

The Lyerly Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at Lyerly Town Hall. Those in attendance were:

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

January 21, 2020

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

New Business:

Minutes– Mayor Ferguson said that everyone should have gotten minutes last week. He then asked if there were any questions. Juanita Baker made a motion to approve the November 5th Work session, November 12th Meeting & December 10th Meeting minutes. Phil Brooks seconded. All in favor.

Mayor Ferguson said that is all that he has on the agenda but this is the first time with what we are going to be doing from now on with having the fire chief or deputy chief come to the meetings at least every quarter. They can update everyone on what is going on, how everything is going, how many calls they have answered and so on. Mayor Ferguson then asked the deputy fire chief, Kenneth Thompson, if he has any updates. Kenneth Thompson said that right now they are trying to get a basic extrication class set up for all of the rookies in the county. He has to get with Georgia Fire Center of Training to get the class set up. It will probably be in Summerville, off of Lyerly Street. He said that as of right now, they should have about 17 or 18 people. They want to do it in a central location since there will be some people from all local departments. Mayor Ferguson asked how many cars that they are going to need. Kenneth Thompson said that it depends on the class size but as of right now, they should need three. He added that they are also going to try to get a CPR class lined up because our CPR certification runs out in April. As far as fire hydrants, they have 14 more hydrants and they will be done testing all of the hydrants. Mayor Ferguson asked for the total number of fire hydrants that we have. Kenneth Thompson said that we have around 137 to 140. We have one on Oak Hill Road that is out of service. He then added that he had spoken with the representative from NAFECO about purchasing turn out gear for Lance Walker. He will be here February 3rd the fit Lance for the gear. He said that is about everything.

Mayor Ferguson said that we had discussed raising the cost of renting the Community Center but he said that he doesn't see any reason to do so. Clerk Sally Kerce said that we had tossed around the idea of running an ad to accept bids for someone to come and clean the Community Center and City Hall and if we did that, we would have an additional cost for the Community Center. Shirley Davis said that the lady that cleans her church would probably be interested. Mayor Ferguson asked if the council has any objections to him running an ad to get bids for the cleaning service. Juanita Baker said that she doesn't because all we will be doing is receiving bids. Shirley Davis asked if we aren't already charging a deposit

in case it isn't cleaned up. Sally Kerce said that we do charge \$100 and the renter will get \$50 back if it is cleaned up and if it isn't cleaned up, we keep the \$50 deposit. Jim Gilliland said that in the meantime, we have the pickers and gridders out there every Thursday and we don't charge them. Sally Kerce added that if groups in the community need it to hold a meeting, we don't charge them either. Juanita Baker asked if most of the people that rent it for party's leaves it clean. Sally Kerce said yes. They sweep and mop and wipe down the counters in the kitchen but the walls and things need cleaning every now and then. She added that the guys go and clean the restrooms. Shirley Davis asked how often the community center is rented. Sally Kerce said that it is usually booked for every weekend. Jim Gilliland asked if that money goes into the General Fund. Mayor Ferguson said yes, it does.

Sally Kerce said that her and Kasia Ferguson had tried to set a date for Easter but are waiting to hear from Susan Locklear from Summerville to make sure that we aren't in conflict. Kasia Ferguson said that our date will be April 11th, the Saturday before Easter, as long as Susan Locklear doesn't have anything scheduled. Juanita Baker said that is probably when they will have it scheduled at Sloppy Floyd. Shirley Davis said that when Kasia figures out a date, just let everyone know. Kasia Ferguson said that the 11th is most likely when Sloppy Floyd will have theirs and we haven't heard from Susan Locklear. Sally Kerce said that she will call Susan tomorrow. Mayor Ferguson said that we can do it on the same day; we just don't want to have it at the exact same time. He then asked Kenneth and Justin Thompson if the Fire Department can come and help hide Easter eggs. They said yes. Kasia Ferguson then asked if Juanita Baker would talk with her church about helping. Juanita Baker said that she would call Joann Mitchell from the Methodist church too. Kasia Ferguson said that she would ask the Pentecostal Church. Shirley Davis said that we could ask Gospel Light about it too.

Mayor Ferguson asked where we are on starting to have BINGO. Kasia Ferguson asked Juanita Baker. Juanita Baker said that the civic club has decided not to do it. Kasia Ferguson said that we have to have a nonprofit to run it. Mayor Ferguson said that we will have to create one or get someone from town that already has one. Shirley Davis said that it would be nice if we could make the money raised go toward the playground equipment. Kasia Ferguson said that she has people call her all of the time and ask about BINGO. Mayor Ferguson said that we can just create a nonprofit. Justin Thompson asked if we could get the Shriner's to do it. Mayor Ferguson said that if they do it, they will want the money. Justin Thompson then asked about the local horse farm. Mayor Ferguson said that there again, they would want the money. Shirley Davis said that if we use someone's nonprofit to do this, we should give them part of the money. Mayor Ferguson said that we could create a nonprofit and use the money for the town.

Sally Kerce said that Juanita Baker will be proud because the mayor has gotten the ball rolling on getting a sign for the community center. Mayor Ferguson said that he got an email from the sign maker today, and he now has to go around and take pictures of where the signs will be and send them back to the sign maker. He said that he is going to do the community center, town hall and the fire department first and then we will get some Welcome to Lyerly signs maybe next year. Jim Gilliland asked about our street signs. He said that he thinks we have some stop signs missing. Sally Kerce said that we had someone call about one missing across from the post office and we replaced it and it has been stolen again.

Jim Gilliland then asked if we are about to get around to Jan Kilgo's problem. Mayor Ferguson said that Michael Cabe's opinion is that her house sits too low and there is nothing that we can do. Jim Gilliland said that Michael Cabe works for the town. He then said that he went by and took pictures and

it was very bad. Juanita Baker said that water stands under her house and where her car sits. Jim Gilliland said that there are two places where the water is running off. Right there on the corner, we may be able to get the fire department to blow out the tile and that may give some temporary relief. Mayor Ferguson said that they just dug a basketball out of it. Juanita Baker said that it will end up rotting her house and we will end up with a lawsuit. Justin Thompson said that he would take the fire truck and blow out the tile this weekend. Sally Kerce said that her dad, Joe Reed, had already said that the county will come and help in any way that they can. Justin Thompson said that the ditch across the road from Jan's property needs to be dug out so the water has somewhere to go. Shirley Davis asked if there was a problem with water standing before the tiny houses were built. Mayor Ferguson said yes. The tiny houses did not invent the problem. Juanita Baker said that when they put the sewer lines in, it changed the flow of the water. Jim Gilliland said that his point is that the town is still responsible for it. Mayor Ferguson said that he will get some numbers for the council. Shirley Davis said that if the county comes down here to help, that won't cost us. Phil Brooks said that if we replace the culverts, we will have to pay for them. Jim Gilliland said that if that is what it is going to take to solve the problem, then we need to do it. He added that she can't get out of the house the way that it is now. Shirley Davis said that all of the moisture will eventually cause health issues. Jim Gilliland said that it will rot her floor joist.

Juanita Baker said that Kelly Floyd is making an upstairs apartment in the two story building beside the pawn shop. Sally Kerce said that the old print shop beside Lucky's is about to be a barber shop. Mayor Ferguson said that it is now open. Phil Brooks said that now something needs to be done with Lucky's.

Shirley Davis asked if we can have a cleanup day in Lyerly to encourage people to clean up their yards. She said that Lyerly is starting to look like Snuffysville. Mayor Ferguson asked what she had in mind. Shirley Davis said that she doesn't know but we need to do something to get people to clean up their property. Sally Kerce asked if she wanted to do like Summerville and have a day where people can set stuff out by the road and our guys go by and pick it up. Mayor Ferguson asked or is she talking about putting a couple of roll off dumpsters on the gravel lot at Ragland's building. Shirley Davis said that they won't haul it to a roll off because they aren't taking it to the dump now. Kasia Ferguson said that if it is big stuff they aren't allowed to put in the dumpsters, we can allow them to put it in the roll offs. Mayor Ferguson said that if we have a pickup day, who will pick the stuff up. Shirley Davis asked if the city workers can go round with the dump truck and pick it up and haul it off. Mayor Ferguson said that he guesses that they could. Sally Kerce said that we would have to pay the charges to haul it off. Shirley Davis said that it would be worth it if it will make Lyerly look better. She said that no one cares about what their yards and houses look like. Juanita Baker said that it is because we are a renter's community instead of home owners. Shirley Davis said that the downtown street can look good but the rest of the town looks like yuck. Juanita Baker said that she thinks that the main street looks pretty bad with the old burnt house. Shirley Davis said that there is one building that needs to clean up too. Mayor Ferguson said that he cleaned up a lot around the front of the Lucky's building. The whole front is cleaned up. The side and the back are not. He said that he had the lawyer encourage him to clean up Lucky's. Jim Gilliland asked who the city's lawyer is. Mayor Ferguson said that is Louis Johnson from Rome. Jim Gilliland asked why we are using someone from Rome. Mayor Ferguson said that Holley Strawn took a leave of absence and Louis is a 20 year police officer who became an attorney so he knows municipal government very well.

Jim Gilliland asked if the Town of Lyerly has a gaming license. Mayor Ferguson said no, we do not. Jim Gilliland said that we have two stores who have gaming machines. He said, so we don't get any

money from that. He added that supposedly, they give out lottery tickets if they win but he knows that they give out cash.

Jim Gilliland then asked why in some towns each council person is assigned to certain area and we don't do that. That would take a little off of the Mayor. Mayor Ferguson said that he brought that up when he first took office and he didn't get a lot of positive feedback on it. He added that Phil Brooks is the second for financial records so he looks at all of the bank statements after the mayor does and signs off on them. Phil also is the co-signer on the grant so he has to sign off on all of the draws and he has to sign all of the contracts also.

Jim Gilliland said that he had mentioned to Juanita Baker that we can get some help with manual labor like community service and it won't cost the town anything. Juanita Baker said that we used to have that. Jim Gilliland said that he asked Michael Cabe about it and he said that we don't have anyone to supervise them. Jim Gilliland said hell, I'll supervise them. Juanita Baker said that we used to have some that cleaned the street and picked up garbage. Mayor Ferguson said that he arranged for two to come and work and neither of them showed up. He said that according to Michael Cabe, it never works out. Jim Gilliland said that he thinks Michael just doesn't want to supervise them.

Jim Gilliland then asked if the mayor had heard anything back about the deputies running security for us. Mayor Ferguson said that we haven't heard about the officers but we have to get the car where we can use it first. We are having a new steering column put in it this week. Jim Gilliland said that it will need more rehab than that. Mayor Ferguson said that it has already had some. We just got it back from Jarrett's a week or so ago and he fixed everything except the steering column. Roy Ellenburg is going to use a steering column out of one of his junk police cars. Mayor Ferguson said that as soon as the car is ready, he will get back with the sheriff and get that going.

Jim Gilliland said that he would like to get with Michael Cabe one day and go over everything that the town owns. Mayor Ferguson said that Michael said he would whenever Jim gets ready.

Mayor Ferguson opened the floor to the public at 7:46pm.

Phil Brooks made the motion to adjourn. Shirley Davis seconded. All in favor.
Meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm.

Mayor

Town Clerk