The Lyerly Town Council met for their agenda planning meeting on Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at Lyerly Town Hall. Those in attendance were:

Jim Ferguson, Mayor

Gwen Fisher

Phil Brooks

Juanita Baker

Shirley Davis

May 1, 2018

Mayor Ferguson began the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Ferguson said that the first thing that he would like to talk about is the ordinance book. He said that it is a mess. There are things in it that shouldn’t be and there are things that are not in it that should be. He said that he doesn’t have time to redo it on his own. His idea is that each council member take a portion and go through it, read it and if it makes sense, put a tab on it explaining what it is in reference to. If it makes no sense, put it aside for the council to look over and decide what to do with it. And when they are finished doing that, he and Sally will go through and organize the book. Mayor Ferguson added that we will not be getting rid of anything permanently. If we decide that something needs to be removed for some reason, we will write a resolution and the council can vote to pass it or not and it will go into the book of discarded ordinances. That way if anything ever comes up, it is still there with a copy of the resolution explaining why it was removed. Mayor Ferguson said that he doesn’t expect this to happen overnight. He knows that we may have to write some ordinances and we will have to use the town attorney for some things. He added that there is a public nuisance ordinance in there that is incomplete. He said that we could add a lot to that. We could also add public safety to this. For instance, keeping properties cleaned up.

Mayor Ferguson said that we do not have an enforcement mechanism. So we don’t have anyone to enforce the ordinances, however, he was told by the Georgia Municipal Association that we could use our local law enforcement agency to enforce our ordinances but the ordinances have to be written up correctly. He added that he cannot confidently approach the sheriff until the ordinance book is fixed. Juanita Baker said that she has asked several people about cleaning up their yard. She said that she even stopped and fussed at Tony about the burnt house beside the Lyerly Drive Thru. Mayor Ferguson said that he is going to look into having the fire department finish burning it.

Mayor Ferguson said that he would like to entertain the idea of naming the small ball field. The large ball field already has a name, Bob Dover Field. We were thinking about Ricky Canada. Town Clerk Sally Kerce said that she just threw out the idea of naming it after Ricky Canada because he has coached for so many years and his family has donated to the recreation department since he has passed away. Juanita Baker said that she thinks that would be fine. Mayor Ferguson said that we will see if his family would want to attend the next meeting and he will have a resolution ready and the council can vote to adopt it next week. Juanita Baker added that she thinks for the Railroad Avenue Park, just name it Railroad Park. She said that Gwen Fisher is going to paint the door and the windows on the pump house. Mayor Ferguson said that we had discussed naming the park after Sharon Cook, Daniel Cook’s daughter. Juanita Baker said no. Shirley Davis added that she likes Railroad Park. It is on Railroad Avenue so why not have it be Railroad Park. Juanita added that Sharon has the sidewalk from the highway to the school.

Mayor Ferguson said that he is going to jump to the concession stand since we are taking about parks. He said that we have been looking and he thinks that we can go ahead and build the concession stand this summer. What he was thinking is having a concrete pad and a metal building. You can order the metal building to be made how you want it and then they will come and install in on the concrete pad. The metal building that he has been looking at run between $12,000 and $20,000. Shirley Davis asked where the funds for this would come from. Mayor Ferguson said SPLOST. Shirley Davis added that we keep adding more and more stuff and at some point we need to stop. Mayor Ferguson said that we are not going to be able to do anything with the Ragland building right now. Shirley Davis said she just wanted to make sure that we have the funds for it. Phil Brooks asked about security. Mayor Ferguson said that we can put up a few cameras.

Shirley Davis said she was just worried that we keep adding more and more stuff but if we aren’t going to do the Ragland building, this is ok. Mayor Ferguson said that it has just turned out to cost way more than we thought. Juanita Baker asked if we can go ahead and clean it up and paint it. Mayor Ferguson said that yes, we can do that. He is just saying that he had about $40,000 set aside in the budget for the restoration of the building and it is going to be between $150,000 and $200,000 to restore it. He added that he thinks that there is grant money that we can get to help out but it isn’t going to happen this year. Shirley Davis said that she just wants the windows to be boarded up and the building painted. She said that we have the new truck, trying to get the new fire truck; we are going to paint that building and build a concession stand. Until we get all of that done, she thinks that we need to put a squeaking halt to any spending. Juanita Baker said that since we are going to clean the building up and paint it, could we have a mural painted on it. There is someone coming to Summerville to paint some murals on their building. We could talk to them and see what the cost would be.

Mayor Ferguson said that Michael Cabe is shooting the sewer for the concession stand. We have to figure out how we are going to run the sewer. We only have one choice and that is to go under the creek and connect to the sewer line and we are not sure that the grade will work. We might end up having to grant ourselves a variance for a septic tank, if we can get it to perk. We are going to try our best to run sewer. Mayor Ferguson said that on the high side, we are probably looking at $25,000 to $30,000 for the cost of the concession stand. We will also have a platform built for the score keepers. He thinks that it will look so much better. Shirley Baker asked how big it will be. Mayor Ferguson said 30’ x 30’. That will be storage on the back, bathrooms and concessions on the front. We will also have a small covered area on the front for picnic tables.

Mayor Ferguson said that we decided on Mondays and Thursdays for the farmer’s market. Everyone that we talked to said that no one would be here on Tuesdays or Saturdays due to trade day. Shirley Davis asked where it will be. Mayor Ferguson said that it will be in the parking lot of the Ragland building. Vendors will only be able to sell consumable goods or small livestock; nothing bigger than a goat. Vendors can set up May through October and we are not charging vendors this year.

Mayor Ferguson said that we need to set a date for the 4th of July festival. We need to make sure it is not the same day as Summerville’s. We also need to decide if we are going to do a BBQ cook-off or a chili cook-off. Shirley Davis said that we do a BBQ cook-off at Down Home Day so we don’t need to do BBQ. Mayor Ferguson said that he was thinking chili. Shirley Davis said that we need one person who is over it to keep it organized. Mayor Ferguson said that he will ask Kasia if she will be over it. Shirley Davis said that she will help Kasia but she doesn’t want to be over it. Juanita Baker asked what the date will be. We have June 30th or July 7th. Town Clerk Sally Kerce said that she would 99% bet that Summerville will have theirs on June 30th. She called someone from Summerville and they confirmed that Summerville’s will be on Saturday, June 30th. Mayor Ferguson said that we will do ours on Saturday, July 7th. Juanita Baker said that we can have real horse shoes. We can also have corn hole. Shirley Davis said that we need to have an old fashioned 4th of July. Juanita Baker said that she thinks that we still need the waterslide for the kids. Mayor Ferguson said that we will get inflatable’s. Juanita Baker said that we can see if the churches want to help. Also, we can see if the people that get together on Thursday’s and pick at the community center want to come play. Town Clerk Sally Kerce said that she will send invitations to all of the food vendors that attend Down Home Day. Everyone discussed what kind of cook-off that we need to have. Everyone agreed on chili. Mayor Ferguson said that he would be a judge. Phil Brooks said that he would also. Mayor Ferguson said that we can get the security guard, Billy Norton, to be the other judge. Mayor Ferguson said that they will judge the chili at 3pm. Gwen Fisher asked what the prize for the chili cook-off will be. Mayor Ferguson said that we can have a trophy. He also said that we will get some decorations.

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting ended at 8:08 p.m.

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Mayor Town Clerk