The Lyerly Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at Lyerly Town Hall. Those in attendance were:

Jim Ferguson, Mayor

Gwen Fisher

Phil Brooks

Juanita Baker

Shirley Davis

December 10, 2019

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

***New Business:***

Mayor Ferguson said that everyone should have their council checks for 2019. He said that he would like to point out that this is Gwen Fisher’s last meeting. Everyone said that they will miss her and Mayor Ferguson said that he would like to thank her very much for her service to the town. He added that she has done so much and it hasn’t gone unnoticed. Shirley Davis said that she hopes we have another great year next year. Mayor Ferguson said that he does too. We have had a pretty good two years. Phil Brooks said that we have accomplished a good bit. Juanita Baker asked if we found out about the Tillotson grant. Mayor Ferguson said that we got it. Juanita Baker then asked if he had looked at any playground equipment. Mayor Ferguson said that he has. Juanita Baker asked where the closest is. Mayor Ferguson said that he looked at one place but he has had a lot of people tell him about a place in Alabama that is closer so he needs to talk to them. Gwen Fisher asked if those are matching funds. Mayor Ferguson said that they gave us $20,000 and it will probably cost us another $16,000 but we are not required to match. He said that with playground equipment, $20,000 won’t buy much. It is insanely expensive. Juanita Baker said that when the Civic Club bought the playground equipment twenty years ago, it was $20,000. Mayor Ferguson said that it is going to easily cost $60,000. Juanita Baker asked if that will be similar to what Dowdy Park has. Mayor Ferguson said yes. He added that it will be March before we can do anything. Shirley Davis asked if we are going to leave it where it is. Mayor Ferguson said yes.

Mayor Ferguson said that he has been approached by some people and Chirag Patel and Arpit from the liquor store and they have asked him to ask the council if they will amend the alcohol ordinance so that they can sell starting at noon on Christmas. Juanita Baker asked “Christmas Day”? Mayor Ferguson said that they told him that last year they had to unplug the phone because they had so many people calling to see if they were open. They feel like they are missing out on a lot of revenue. Gwen Fisher said that they are already open on Sunday’s. Mayor Ferguson said that they are but the ordinance states that they can’t sell on Christmas Day. As of last year, it is legal in the state of Georgia to sell on Christmas Day starting at noon so it is up to us whether or not we allow them to do it. Mayor Ferguson said that it is money for us that we are missing out on. Phil Brooks said that he thinks that we should allow them to sell it because that is our main source of revenue. Shirley Davis said that she’s going to vote against it so it doesn’t matter. Mayor Ferguson said that he is the largest tax payer in town. Phil Brooks added that he looks at it as revenue and if people don’t spend their money here, they’ll ride to Rome and spend it. Shirley Davis said let them ride to Rome. Mayor Ferguson asked Juanita Baker what she was thinking. Juanita Baker said that she is like Phil Brooks. She doesn’t want them selling it on Christmas but they will go to Rome and get it anyway so why not sell it here. Maybe we will save someone’s life. Mayor Ferguson said that we may save some drunk from driving to Rome. Phil Brooks agreed. Gwen Fisher said that since they already sell it on Sunday and Sunday is a very special day. As far as Christmas after 12 o’clock, it will be ok. She added that we almost sell it 24/7 anyway. Juanita Baker asked if that is a yay or nay. Gwen Fisher said it is a yay. Shirley Davis said that if we are going to vote on it, put it to a vote. Phil Brooks made the motion to amend the ordinance to allow alcohol and liquor to be sold after lunch on Christmas Day. Juanita Baker seconded. Gwen Fisher was in favor. Shirley Davis opposed. Shirley Davis said that she can’t walk into her church on Sunday morning and face her people and have voted yes for that. Everyone understood. Juanita Baker said that she told her church twenty years ago that she wouldn’t vote for it but its here and like Phil Brooks says, why not use the money. Shirley Davis said that we won’t get into the politics and church so let’s move on.

Mayor Ferguson opened the floor to the public at 7:07pm.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 7:08 pm.

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Mayor Town Clerk