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

Jim Ferguson, Mayor

Gwen Fisher

Phil Brooks

Juanita Baker

Shirley Davis

September 10, 2019

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

***New Business:***

*Minutes–* Mayor Ferguson asked if anyone had any problems with the minutes. Phil Brooks made a motion to approve the August 6th and August 13th meeting minutes. Juanita Baker seconded. All in favor.

Mayor Ferguson asked who all will be at Down Home Day. Juanita Baker said that she will be out of town. She plans vacation for October since Down Home Day is usually in September. If she would have known that it was going to be moved, she would have made other plans. Shirley Davis said that she will be there until 2:00 and then she will have to leave. Phil Brooks and Gwen Fisher said that they plan to be there. Phil Brooks said that it sounds like it will be well attended. Mayor Ferguson said that David Burkhalter, the president of the car club, called him to touch base about the car show. Juanita Baker asked how many cars we are expecting. Mayor Ferguson said that David Burkhalter said anywhere from 100-300 cars. Gwen Fisher asked if we have room for that many cars. Mayor Ferguson said yes, we do on the big ball field. And if it rains, we will line them up around the walking track.

Mayor Ferguson said that he found out that if we have less than $500,000 in expenditures, we do not have to have an audit every year. We can have one every other year. He said that total expenditures for 2018 were $486,537 so it was under the $550,000. If the charter says that we don’t have to have an audit every year, he would like to eliminate that cost. Gwen Fisher asked what the charge for the audit is. Mayor Ferguson said that it is around $7,000. Shirley Davis asked if the grant money is included in total. Mayor Ferguson said that it wouldn’t be for 2018 because we haven’t received it yet so we may could skip the audit for one year but once we receive that money, we will have to have one every year. State law requires annual or bi-annual audits based on expenses. Mayor Ferguson said that if it is ok with everyone, we may be able to skip the audit this year to cover 2018. Shirley Davis asked again when we fix the sewage, will that go toward our expenditures. Phil Brooks said that if we spend the money it will. Shirley Davis then asked when we are going to get started with that project. Mayor Ferguson said that we have started. The engineers have been doing their part. They had to send a sample of the liner for the sewer ponds off to figure out how to best fix the liner and then they will have to start lining up vendors. Gwen Fisher made a motion to have the audit every other year as long as we meet the criteria. Phil Brooks seconded. All in favor. Juanita Baker said as long as it is ok with the state.

Mayor Ferguson said that starting next year, he is going to take 5% of everything that we take in and 3% of that in an enterprise fund to repair infrastructure so that when something is stuck by lightening, like what happened at the sewer pond, we will have the money to fix it. Juanita Baker asked where the other 2% is going. Mayor Ferguson said that the other 2% is going to go toward paying off the latest GEFA loan that we had to get to match funds for repairs the sewer ponds. We will make our regularly scheduled payments and then 2% of all of our revenue will go toward eliminating that debt quicker. Financially it doesn’t make since to put a lot of capital towards it because interest is only 2.5% but next year there is a grant coming up that could be a significant amount of money for the park. It will require matching funds and in order to do that, we will need to free up some available area in order to borrow some more money. Shirley Davis said that we won’t be buying any trucks or anything like that in 2020 so that is behind us except for paying for it. Phil Brooks said that most of it is paid for. Mayor Ferguson said that we paid cash for the newest truck and the tractor so we only owe for one of the trucks. Juanita Baker asked about the fire truck. Mayor Ferguson said that that payment comes from the Fire Department funds. Juanita Baker then asked what the mayor had planned for the park. Mayor Ferguson said that he has talked to the Regional Commission and will have more details later but maybe we could completely redo the playground with all new playground equipment and resurface the walking track. Shirley Davis asked if in the future we could get some grants to repair some of the roads in the town. She said that her road is awful. Mayor Ferguson said that the county works on the roads. Juanita Baker said that there is a big hole where you turn onto the road to go to the post office. Phil Brooks said that is probably on the state.

Shirley Davis asked if the mayor saw the post on Facebook that asked if we would give a tax break to the Dollar Store if they would put in a market. Someone commented that the house behind the Dollar Store is empty if it was purchase, they could put a market there. Shirley Davis said that she commented back and said that would be up to the Dollar Store to ask for the tax break and to purchase the property. Mayor Ferguson said that Tony Patel owns that house and he won’t sell it. Shirley Davis said that she wishes that we could get a grocery store one day.

Mayor Ferguson said that Kasia wanted him to ask if anyone has had any luck on the cookbook sales or donations for Down Home Day. Juanita Baker said that she doesn’t have any donations but she has about 10 cookbook sales in her head. Gwen Fisher said that everyone needs to know who is doing what. Shirley Davis said that way everyone doesn’t go to the same person.

Mayor Ferguson opened the floor to the public at 7:17pm.

Shirley Davis, Gwen Fisher and Juanita Baker discussed what to do around the tree at the new parking lot. They agreed that if you put too much dirt or mulch around the tree, it will kill it. Mayor Ferguson asked if they use wild flowers, won’t it look like weeds about ¾ of the year. Gwen Fisher said that she is going to talk to the ladies of the civic club and see what they have to say. Mayor Ferguson said that there is the plaque and they may be able to put a bench at the base of the tree. Gwen Fisher said that would be nice. Phil Brooks said that you could build a bench all the way around the tree with a planter around the back of it, like a window planter. Shirley Davis said that anything she has in her yard that they would like to use, just ask.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm.

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Mayor Town Clerk