The Lyerly Town Council met for their agenda planning meeting on Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at Lyerly Town Hall. Those in attendance were:

Jim Ferguson, Mayor

Gwen Fisher

Phil Brooks

Juanita Baker

Shirley Davis

December 4, 2018

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

 Mayor Ferguson said that everyone should have two meetings worth of minutes to read over before next week. Juanita Baker said that if you haven’t done the story walk at the park, you need to. It is fantastic. Mayor Ferguson said that we had Christmas in the Park scheduled for December 8th but they are calling for 100% chance of rain so we have postponed until the 14th. It will be 5pm-9pm instead of 4pm-8pm because this is a Friday.

 Mayor Ferguson said that we need to talk about next year’s budget. Juanita Baker said that before we start talking about next year’s budget, have we done ok on this year’s budget. Mayor Ferguson said yes, we have. His plan is that at the next meeting, they will go over everything that happened financially this year. Juanita Baker asked if he had heard anything about the grant for the sewer. Mayor Ferguson said that he has the paperwork for him and Phil Brooks to sign. Juanita Baker then asked about the concession stand in the park. Mayor Ferguson said that Wayne Pace has attempted to start the dirt work twice but it has been too wet. As soon as it dries out, he will get started. He is going to have to bring a load of chert in and level off the area. Mayor Ferguson added that they have the water ran and the sewer is almost finished; they ran into a problem with it being so wet. It is just taking some time due to all of the rain we have gotten.

 Mayor Ferguson said that we now have the possession of the new fire truck. Shirley Davis asked if we now Mayor Ferguson said yes. The total received from USDA was $75,000. $25,000 of that was a grant and we borrowed $50,000.

 Mayor Ferguson started with the Water budget. He said that they would look at revenue first; He said that he increased the revenue the same percent that we increased the water rates. So the numbers that you see reflect the increase in water rates for next year. He said that there is also $30,000 in SPLOST at the top of this budget. We didn’t put any SPLOST in the water budget for last year. It is in there this year to offset the tractor that we have talked about. He said that will get into more detail about the tractor in a minute. Total income will be $419,000. He went over several other lines. He brought up GEFA Loan Payment. That is what we will have to pay for the sewer upgrades. The next major thing is under machinery and equipment. Phil Brooks said that right above that is bank fee. He asked what that includes. Clerk Sally Kerce said that is where we are charged to run debit and credit cards and if there are any returned checks. They get labeled under bank fee but they get paid back. Phil Brooks then asked what we maintain in the water account. Sally Kerce said that right now there is about $15,000 in there. It usually stays around $10,000. Juanita Baker asked what was included in the Education/Training for Water and Sewer. She asked if all three of our guys are licensed. Mayor Ferguson said that that is just the cost of keeping Michael Cabe licensed. The other two have expressed a complete disinterest in trying to get certified. Sally Kerce said that we also sent Harold Ragland this year so that he can maintain his license; just in case Michael has to be out for anything.

 Mayor Ferguson showed everyone a picture of the tractor that he would like to get. It is just like the one we have only bigger. We are looking at around $25,000. He said that a flail mower for the ditches is something else that he is looking at. He added that we are also looking at a camera on a 150 foot cable so we can find where the water is coming into the sewer lines. Our big problem is storm water infiltrating our sewer system. There are times that it almost over whelms our system. Mayor Ferguson said that the total listed under Machinery and Equipment, $30,000, includes everything that he just talked about. And the SPLOST will be used to pay for that. Our income from water should still be around $80,000 to $90,000.

 Mayor Ferguson said, moving onto General, he said that he didn’t change property tax revenue much. He said that he didn’t change the alcohol tax income. If anything, it may go down due to the change in laws. Fire protection services includes where we raised fire dues. Total income shows $322,904. Mayor Ferguson said that if you will go back up to SPLOST for $82,000. The reason that it is $82,000 is because we have $50,000 left over from this year to build the concession stand. The other $32,000 is what we normally collect from SPLOST minus the $30,000 that was put into the water budget. Juanita Baker asked that if we don’t use all of that and we don’t get a grant to help with playground equipment, can we use it for that. Mayor Ferguson said yes. Mayor Ferguson said that hopefully we can get a grant. Shirley Davis asked where it is listed what we spend on the events that we have. Mayor Ferguson said that it is listed as Holiday Celebration Supplies. There is $8,500 budgeted for that. He said that includes everything and is a huge estimate. Phil Brooks asked if the mayor had ever went and looked at the trees at the park. Mayor Ferguson said yes and there are a lot of dead ones up there. Under Park/Grounds/Surrounding Public Buildings and Landscape he has put $13,000. Last year we spent $3,000 and he added $10,000 for the cost of the trees if we decide to take them out. After everything, we should come out with about $74,000. Shirley Davis asked if we were still going to look into painting the building with the restrooms in it. Mayor Ferguson said yes. Juanita Baker added that when we get into that, we need to take care of the park on Railroad Avenue too. Those trees and bushes need to be cut all the way back to the railroad.

 Phil Brooks said that he had someone come to him about an issue. He said for an example, say that he has six people living with him and I want to extend my living ability and just move a camper in the back yard. Mayor Ferguson said that our recourse is to call the health inspector. We do not allow that but we don’t have an enforcement mechanism so we have to rely on the health inspector. Phil Brooks said that he said that he would bring it before the council. Jimmy Espy asked how this is any different from the Cleveland’s a few years ago. Sally Kerce said that honestly, with the Cleveland’s, the council asked them to move it and they did. If they hadn’t, there really isn’t anything that we could have done without a code enforcer. Shirley Davis asked the mayor what he had decided about the security guard. Mayor Ferguson replied that he is waiting to hear back from the sheriff’s department.

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting ended at 7:45 p.m.

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 Mayor Town Clerk