The Lyerly Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at Lyerly Town Hall. Those in attendance were:

Jim Ferguson, Mayor

Phil Brooks

Juanita Baker

Shirley Davis

March 12, 2019

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

***New Business:***

*Minutes–* Mayor Ferguson asked if anyone had any questions about the minutes. Juanita Baker asked if we are going to leave the regulations for mobile homes the same or if we are going to change them. She said that she thinks that it depends on the area. She said that over close to where Phil Brooks lives, that houses are pretty well spaced out and you wouldn’t want anything any closer. But here in town, where the lots are not as big, they still have a right to have a place to live. Phil Brooks said that he disagrees. He said that if they don’t have an acre, they should be able to put one in. Shirley Davis said that there are not many lots that are an acre in town. Phil Brooks said that is right. Mayor Ferguson said that he thinks that Phil Brook’s argument is convincing. He said that he sees a lot of small lots in town that we wouldn’t want trailers on. Phil Brooks said that we would end up having a trailer park. Mayor Ferguson said that the regulations right now require you to have a double wide first of all and it has to be so far from the property line, you couldn’t put a trailer in town. People can always come before the council and ask for a variance. It doesn’t have to be approved but they have the right to ask. Shirley Davis said that she didn’t like that they put a double wide in because she thought that they were supposed to come before the council and it be voted on before they could move it in. Mayor Ferguson said that as long as they have the space, it’s the proper distance from the property line on all sides and the trailer is the right width, they do not have to come before the council. Shirley Davis asked if they are going to hook up to water and sewer. Sally Kerce said that they already have. Juanita Baker then asked if we are just going to let the current regulations stand. Mayor Ferguson said that if the rules are fairly strict, it will discourage what none of us want. Juanita Baker said that there used to be the rule of no trailers in the subdivision. Shirley Davis said that it was voted on later that trailers would be allowed with regulations. She said that if we are going to let people put a trailer in, they should have to sign something saying that they agree to go by our rules and regulations. Mayor Ferguson said that this brings us back around to the fact that we do not have an enforcement mechanism. We don’t have anyone in power to enforce any of this. But most people want to follow the rules and we have been relative lucky so far. He added that since he has been in office, anyone interested in putting a trailer has came by and asked about the regulations and tried to follow the rules. Shirley Davis said that there will be someone who comes along and just does what they want and then we are stuck with it. Phil Brooks said that in that case, we could deny them sewer and water service. Mayor Ferguson said that he isn’t a huge fan of the government telling people what they can do with their own property but there has to be some rules and regulations or it would be a free for all. Sally Kerce asked Phil Brooks if he wants to make the rule that you have to have an acre to put a trailer on. Phil Brooks said yes. Mayor Ferguson said that he thinks an acre is reasonable. Sally Kerce said that right now, it says for public water and sewage, you much have 10,000 square feet. Phil Brooks said that is only a ¼ of an acre. Sally Kerce said that the council can vote to change that to an acre. Jimmy Espy said that he has a pretty nice house sitting on a ½ acre lot. He asked why they would want to go to a whole acre. He said that if you want to stop people from building, that’s one way to do it. Mayor Ferguson said that we are only talking about trailer. This is not for people building houses or making improvements. Jimmy Espy then asked if Phil Brooks doesn’t want trailers. Phil Brook said he doesn’t; especially in the nucleolus of the city.

Mayor Ferguson said that this also brings us around to the clean up ordinance that we have talked about. He said that he has sent a copy of the ordinance to the town attorney and he asked him to make recommendations on how to rewrite it so it will be more up to date and he also asked him to provide what he thought would be a good enforcement mechanism. Mayor Ferguson added that the attorney said that our ordinance is completely legal and we can require of our citizens everything in it. He is going to get back with the mayor with some enforcement options.

Mayor Ferguson said that he was out riding around and thought that it would be nice if we could have a day where we take our dump truck and went around and picked up things. If we helped people haul unwanted things off a couple of days a year. All of the council said that they would be for a cleanup day.

Mayor Ferguson said that we had some trees taken down throughout town; some on Chattooga Avenue, Lyerly Dam and Highway 114. Juanita Baker and Shirley Davis asked if they looked at the one by the church. Mayor Ferguson said that we tried to go ahead and get the most hazardous ones and we will now make a list of others that need to be taken care of.

Juanita Baker made a motion to approve the February 5th and February 12th meeting minutes. Shirley Davis seconded. All in favor.

Mayor Ferguson said that we got the LMIG grant. They originally sent us a check in the amount of $56,000 but that was an error. We are now waiting on the correct check. Juanita Baker asked what LMIG stands for. Sally Kerce said Local Maintenance Improvement Grant. We asked for funds to improve the drainage on some of the streets.

Mayor Ferguson opened the floor to the public at 7:24pm.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

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Mayor Town Clerk