogs, chips and drinks. Mayor Ferguson said yes. Sally Kerce then asked what day the council decided to have it. Phil Brooks, Juanita Baker and Mayor Ferguson said that we will have it on Saturday, April 3rd. Sally Kerce then asked for a time. She said that last time we turned the kids loose at 12 noon. Jim Gilliland made a motion to have the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3rd. Juanita Baker seconded. All in favor. Sally Kerce asked if they wanted to turn the kids loose at 12 and eat after. Shirley Davis asked if they wanted to do it at 12 or 1. Sally Kerce said that it was up to the council. Everyone said 12. Mayor Ferguson asked if we wanted to

try and do everything at the concession stand this year. Sally Kerce said the people usually gather at the pavilion but we can try it at the concession stand. Juanita Baker said that it may be better at the pavilion because the concession stand is way down there. Mayor Ferguson said that it isn't that far. Shirley Davis said that when they had the community yard sale, there was food at the concession stand and no one knew anything about it. She said that we could announce that we are having it down there. Phil Brooks said that they will be running everywhere anyway. He said that they will come if the hot dogs are down there. Sally Kerce said that we can figure that part out. Juanita Baker said that if we have it at the concession stand, we won't have to take anything to cook on. Sally Kerce said it would still be quicker with a grill if we are going to have two or three hundred hot dogs like last time. It would take forever to cook them on the griddle. Michael Cabe said that we have a hot dog roller but it only holds 18 at a time. Juanita Baker said that it worked pretty well the last time. Shirley Davis said that all the tables are at the pavilion for people to eat on. Sally Kerce said that she will make sure everything is up there and they can decide where to put it. Shirley Davis asked if Kasia Ferguson will decorate. Mayor Ferguson said that she can and we will have the Easter bunny there too. Shirley said that she would help decorate. She said that we could keep it simple. Juanita Baker said that Kasia doesn't do that. Mayor Ferguson said that she doesn't do simple. Phil Brooks said that she does a good job.

Shirley Davis said that she has noticed a lot of people using the park. She said that the fence has been coated too. Mayor Ferguson said yes and it has a 20 year warranty. Shirley Davis then asked if we are going to put in for another grant since we didn't get the one to pave the track and parking lot at the park. Mayor Ferguson said that he can put in for another one this year but it won't fund until next year. Juanita Baker asked if we can use SPLOST money to do it this year. Mayor Ferguson said just the track part, yes, if that is what the council wants to do. Jim Gilliland said that the track is getting bad. Juanita Baker asked what it would cost for just the track. Mayor Ferguson said that just the track was \$29,000. He said that he would have to look at his notes to be 100% on that. Jim Gilliland said all of these people from Summerville and Alabama have been complaining about it. Mayor Ferguson said that they stop at the Dollar General and get a coke and pay sales tax so technically it's there's too. Shirley Davis said that we don't care who uses it as long as they are enjoying it. Mayor Ferguson said that we may be able to redo the track this summer.

Juanita Baker wanted to thank the town for the flowers. (The town sent a plant when her son-in-law passed away last month.) Shirley Davis said that she didn't know anything about it until it was over. Juanita Baker said that he went to the doctor on a Tuesday and they said that you have COVID and pneumonia and on the next Tuesday they said that his heart stopped. Mayor Ferguson said that it hits some people really hard. Juanita Baker said that he was a soldier for 30 years and a strong man and it didn't mean a thing.

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

Jeff and Angela Fose were in attendance. Jeff Fose said that he has a couple of questions. He said that they live on Mill Village Road and there are two junk yards at the end of his road. He asked when they are going to straighten that up. He said that the second question, he is not sure who to ask but, people are toppling headstones in the cemetery. Someone is tipping them over. He said that he walks his dog over there a lot and it seems like every time he goes, there are two or three more tipped over. Mayor Ferguson asked if he has called the sheriff's department. Jeff Fose said that he hasn't called anyone, that's why he is here tonight. He said that if someone is doing that, they need to be caught. He said that

it's hard to believe that someone would do that in this town. Juanita Baker said that they have done it before. Jeff Fose said that you can tell that it has been recently done. Jim Gilliland said that he usually rides through the cemetery three maybe four times a week because he has family buried there and he also has some plots and he has not seen anyone but he did notice that some of the older tombstones were flipped. Jim Gilliland said that the cemetery is actually not in the city limits. Mayor Ferguson said that he can still tell the guys working security to make the cemetery part of what they are keeping an eye on. Jeff Fose said that he has considered putting a trail camera up to see if he could catch them doing it. He said that there is a lot of history in that cemetery and it just bothers him. Jim Gilliland said that it has started happening more here lately. Jeff Fose said yes, it has happened more in the last three or four months. Jim Gilliland said that he isn't going to say that it is because someone has moved in and made the change but it has happened more lately. Jeff Fose said that his biggest question is about the junkyards down the street. Jim Gilliland said that he rode over by the junkyard today and it hasn't improved. Jeff Fose said that he has recently put almost \$100,000 into his house and it looks like a dump down there. Jim Gilliland asked where they live. Jeff Fose said that they live right there in the corner where Judy Heptig used to live. Sally Kerce said that he lives right past Lance Stallings. Mayor Ferguson asked who those houses belong to. Sally Kerce said they belong to Jason Newton and Gary Allmon. Mayor Ferguson said that we sent notices out to everyone that we have ordinances against this. The problem comes along when we don't have any way to enforce it. We don't have a code enforcement officer and we don't have a court. They are not the only two houses that need to be addressed. One of the problems is right here on the highway. The only thing that we have to address it is in civil court and we have never tested that before. He said that we will see how it goes with the one on the highway and if we get a positive result from that one, then we will know that we will get a positive result from the rest of them. Everyone has been told in writing from the town attorney that they are in violation of our local ordinance and they need to fix it but that doesn't mean they are going to. Mayor Ferguson said that he is stuck. He can't ask the sheriff's department to enforce our ordinances. He has talked to the Sheriff about it and he wasn't super excited about the idea. And again, that brings up the question about jurisdiction. Jeff Fose said that he knows in the state of Georgia, that salvage yards or whatever you want to call them have to meet EPA standards. If you have a car leaking transmission fluid, it can't just sit there. He said that may be another way to go about this. Mayor Ferguson said that it might be. Jim Gilliland asked if we have sent out final notices. Mayor Ferguson said not yet. Michael Cabe said that he called EPD one time and it didn't work out. Shirley Davis said that Jason Newton has a donkey that keeps getting out. Jim Gilliland said that he was going to the cemetery today and it was in the middle of the road. Shirley Davis said that there is a horse farm behind her house and that man has some high dollar horses and that donkey keeps trying to get in there with them. The man has complained about it to animal control and they said that they would contact the owner. Angela Fose said that it gets in her yard and poops but it doesn't bother her really. She said that she has a picture of him taking it back home and he is in his van leading it through the window.

Angela Fose then asked if Lyerly has a Goodwill collection box. Mayor Ferguson said that we don't and he then asked Juanita Baker if we have ever had one. Juanita Baker said that we have never had one that she knows of. Angela Fose said that she told Sally that she would help keep clean around it. Shirley Davis said that if we had one, people would just ravish through it. Juanita Baker said that there are two or three in Summerville. Sally Kerce said that Angela Fose was just saying that if Lyerly wanted to have one, she would help keep it up and clean.

Juanita Baker asked why we can't do something with this side of the old Ragland building. Clean it, paint it or something. Jim Gilliland said that a friend of his made a suggestion to get local artist to paint it. He said that he doesn't think that it is a bad idea. Mayor Ferguson agreed. Shirley Davis said that she has been fussing about that building for two or three years or however long she has been on the council. Juanita Baker said that it's just so nasty. Jim Gilliland said that we could talk to someone at the school. There are a lot of good kids over there.

Juanita Baker asked the mayor if he had forgotten about the Welcome to Lyerly signs. Mayor Ferguson said that he put that on the back burner but he will get back on it. He said that he had run into more of a cost than expected because they have to meet DOT standards to be on the highway. Jim Gilliland said that county has a sign shop. Mayor Ferguson said that he was going to get decorative signs. Juanita Baker said we want one like the Community Center and Town Hall Signs. They are nice. Mayor Ferguson said that if you put it by the state highway, it has to be able to be hit by a car and break away.

Jim Gilliland asked if the cameras are working yet. Sally Kerce said that they work, just not the app. Jim Gilliland said that we need to get in touch with the guy and say that the cameras are not working, you must not want to get paid. Mayor Ferguson said that the cameras do work and they record. They do exactly what they are supposed to be doing. We just don't have the convenience to be able to look at it on our phone from home. Shirley Davis asked if that cost more. Mayor Ferguson said no. It's there; he just can't get it to work. Jim Gilliland said that it's simple. Those people are responsible for that so it should be working so we can look at it. He asked what the problem is. Mayor Ferguson said that he doesn't know. Juanita Baker asked if we can see it here. Mayor Ferguson said yes. You can sit in there and watch it all day. Jim Gilliland said that there should be an app for it so anyone on the council can look at it or where security can see it. Juanita Baker asked if we have security. Mayor Ferguson said yes. We have off duty deputies. Juanita Baker said that she had a visitor the other night. Mayor Ferguson asked if she called the sheriff's department. She said that she did. She doesn't know if it was a peeping tom or a prowler but he made sure that she heard him outside.

Phil Brooks made the motion to adjourn. Juanita Baker seconded. All in favor.
Meeting was adjourned at 7:23 pm.

Mayor

Town Clerk