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

Jim Ferguson, Mayor

Gwen Fisher

Phil Brooks

Juanita Baker

Shirley Davis

July 9, 2019

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

***New Business:***

Mayor Ferguson said that the fence is complete. Everyone said that it looks nice. Juanita Baker said that we now need to dress up the culvert and make it look nice.

Mayor Ferguson then said that the 4th of July Festival was great. A lot of people came and everyone had a great time. Jimmy Espy won the mountain getaway. He added that he would like to thank Shirley Davis and her husband James for all of their help. And he also wanted to thank Gwen Fisher for all of her hard work with the decorations.

*Minutes–* Mayor Ferguson said that everyone should have the meeting minutes that they were given at the last meeting. Phil Brooks made the motion to approve the June 4th and June 11th meeting minutes. Gwen Fisher seconded. All in favor.

Shirley Davis asked if we sold the fire truck. Mayor Ferguson said that we did sell it to Daniel Cook for $2,500. He said that he feels like it was Mr. Cook’s way of donating to the Town.

Mayor Ferguson said that the sewer pond was struck by lightning. The chart recorder and the metering equipment that sends signals to the chart recorder were hit. Basically everything that is required by EPD that we can’t do without that cost money was hit by lightning. Gwen Fisher asked if it was insured. Mayor Ferguson said that it is but we have a $10,000 deductible and it’s about $12,000 worth of damage. He said that when the technician comes and does everything that he has to, we will know the exact cost.

Juanita Baker asked about the garbage service. Mayor Ferguson said that we will begin taking bids for our garbage service on Thursday. Juanita Baker asked if Wright’s is interested in continuing. Mayor Ferguson said yes. He added that Wright’s, Santek and Arrow Disposal will probably submit bids. He said that the first meeting in August we will discuss the bids and vote at the second meeting. He said that he thinks that all of the bids will be more than we pay now due to the increase in the price of disposal.

Mayor Ferguson said that we are also going to be taking bids for the construction of a parking lot at the corner of Hammond Street and Highway 114 for additional parking for the park. Phil Brooks asked if it will be gravel. Mayor Ferguson said yes and it will also be fenced. It will be graded, chert packed and then gravel. There is already a cut in into the lot so we won’t have to get DOT to do anything as far as an entrance. Shirley Davis asked if it will be completed before Down Home Day. Mayor Ferguson said yes, we will need it for parking.

*Goals for 2020 –* Mayor Ferguson said that he has compiled a list of things that he would like to accomplish in next year and he would like the council’s input. He said that if he can get a grant for it, there are a lot of things that he would like to do in the park. The small ball field, the dugouts and the back stops need to be redone. The big ball field isn’t in great shape but he is more concerned about the small one because it is the one that is used the most. He said that he would like to remodel the restrooms in the green building so they don’t look so bad. Shirley Davis asked if we would just leave it with one toilet. Mayor Ferguson said that we would have to unless we jack hammer the floor. He said that the track also needs to be paved really bad. He said that he would also like to relocate the playground and buy new playground equipment. Shirley Davis asked if we are going to have the money for all of this. Mayor Ferguson said, like he said before, this is only if we can get grants. This will not happen without grants. We may be able to do a little at a time but not all of it. He said that GMA does have some grants to apply for. The Tillotson grant application is coming up also. He said that is all of the plans that he has for the park for now unless someone has more suggestions.

Mayor Ferguson said that there is a new waterline that runs down Highway 114 from the Berryton Bridge to Mohawk and there are no customers on it. He said that at some point, we will need to move the customers from the old line to this new one. Michael Cabe is going to go through and see how many cut-in’s that would be. He said that it is irrelevant right now because we don’t have the money to do it. He said that he doesn’t have an actual cost estimate but he would say somewhere around $60,000. Shirley Davis asked if it will give the customers more water pressure. Mayor Ferguson said that he is sure that it will help.

Mayor Ferguson said that we need to put in a camera system. Juanita Baker asked where it would cover. Mayor Ferguson said that we need cameras to cover the community center, town hall, the park and the new parking lot. The last quote that we got was around $5,000 and that was for the community center, town hall and the fire hall. He said that if we add the park, it will probably be about $10,000. Shirley asked who would watch it or if it would alert the police. Phil Brooks said that it would just record, it wouldn’t be an alarm system. Juanita Baker said that you can run it back and look.

Mayor Ferguson said that he would like to activate our Downtown Development Authority next year also so they can manage the property that the Ragland’s donated to us. If we have a DDA, it opens up a lot more options to what you can do with a property and also opens the doors for a lot more money that we don’t have access to. Every municipality in the state has a DDA; we will just have to find members. You have to have seven members and they cannot be directly related to the mayor or council. They are appointed by the mayor. Juanita Baker asked if they have to request membership or we just ask someone. Mayor Ferguson said that we will have to find seven responsible people who own property inside town limits. Sally Kerce said that she thinks Bo Anderson and Susan Wyatt would be good ones. Shirley Davis said that the man that owns the farm behind her would be a good one. Juanita Baker said that Michael Black would be a good one too. Mayor Ferguson asked everyone to be thinking of some people who would be interested. Shirley Davis said that John Crawford would be good. Mayor Ferguson said that Kasia’s father, Dave Johnston would be good. Shirley Davis said that he is related to the Mayor. Mayor Ferguson said that in-laws are ok, he checked. Gwen Fisher said that she will not be on the council next year. Mayor Ferguson said that if she isn’t on the council, she can be a member of the DDA.

Shirley Davis asked if the Mayor had anything else that he wants for next year. Phil Brooks asked if we were going to try to address zoning or anything. Mayor Ferguson asked if Phil had any luck finding a code enforcer. Phil Brooks said no. Mayor Ferguson said that he has to find a code enforcer and then address that.

Mayor Ferguson asked if Kasia Ferguson has anything about Down Home Day. Kasia Ferguson said that Jennifer sent a proof of our ad and it was a little plain. Mayor Ferguson said that it will be promoted heavily. North Georgia Cruisers and Hunter Chastian will also be promoting it so we may draw more of a crowd than we know what to do with. Kasia Ferguson added that the beginning of August will be the big yard sale. She asked do we want to participate. Mayor Ferguson said that we had talked about letting people set up at the park, at the community center, at the Ragland building and on the lot at the corner of Hammond Street and Highway 114. Juanita Baker said that she thinks that would be fine. Shirley Davis agreed as long as they clean up behind their selves.

Mayor Ferguson opened the floor to the public at 7:41pm.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.

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Mayor Town Clerk