The Lyerly Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at Lyerly Town Hall. Those in attendance were:

Josh Wyatt, Mayor

Ellen Wyatt

Robert Thompson, Jr.

Gwen Fisher

JANUARY 12, 2016

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

Everyone welcomed by Mayor Wyatt.

***New Business:***

*Financial Reports –* No Discussion

*Approval of Minutes –* Ellen Wyatt made a motion to approve the November 10th Meeting minutes. Robert Thompson seconded. All in favor.

*Adoption of FY16 Budget –* Robert Thompson made a motion to approve the FY16 Budget. Gwen Fisher seconded. All in favor.

*Marie Hanna –* Marie Hanna began by saying that Tony and Jenny Patel has been a member of the community for quite some time as business owners. She said that they have prospered and brought money into the town, brought commerce into the town and also brought people into the town. She then stated that Tony and his sister, Neda Patel, want to open a restaurant inside the old Lucky’s. She said that they would like to gut the whole inside of Lucky’s and remodel the whole thing. They want to totally redo the outside. They want to put in a restaurant that serves seafood, steaks and also fast food that the mill workers can come by and get something. She continued by saying that they would like to start out opening the restaurant at lunch on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. And then as it gets going, they will have it open more days and then eventually breakfast as well. She then added that Tony does not feel that he can make it go as just a restaurant, he wants to have a beer and wine license but he needs approval from the council for that. Marie then said that he had 739 people come into his store New Year’s eve from all over. She said that if we had a restaurant to serve that many people, that’s money coming into this town. Marie then said that she needs to know if the council would be willing to give them that beer and wine license. If so, they would be able to open the restaurant by summer. Neda Patel said probably late summer, since it is such a big project. Neda then added that it will have a whole new image. They wouldn’t just put up a new sign and put tables in. She said that wouldn’t work. Another person in the audience added that Tony has a pool of expertise to pull from. He said that if this happens, he would be assisting and he has about 34 years experience in food and beverage. Robert Thompson asks who he was. He stated that he and Tony have a Huddle House in Chickamauga that does very well. Marie added that everyone that comes in and spends their money in this restaurant is more money for the Town. Robert Thompson asked if they have any plans drew up. Neda Patel said that they have a good idea of what it will be like but they are not going to move any further until they see how the council feel about the beer and wine license. Everything from design to menus will depend on the answer from the council. Gwen Fisher asked if it would be limited to beer and wine. Neda Patel said yes. Marie Hanna added that what they plan on is having booths on the side and tables in the middle and a bar over to the side. She said it will have a hot bar also. She said that you will never know that it was Lucky’s. Neda Patel stated that she understands that someone should have plans drew up before coming to the council but it depends whether or not they get the license as to what it will be like. She added that without the license, they will not have as many guests and it will not require as much as it would with the serving license. She said but once the council says that they will give them the serving license, then she could bring something on paper. She said that she is from England and has 4 restaurants and has been in business for many years. She would like to benefit Lyerly but also people from outside Lyerly, also. She said that the space is so big that once it is up a running, they could possibly have a room for small parties or meetings. She said that there is so much you can do with it but it will take time. She said that she believes that it will benefit her, the town and other people. She said that she was here over Christmas and saw how many people came to Lyerly to get liquor and she doesn’t see why they would come to eat. If you have a nice place, people will come further to enjoy it. She said that she is planning on a diverse menu. Robert Thompson said that he would like to have a local restaurant. Marie Hanna said that they plan to put Lyerly in the name so when people hear about the new restaurant, they know where it is. She said that the owner of Smith Ironworks wants this restaurant. Robert Thompson said that if the council votes yes on this, he doesn’t want it to be a shabby place. Ellen Wyatt added that she doesn’t want it to be turned into a bar. Marie Hanna said that Tony had guaranteed her that it would not turn into a bar and it would not look crappy on the outside. Mayor Wyatt said that the way that the ordinance is written, food sales have to make up 80% of the business. You can only have 20% of your sales be alcohol. Robert Thompson said that they will have to make sure and ID. Neda Patel added that she would like to have tables outside for people. Robert Thompson ask that if the council was to vote on this, how soon could they have plans. Neda said that they will be getting the council designs and everything. Mayor Wyatt said that the council will not be able to approve the license because the restaurant does not exist and they will have to do an application but if the council all agree that they want to do this, we could give them a letter of intent. Ellen Wyatt said that she feels that maybe the council should table it and discuss it at the beginning of next month. Mayor Wyatt said that the license would have to be applied for and the council would then review the application and then approve the license that way. Mayor Wyatt said that they don’t have to have the full design; it could be the general idea. Robert Thompson made a motion to give them a letter of intent with the stipulation that they provide the council with a copy of the plans, what it consist of and what it will look like on the outside and inside and then at that time, they will fill out an application for the beer and wine and then the council will approve the beer and wine license. Gwen Fisher seconded. All in favor.

Mayor Wyatt opened the floor to the public at 7:28.

Robert Thompson made the motion to adjourn. Gwen Fisher seconded. All in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:29.

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 Mayor Town Clerk