

The Lyerly Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at Lyerly Town Hall. Those in attendance were:

Mayor Jim Ferguson  
Phil Brooks  
Shirley Davis  
Jim Gilliland  
Juanita Baker

January 10, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Brooks at 8:00pm.

Mayor Ferguson thanked everyone for having the meeting late in the evening. He said that he still hasn't written the resolution but he wants to make sure that it's in the minutes that we thank Jeff Mullis the 20 years that he gave the state of Georgia, for not a whole lot of pay. Juanita Baker said that they had him come down here one time because there was a wreck down there toward the school house. She said that she thought we needed a red light there. He agreed but the Georgia Department of Transportation said that we didn't have enough traffic for a red light. Mayor Ferguson asked how long ago that was. Juanita Baker said that it was before Daniel Cook was mayor. Phil Brooks said that it got brought up since then. In the mornings, when you pull to the stop sign at Oak Hill Road and 114, it's blinding. Mayor Ferguson asked if they ever did a traffic study. Like come out and put down the cables and count the cars. Phil Brooks said that they did turn it down twice. Clerk Sally Kerce said that she remembers when Josh Wyatt called them about lowering the speed limit through town. They said if they came out, they would most likely raise the speed limit because people drive so fast through here. Mayor Ferguson said that isn't logical. He said that the speed limit is going to be lowered to 45mph starting at Pine Ridge so that's a move in the right direction.

Clerk Sally Kerce said that Sheriff Mark Schrader messaged her about the people living in a tent at the Chattoogaville Kayak Launch and they will be gone by tonight. She then explained to the council that people have been calling about someone living in a tent under the bridge and they have mean dogs so people couldn't take their kids fishing.

Jim Gilliland said that he stopped over at the Ragland building to talk with Shane Hurley while he was working and he would just like to say that Shane is doing a heck of a job. He said that under the awning out there, there is asphalt that is all messed up. It needs concreted before we get finished. Juanita Baker asked if they are going to do something with the post out front. Mayor Ferguson said that we haven't gotten to that yet but they may be some of the details that he leaves for whoever leases it. Jim Gilliland said that if we don't wait, it would look good to just go ahead and brick around them.

FY2023 Budget – Mayor Ferguson asked if anyone has any questions about the budget. Juanita Baker said that she didn't understand it but she never has understood it. Mayor Ferguson said that he has a hard time understanding it sometimes. Shirley Davis asked what the total amount of our cost is and total amount of money we'll have to pay for it. Mayor Ferguson said that in General, our income is projected to be \$347,650 and our expense is projected to be \$333,597. Water is \$308,046 coming in and \$291,635 going out. SPLOST is \$108,000 minus \$80,000 that we may spend on things that come up throughout the year. Clerk Sally Kerce said that in her clerk classes, she has learned that to maintain a balanced budget, you are broke. You spend what comes in every year. Mayor Ferguson said that in the five years that he has been here, we have never had to borrow money to operate which is something that was a regular occurrence in the past. He said that in the past, ½ of the year was ran using a credit line. He said that we

did take on some new debt when we did the work on the sewer pond as the matching funds for that grant but it was \$100,000. And that's all we have borrowed over six years.

Jim Gilliland said that he thinks we need to send someone to learn how to write grants. Mayor Ferguson said that he can do it but it's so hard. Jim Gilliland said that there are a lot of grants that we are missing out on. Mayor Ferguson said that we can use the Georgia Municipal Association to help with grants but if they don't think the chances are near 90% that we'll get it, they aren't going to waste their time. Jim Gilliland said that he talked with a young lady that does grants and he thought he may have something worked out with her on that but..... He said he told her that he didn't know if we could pay her to start with so she wasn't interested. Mayor Ferguson said that if he would get her information, he would be glad to talk with her.

Shirley Davis asked if when we sold the old ranger to buy the new one, did the money from the old one go to help pay for the new one. Mayor Ferguson said that we just paid for the new ranger. Clerk Sally Kerce said that we used the ARPA money. So the money we got from the old ranger went back into the General fund. Jim Gilliland asked if the COVID money is just in the General account. Mayor Ferguson said that the COVID money is in a separate account. The money from the old ranger went into General. Jim Gilliland said that he was worried that they would want the COVID money back. He said that we need to name something to spend it on. Mayor Ferguson said that we are using it for the Ragland building and will use it to enclose the back of city hall.

Phil Brooks said that now all we need is DOT to fix our two bridges. Shirley Davis asked which ones. Phil Brooks said Lyerly Dam Road and Cemetery Road. Shirley Davis said that they fixed the small one on Lyerly Dam Road. Jim Gilliland said he doesn't know if they'll ever do anything to the one on Cemetery because you'll have to get the railroad involved. Mayor Ferguson said that we are just going to have to drop two 60" pipes in there and pour a head wall. Phil Brooks asked if we would try to line them up. Mayor Ferguson said that's all that we can do. He said that Jim Gilliland is right. Trying to get the railroad involved in this to make it all coordinate is never going to happen.

Phil Brooks made a motion to accept the 2023 budget. Jim Gilliland seconded. All in favor.

Mayor Ferguson opened the floor to the public at 8:29pm.

Juanita Baker made the motion to adjourn. Shirley Davis seconded. All in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

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Mayor

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Town Clerk