

The Lyerly Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at Lyerly Town Hall. Those in attendance were:

Jim Ferguson, Mayor
Phil Brooks
Juanita Baker
Jim Gilliland

August 11, 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 at the last meeting to look over. He asked if anyone found any problems. Juanita Baker made a motion to approve the March 3rd Work Session, March 10th Meeting, March 31st Called Meeting, May 5th Work Session, May 12th Meeting & June 2nd Meeting. Phil Brooks seconded. All in favor.

Modifications to Loan Agreement – Mayor Ferguson said that there are some minor modifications to our GEFA loan agreement. The Cliff notes version is that they have asked for a new completion date which is March 1, 2021. The completion date affects when we have to start paying interest so they had to modify the loan agreement to reflect that. Juanita Baker asked for Mayor Ferguson to give them an update on what they are doing at the sewer ponds now. Mayor Ferguson said that the aerators have been replaced, we have taken delivery of the lift station pumps but we are going to run ours for a while longer and keep the new ones for spares. Jim Gilliland asked if it would be part of the contract for them to come back later and install the new ones without a charge. Mayor Ferguson said that there will not be another charge. We can drop the lift station pumps without any problem. He said that it will be a few weeks out before they get the spray field pumps and replace them. They will have to replace them one at a time and it will probably take three or four days to do each one. They have leveled the spot for the pole barn. Phil Brooks asked the mayor if he will handle making this modification to the loan or does the council need to. Mayor Ferguson said that he gave everyone a copy of the resolution that needs to be passed. Juanita Baker made a motion to modify the loan agreement. Phil Brooks seconded. All in favor.

Millage Rate- Mayor Ferguson said that the 2020 rollback rate is 9.788%. Right now we are at 10.151%. If we accept the rollback rate according to the tax digest, the taxes that we take in will decrease by \$250. Juanita Baker asked if we can afford that. Mayor Ferguson said yes. Basically it will stay the same as last year. Phil Brooks made a motion to accept the rollback rate of 9.788%. Juanita Baker seconded. All in favor.

Audit review- Mayor Ferguson said that everyone should have a copy of the 2019 audit. He said that they didn't find anything untoward. They have been happy with the level of internal controls that we have based on the number of employees that we have. It is hard to have extensive internal controls

when it is two people. They were happy with the change that we made to having Phil Brooks review the bank statements each month.

Jim Gilliland said that he has a few things to bring up. He said that he doesn't know which of the guys it is that is working security but he has had complaints that he is hanging out at the Thompson's. He said that he has also heard complaints about the guys sitting around here not working. He has been told that they come in at 7am but don't go out until 9 or 10am. He said that if they don't go somewhere, maybe they need to get somewhere and act like they are doing something. He said that someone else asked what we are going to do about the street lights. He told them to call Georgia Power. He said that he asked the man which street light he was talking about and he said all of them. Juanita Baker said that there was one out on her corner but she told Sally Kerce about it and she got it fixed. Mayor Ferguson said that we have complained about the ones in the park so much but they have never come out and fixed them. Juanita Baker said that she noticed last year that some of the angels weren't lit up. Mayor Ferguson said that shouldn't be a problem this year. We had all of the Christmas Angels redone.

Juanita Baker asked if we have a camera up at the playground. Mayor Ferguson said that we do not, yet. He said that we will have to bid it out and we may as well do it all. Jim Gilliland said why not do the city some too. Mayor Ferguson said that is what he means. Juanita Baker said that someone had asked her why the town doesn't have wifi cameras for the town. Mayor Ferguson said that he would look into it. He said that there isn't a hold up except for the cost. Jim Gilliland said that we need to try to make the cameras accessible to the mayor and council; that way you can occasionally look at the park or wherever in the city. Mayor Ferguson asked what kind of figure the council had in mind for cameras in the town. Jim Gilliland asked if we would use Spectrum. Mayor Ferguson said maybe but he really doesn't want to. Jim Gilliland said that you have to have pretty fast speed wifi to set up cameras. Mayor Ferguson said that he will look into and see what he can find out.

Phil Brooks asked if we are still invested in animal control. Mayor Ferguson said that we are still paying them but they won't come unless you call. Phil Brooks said that he has had Sally Kerce call them several times and he has yet to see them.

Phil Brooks said that he had Steve Collins, the preacher at the church on Lyerly Dam Road approach him about the Ragland building. Mayor Ferguson said that someone mentioned it to him. Jim Gilliland asked what he is wanting. Phil Brooks said they want to ask about obtaining it and making it into a fellowship hall. He added that if we do donate it or give it to a church and they decide to leave, we should get it back. Jim Gilliland said that the gravel parking space beside the Ragland building has value. Some day and probably soon, someone is going to want that. Mayor Ferguson said that he had someone approach him about possibly wanting to turn the Ragland building into an event hall. Phil Brooks said that he doesn't have anything in it; he just wanted everyone to know that Steve Collins had asked about it. Juanita Baker said that she wishes that someone would buy and take down those old apartments that haven't been used in years. Mayor Ferguson asked what apartments. Juanita Baker said the ones that the Tanner's own.

Juanita Baker asked how the barber shop is doing. Mayor Ferguson said that he thinks she is struggling. Jim Gilliland said that he thinks this virus has hurt everyone but the lady at the barber shop told him that it has really hurt her.

Mayor Ferguson said that it isn't on the agenda but we received money from the CARES ACT which came from the state and has to be used for something related to COVID relief. We got \$8,976. He

said that he talked to the principal of the school about maybe doing something for the school. They are short on equipment for virtual learning. He said that he kicked around the idea of helping people with their water bills or helping with school lunch accounts. Jim Gilliland said that we could help retired people that can't pay their water bill or someone who has been laid off but not someone who gets cut off regular. Juanita Baker said that at her house, she knows how much money she is getting this month and what has to be paid out and she doesn't understand how all of these people go hungry. Phil Brooks said that we have come into a class of people who think they are entitled. There are some good jobs out there right now that aren't filled. He said that there is company in Rome that has a great pay scale and they can't get people. Juanita Baker said that she understands that there are people who get sick, get behind and can't catch up and they should have help but not day after day after day. Jim Gilliland said that there is a lot of people that can't manage money and don't know how to budget. He said that he worked to get the retirement he has. A lot of people don't think about that.

Mayor Ferguson opened the floor to the public at 7:27pm.

Juanita Baker made the motion to adjourn. Phil Brooks seconded. All in favor.
Meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Mayor

Town Clerk