

The Lyerly Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at Lyerly Town Hall. Those in attendance were:

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

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

**New Business:**

**Financial Reports-** Mayor Ferguson said that Sally Kerce is printing financial report right now so we should have them in a minute.

Mayor Ferguson said that he wanted to let everyone know that he working on the Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant for the park to try and get it resurfaced next year. It is a 50/50 grant and he has no idea what it cost to have this done. We are working on getting a price for asphalt and concrete. If the concrete is so expensive that we can't afford it, we will go with asphalt. Jim Gilliland said that concrete is very expensive. Juanita Baker said that the playground equipment is fantastic. She had some people from Summerville tell her how much they enjoyed it. Jim Gilliland asked if there is a sign at the park with the age limit on it. He said that he has seen some guys that look like they are in their thirties coming down the slide. Michael Cabe said that there are stickers on the equipment that shows the age limit. Juanita Baker said that if you see someone like that on it, pull in and see what they are doing. You can call 911.

Mayor Ferguson said that we received the first part of the CARES Grant for COVID relief. We got with Lyerly School and we are going to buy them 8 iPads, pencils and cases for virtual learning. Juanita Baker asked if 8 is all that they needed. Mayor Ferguson said no, we are purchasing one for each grade. Mayor Ferguson said that he would like to mention that it looked like we weren't going to get the money because the instructions weren't very clear because it was just thrown together and it looked like we missed the deadline. He thought that we did everything that was required but we hadn't so he had given up on it but Sally Kerce made it work. Not only did she get the money that we had discussed giving to the school, she got the salaries for the security guards for the last three months. Everyone said that was great.

Mayor Ferguson said that the advertisements for bids for the cameras has been in the paper for a week. We will run it for the month of September and go over them at the next meeting. Jim Gilliland asked if anyone has submitted a bid yet. Mayor Ferguson said no. Juanita Baker said that it sounds like we need the cameras if people in their thirties are on the playground equipment. Sally Kerce said that she is going to get with Parker Systems to see if they want to bid on it since they are local. Mayor Ferguson said that it won't be cheap. Jim Gilliland said that it needs to work using the internet here. Mayor Ferguson said that he put that in the bid. He said that one of the requirements is that it is

viewable online and records at least 72 hours. Mayor Ferguson said that he has no idea what this will cost. He has a number in his head but he has no idea if it's accurate. He added that he is thinking \$20,000 - \$25,000. Phil Brooks said that he thinks that may be a little high. Mayor Ferguson said that he hopes so; he is just thinking worst case scenario.

Mayor Ferguson said that Michael Cabe is going to be coming to at least one meeting a month from now on. Since he is here, the mayor said that he would like to know if anyone has any questions for him or any problems with the job he is doing. Jim Gilliland said that he would like to know what time they come in in the mornings and what time they go home in the evenings. Michael Cabe said that they usually get here around 6:30 in the morning and normally clock in about 15 till 7:00 and then they normally leave around 15 till 3:00. Jim Gilliland then asked if they do that in the winter too. He said that it's dark in the winter so what can you do. Michael Cabe said that they usually leave at 15 till 3 to get around school traffic because it's already lined up. He said sometimes, he changes it to 6:30 to 2:30 but they didn't really do that this year. They stayed with 7:00 to 3:00 which is more like 6:45 to 2:45. Shirley Davis asked who is charge of mowing the right of ways in the town. Michael Cabe said that we are. The county usually takes care of Cemetery Road and Lyerly Dam Road. Shirley Davis said that she doesn't know who bush hogged the field at Daniel Cook's but they did a poor job. Michael Cabe said that is Daniel Cook's private property so he is responsible for keeping it mowed. Shirley Davis said that she has noticed some rights of ways haven't been being mowed. Mayor Ferguson asked which ones she was talking about. Shirley Davis said the ones in Reynolds Subdivision. Shirley Davis said that the homeowners keep everything mowed on her road. Jim Gilliland said that he had a tree limb fall at his house and he doesn't know the youngest guys name or he may not be the youngest but the smaller guy that works here, he came over there and cut it up and didn't act like he liked it. He added that he gave the rest of the wood away. He said that the guy that works here that cut it up was going to throw it over into Jones yard but he told him not to do that. Michael Cabe said that he did that because our backhoe and or dump truck were being used by the contractors at the sewer ponds. Jim Gilliland said that he didn't need either one of those things. There wasn't that much. Michael Cabe said that they went the next day and it filled up the dump truck. Jim Gilliland said that he thought the Sims guy that he gave it to had came and gotten it. Michael Cabe said that he and the other two guys got it up.

Juanita Baker asked how the pole barn at the sewer pond is coming. Michael Cabe said that it is at a dead stop. He said that the engineers have shut them down because it is about 6" to short. They did all of their measurements before they added the 6" of chert and 3" of gravel so now everything is out of whack. Shirley Davis said that her neighbor moved the car that she was complaining about out of the road. Phil Brooks said that at the intersection of Lyerly Dam and Highway 114, the church puts a sign to give away food and he has had two complaints about it blocking people's line of sight. He added that he turned around and went to check on it and it does block the line of sight. Shirley Davis said that it does block your view. Juanita Baker said that it is only up a couple days a month. Shirley Davis said that those couple of days per month, you have to pull out into the highway to see. Juanita Baker said to just tell them to move it over. Shirley Davis said that she has already told them once. Phil Brooks said that it can be moved back from the highway some. Mayor Ferguson asked Juanita if she would tell the Baptist church about this since she attends there. Juanita Baker said that she will tell them. She also wanted to add that the Baptist church appreciates the town cutting the dead tree down. Mayor Ferguson asked if anyone has anything else for Michael Cabe. Juanita Baker asked about the liners for the sewer ponds. Michael Cabe said that they have not gotten to it yet. The last he heard, it was supposed to have been last week but he guesses that all of the rain set them back. He said that the two aerators have been

replaced. He is having some issues with one of them so they may have to pull it and figure out something else. One of the spray field pumps has been installed and he was told that they will be here this week to install the other one.

Jim Gilliland said that he has had a couple of complaints about what time you guys go out in the mornings and what time you come in in the evenings. It's the same person that is complaining about street lights. He then told Michael Cabe that he knows that he doesn't have anything to do with the street light, that's Georgia Power. Jim Gilliland said that he guesses that they see Michael Cabe here a lot and he added that he see them here a lot too. People see the trucks here a lot. He said that they may be working inside or he doesn't know what they are doing but if you having something that you can do at the park, ya'll could be up there working. Michael Cabe said that they stay pretty busy. If they are here, there is either something going on or they are taking a quick break before they go to the next job. It is summertime and he has to give breaks. He said that he has had one employee have a stroke before and it cost the city \$50,000. As far as in the mornings, they are gone before 7:00 and get back about 7:30, then they have to do the chlorine check, the fluoride check and then they fill the coolers and head out. Jim Gilliland said that should take one person, right? Michael Cabe said that one person does each job. In the evenings, they are usually back here at the shop by 2:00 because the route has to be done at 2:00. Jim Gilliland asked what route he is talking about. Michael Cabe said that it's to check the well houses. Everything has to be done at the same time every day. Jim Gilliland asked if they split up and each goes to a different place. Michael Cabe said that they both (JR and Jason) go together. Jim Gilliland asked if it is a job that one person can't handle. Michael Cabe said that it's a job that he'd rather them both do together. It has been that way since he has been here. Jim Gilliland asked why he would rather them do it together. Michael Cabe said that there are times that you run into issues and you can use another set of hands. He said that is why it is done at 2:00 and not 2:30 so when you run into those issues, which you do a lot, then you're not having to pay overtime to deal with it. Shirley Davis said that it is safer for two people to go that way if someone gets hurt, there is someone there with them. Michael Cabe said that it is safer. Sally Kerce said that there are a lot of times when the trucks are here but the guys aren't. Michael Cabe said that they could be gone on equipment, walking or anything. He added that you can't judge their whereabouts by the trucks. Michael Cabe said that he is responsible for over 65 miles of pipeline, just water and over 15 miles of sewer line. Just because they aren't seen on this strip of highway, doesn't mean they aren't working. Jim Gilliland said that they should just pull the trucks inside if they are off working. Shirley Davis and Michael Cabe both asked why. Jim Gilliland said that is just a suggestion. Michael Cabe said that he has two vehicles and only one bay. Jim Gilliland asked Michael Cabe if he is running the city now. Michael Cabe said yes, I am running my job. Jim Gilliland said "so you're running everything, right?" Michael Cabe said yes I am running my job until ya'll say I'm doing it wrong. Jim Gilliland said that is just a suggestion from him. Juanita Baker said that she thinks it is perfectly fine to have the trucks sitting outside. Jessica Cabe asked Jim Gilliland if that person has that much time to see when they are here, why he doesn't ask them to volunteer to help out with the city, maybe pick up some trash or something. Jim Gilliland told Jessica Cabe that if she would like to..... Jessica Cabe then said that she would be more than glad to ask them if they have that much time, to help pick up or volunteer. Mayor Ferguson said that he doesn't have a problem with them parking the trucks outside while they are here at work. It would be a giant headache to pull them inside everyday especially when they have projects going on. Jim Gilliland said that he has been here several times and they weren't working. They were out there in the shop. They are being paid to work, it's just that simple. Mayor Ferguson asked what they were doing. Jim Gilliland said that he doesn't know but they were

doing nothing when he came up. Mayor Ferguson asked Jim Gilliland to define nothing. Jim Gilliland said nothing, standing around. He said that when someone asks him what they do and he has heard it a lot lately, what those guys do; there is three of them, what do they do. Michael Cabe said to look around. He added that Jim Gilliland has walked in the shop twice since he has been on the council. Jim Gilliland said "and nobody was working either." Mayor Ferguson said 65 miles of waterline and 15 miles of sewer line. Juanita Baker said and how much mowing and weed eating. Mayor Ferguson added the wastewater treatment and nonstop mowing. Michael Cabe said that there is 48 acres at the sewer ponds and 15 acres at the park that has to be kept up. That doesn't include all of the right of ways on all of the pipe. It is a job. Mayor Ferguson asked Michael Cabe on top of all of this, how many times he has to go out every week after he gets off work. Michael Cabe said that he goes back out every day. Mayor Ferguson asked that if Jason or JR is on call, after they get off, they have to go back out, right? Michael Cabe said yes. Jim Gilliland told Michael Cabe that he thinks that he is compensated pretty well for what he does. Michael Cabe said that he isn't complaining. He said that he has worked hard for it. Jessica Cabe said that some sacrifices aren't noticed. Juanita Baker asked if we have anything else. Mayor Ferguson said that he doesn't think that we are finished with this. Juanita Baker said that she knew that, she was just wondering if the mayor had anything else to talk about. Mayor Ferguson said no.

Jim Gilliland said that he is not satisfied with those answers but if that's the way they want to vote, then vote that way. Mayor Ferguson asked what vote, we aren't voting on anything. Jim Gilliland said that you're happy with the job. Mayor Ferguson told Jim Gilliland that he hasn't given him a good reason why he is unhappy except for the two times that he has stopped by that his perception was that nothing was happening. Jim Gilliland said that there is more than two times that he has observed. It's like the little bridge up here; nothing was done about it until someone said something. That was a liability for the city. He said that he stopped one day and made pictures of it and then all of a sudden the next day or two, there is a bridge. Michael Cabe asked what bridge he is talking about. Jim Gilliland said the little walking bridge. Jessica Cabe added that it's the one that Michael was building in the shop. Juanita Baker said that she loves that it says Lyerly on it. Shirley Davis said that every time they go by it her husband says how pretty it is. Michael Cabe said that the feedback that he gets from the older generation is that Lyerly looks better than it ever has and the younger generation tells him that we have the best looking town in the county. He added that Jim Gilliland is the only complaint that he gets. Jim Gilliland said that he is the only one on the council complaining. Mayor Ferguson said that no one has said anything negative to him. He then asked the council if anyone has said anything negative to them. Phil Brooks and Juanita Baker both said no. Jim Gilliland said that people have said stuff to him and he then said that Shirley Davis has said negative things about stuff. Shirley Davis said that all she questioned was why the grass hasn't been mowed in the right of ways. Mayor Ferguson said that if she notices things like that, let him or Michael know and they'll make sure it is taken care of. Shirley Davis said that she doesn't think any of it has been done in Reynolds Subdivision except for what the people do. Michael Cabe said that the only right of way that they have ever done over there is the back stretch behind her house. Shirley Davis asked about the ditch beside Ragland's building. Michael Cabe said that they do all of that. Jim Gilliland asked if they do all of the city right of ways. Michael Cabe said that they try but it is a lot. Mayor Ferguson said that Michael Cabe will start being at the meetings every month and he feels that this where we address any problems that we have with him. Jim Gilliland said that he thinks it is a good idea that he is here every month. Mayor Ferguson said that this way, he won't hear about it second hand. Where people are saying negative things about the job that Michael is doing outside of here to people who live in town and it gets back to him. That's not fair. If people have a

problem with the job that Michael is doing, this is the place to address it. Jim Gilliland said maybe just come to the council meetings. Mayor Ferguson said that maybe he won't hear anything else second hand and neither will Michael. Shirley Davis said that she didn't say anything to anyone about the grass so she knows that it didn't come from her. Juanita Baker said that she had her grass mowed and the guys came by and blew the grass off the sidewalks. Michael Cabe said that things do get behind when other stuff is added onto them. For the playground, they shoveled 280 ton of pea gravel. Shirley Davis said that it looks really good too. Juanita Baker said that the playground is wonderful. Mayor Ferguson said that he doesn't think the three of them could stand up straight for two weeks after wheel barreling all of that pea gravel.

Mayor Ferguson opened the floor to the public at 7:23pm.

Juanita Baker made the motion to adjourn. Phil Brooks seconded. All in favor.  
Meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm.

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Mayor

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Town Clerk