The Lyerly Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at Lyerly Town Hall. Those in attendance were:

Jim Ferguson, Mayor

Gwen Fisher

Phil Brooks

Juanita Baker

Shirley Davis

February 13, 2018

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

***New Business:***

*Fire Dues –* Mayor Ferguson said that we would start at the bottom of the Agenda. He gave each council member a proposal to raise fire dues from $4 to $6 per month for households on our water system and from $3.50 to $5.50 per month for households in our fire district but not on our water system. Shirley Davis said the only problem that she has with the proposal is that everyone should pay the same for fire protection. Mayor Ferguson said that he left it that way because the people that aren’t on our water system have to pay a lump sum each year. He said that he did some looking around and he found out that Walker County has to pay 10¢ per square foot of your residence. Polk County pays between $100 and $195 per year. He said that he didn’t find anyone that pays less than us. Mayor Ferguson said that if we raise it to his proposed rates, it should add about $10,000 to the fire departments budget. Phil Brooks made a motion to raise the fire dues to $6 per month for households on our water system and $5.50 for households in our fire district but not on our water system. Shirley Davis seconded. All in favor. Jimmy Espy asked if we have a plan for the use of the additional $10,000. Mayor Ferguson said that it would go toward equipment for the fire department.

*Approval of FY18 Proposed Budget –* Mayor Ferguson asked if anyone has any questions about the proposed budget. Gwen Fisher asked if $600 would be enough to send the council and mayor to Athens for training. Mayor Ferguson said probably not. He said that when he put that on there, he was thinking that I would cover gas and food. He didn’t think about lodging. He said that he would change that to $3,500. Shirley Davis asked if there is something in the budget to show the cost of the security guard. Mayor Ferguson said that he isn’t 100% of what we are going to do right now so he is just going to leave it how it is. It is under salaries and wages / security, under public safety is where it is listed on the general budget. Phil Brooks made a motion to approve the FY18 proposed budget. Juanita Baker seconded. All in favor.

*Approval of Minutes –* Gwen Fisher made a motion to approve the January 9th meeting minutes. Juanita Baker seconded. All in favor.

*Mayor Pro Tem –* Mayor Ferguson said that we pulled the ballots and the two council members that got the most votes when they ran were Shirley Davis and Phil Brooks and they tied with 69 votes each. Shirley Davis said that she would like Phil Brooks to take it. Mayor Ferguson asked Phil Brooks if he was ok with being Mayor Pro Tem. Phil Brooks said yes. Shirley Davis made a motion to appoint Phil Brooks as Mayor Pro Tem. Juanita Baker seconded. All in favor.

Shirley Davis said the for Easter, the Lyerly First Baptist Church and Lyerly United Methodist Churches are going to host an Easter egg hunt together and she was wondering if they call it a community Easter egg hunt, could they have it at the park and there not be a charge. Mayor Ferguson said that would be great. He said that the town could have it advertised in the paper.

Gwen Fisher said that she would like to update everyone on Tree City. Georgia Arbor Day is Friday. It is supposed to rain so the principal at the school said that we could have the presentation in the science room at 2pm. She said that she may take the tree over there and show what will be planted in the park.

Gwen Fisher said that a while back, she began trying to lighten her load and she told the library that she was going to have to go off of the board as the representative for Lyerly and she has not found a replacement yet. She said that they meet once a quarter around 4:30 and it may last a couple of hours. She then asked the Mayor if his wife may be interested in taking her place. Mayor Ferguson said that he would ask his wife.

Gwen Fisher made the motion to adjourn. Juanita Baker seconded. All in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

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 Mayor Town Clerk