

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

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

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

**New Business:**

Bids for Sewer Project - Mayor Ferguson said that the first thing that we need to discuss is the bids for the sewer project. He said that he talked to Ladd this week and they do recommend Schmidt Environmental Construction. They have to submit documentation to GEFA and be approved by them before they can officially be named the contractor for the project, however, we can conditionally accept their bid pending the outcome of that. Jim Gilliland said that they were the low bidder, right. Mayor Ferguson said yes. Phil Brooks made a motion to accept the bid from Schmidt Environmental. Jim Gilliland seconded. All in favor. Mayor Ferguson said that conditionally Schmidt Environmental Construction will be the company handling the wastewater project.

Use of the Community Center – Mayor Ferguson said that Levi Ragland had asked him to look into whether or not Living Proof Recovery in Rome could use the community center for NA and AA meetings. He said that he called Living Proof but he did not talk to Claudia Hamilton and she never returned his phone call. He said that he talked to a couple of other people and they were not aware of this but they weren't opposed to it and are willing to make it happen. Mayor Ferguson then added that he doesn't have a problem with it as long as it goes through Living Proof Recovery and they are the ones who come here and take responsibility for the community center. Phil Brooks said that he doesn't feel comfortable voting on it until they make contact with Mayor Ferguson or Clerk Sally Kerce. Jim Gilliland asked who it was that Mayor Ferguson did make contact with. Mayor Ferguson said that it was people at Living Proof Recovery, just not specifically Claudia Hamilton. Jim Gilliland said that he doesn't have a problem with it then. Juanita Baker said that Levi Ragland had said that it would be different people coming out. Shirley Davis asked that if we allow them to do this, will someone from there sign something stating that they are responsible for the community center and any damages done. Mayor Ferguson said that they would go through the application process as if they were renting it, we just won't charge them. Someone from Living Proof will come and reserve it. We won't give the key or code to just anyone. Juanita Baker said that she doesn't have a problem with it. Juanita Baker made a motion to let Living Proof Recovery use the community center, free of charge, for AA and NA meetings. Phil Brooks seconded. All in favor.

Mayor Ferguson said that we are almost to the point to start talking about playground equipment. He said that he has started shopping and as far as local providers, there is a place in Fort Payne called Game Time. He said that would be the closest option. He said there are a lot of others out there but Game Time seems to be the cheapest. Jim Gilliland said that they are a good company. Mayor Ferguson said that we will have to advertise for bids and he will have to provide samples of what we are looking for. He plans to send out pictures, dimensions and size of what we are interested in and how much money we have to spend. He showed the council a picture of what he was thinking about. Shirley Davis asked the cost on what he showed them. Mayor Ferguson said that it would be around \$60,000. Juanita Baker asked if the company we get it from will come in and stabilize it and everything like the others did. Mayor Ferguson said yes. They will have to come and install it. We may have to pay for the materials for the installation, for example shredded tires. Jim Gilliland asked if the mayor has talked to them about any rejections. He said that sometimes they will get rejections from people who are going to buy and then don't. Mayor Ferguson said that he hasn't contacted anyone but he will ask them about that when he does. Juanita Baker said that she wants one like in Summerville Park. Mayor Ferguson said that if anyone comes up with something they like, let him know. Juanita Baker said that she thinks that the civic club got the last playground equipment from down below Atlanta.

Mayor Ferguson opened the floor to the public at 7:08pm.

Juanita Baker said that she sees that Jan Kilgo is here and she knows that she is happy about her yard. Mayor Ferguson asked if she is happy. Jan Kilgo said yes she is. The fire department came and blew out the culvert and that helped probably 50% or 75% and then the county came in the other day and dug out the ditch across the road and the water hasn't even been an inch deep since they did that. She said that she has a few problems where she is going to have to dig her own line down to the ditch where the water has stood for so long and it has washed out. Mayor Ferguson said that he is very glad we fixed her problem. Jan Kilgo said that she has a little more to do but it's all on her. She said thank you to everyone who helped with the problem.

Shirley Davis said that she has had something on her mind. She asked if we run into the water problem like Summerville is having, do we have the contingency money to take care of it or does our insurance pay for it or what. Mayor Ferguson said that we would have to do the same thing that Summerville is doing now like getting the water truck. He added that Summerville gets their water from rivers and creeks; we get ours from ground water. He said that Michael Cabe knows more about it. Michael Cabe said that if the contaminants get into the aquifer, it will shut down nine counties. All of North West Georgia pulls from the same aquifer. Phil Brooks said that nothing has changed except for the federal standards. Jim Gilliland said that if water ever gets low, there is more water in front of the Fisher's house. Michael Cabe said that we have spent \$16,000 in the past going all over the city looking for more water and couldn't find anything over 25 gallons per minute. Jim Gilliland said that they didn't look there. No one has been over there. Juanita Baker said that one time the town got bad water and the National Guard came in and went over to the creek on the Crowe property and set up a water supply for everyone. Mayor Ferguson said that we are not permitted to use surface water so we would have to find another well. He then asked Michael Cabe if we need to look into trying to find another well. Michael Cabe said that it is a minimum of \$4,000 when they come out and that gets you four test sites. We can choose four spots for them to dig. Phil Brooks asked if we are having water problems. Mayor Ferguson said that we have just enough water; more would be great. Juanita Baker said that

Daniel Cook had them come in and look for more water when he was mayor. Phil Brooks said that he had several come in at one time. Michael Cabe said that we purchase around 700,000 gallons but we do that mainly because of pressure. He added that even if we had another well, we would still purchase that water. Shirley Davis said that we may have to limit the people allowed on our water supply if we get to where we can't provide any more. Phil Brooks asked if we are at our peak or limit of water we can use or could we run a larger line and get more. Michael Cabe said that if we put a new well pump in, we would be looking at 20,000 and you would maybe get 25 gallon per minute more. Right now we run about 76 gallon per minute just off of our primary well. Phil Brooks said, so we would increase by a third. Michael Cabe said that the pump on Railroad Avenue will run 100 gallons per minute but it will only run about four or five hours and then it will start pumping air.

Mayor Ferguson asked if Kenneth Thompson had anything on the fire department. Kenneth Thompson said that they got everything ordered. They have to do some hydro testing on some SCBA bottles that haven't been tested. The company in Rome will come do the testing. Juanita Baker asked if they had done any more testing on the fire hydrants. Kenneth Thompson said that they have about 14 left to do which are the ones across Taliaferro Springs Road Bridge. Michael Cabe said that when you cross the bridge, that's not our water anymore. Mayor Ferguson asked how many fire fighters we have now. Kenneth Thompson said that we have 14 and a new guy came in and put in his application last night. Juanita Baker asked how the training class was coming along. Kenneth Thompson said that he has to finish filling out the paperwork and get it sent in. Once that is sent in, they will pick a date to have that class. It is a basic extrication class for the ones who don't have it. He said that they are also trying to get up another class for the ones who are not certified to get them certified.

Jim Gilliland said that the town has accumulated a good many tools but we don't have inventory on them. He said that all tools have legs on them. He said that he suggests that we get an inventory on the tools that we have here. The small tools, not trucks and stuff like that. Mayor Ferguson said that we can do that. Jim Gilliland said that he ask Harold Ragland if he still had some things up here and he said that he does. Michael Cabe said that Harold Ragland has an air compressor, torches and a sprayer out back but he told Michael that the town could have the torches. Jim Gilliland said that Michael Cabe took him around to all of the town's locations today and there were two places that he didn't know about. Jim Gilliland said that he didn't know about our pump at Lick Skillet or Chisolm Trail. Juanita Baker said that at one time, it was mentioned about making a map of where all of the cut off's and stuff are because the people that worked here for so long were gone and we didn't know where anything was at. Michael Cabe said that it was redone when we redid the town. Jim Gilliland said that is a good idea because he knew of a guy that worked at a city for years and years and he was the only one that knew where the water lines and meters were. He had major job security. Juanita Baker said that we got in that position and everyone quit and they had to hunt the different lines and cut off and things.

Phil Brooks made the motion to adjourn. Shirley Davis seconded. All in favor.  
Meeting was adjourned at 7:23 pm.

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Mayor

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Town Clerk