

The Lyerly Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, December 19, 2023 at Lyerly Town Hall. Those in attendance were:

Mayor Jim Ferguson
Phil Brooks
Shirley Davis
Juanita Baker

December 19, 2023

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

Mayor Ferguson said that he would like to start the meeting by acknowledge that there are only three council members at the table because Jim Gilliland passed away last week after a long battle with cancer. Phil Brooks asked what we will do to fill his seat. Mayor Ferguson said that we will have to have a special election in March. Juanita Baker asked if we couldn't just find someone and appoint them. Sally Kerce said that since his term hasn't started yet, we have to have an election. If there was less than ½ a term left, they could appoint someone. Mayor Ferguson said to continue talking about Jim, he would like to recognize that he served his country and he served his community. Juanita Baker said that he loved this town. Mayor Ferguson said yes, he did love this town. It will be hard to replace him. It will be hard to find someone with his unique qualities. Phil Brooks said that we'll never do it.

Minutes – Mayor Ferguson said that everyone should have read over the minutes. Phil Brooks made a motion to approve the December 20, 2022 – November 21, 2023 Minutes. Juanita Baker seconded. All in favor.

Rufus Carswell – Mayor Ferguson said that Mr. Carswell is here tonight because he would like to request a variance to put a building on a piece of land and he then opened the floor to him. Mr. Carswell stated that he is Rufus Carswell and he lives on Cemetery Road. He owns several parcels in the area and he has a small one on Reynolds Street that he would like to build a home or a building on. He said he thought about a home at first but he spoke with Sally Kerce. Sally Kerce then said that the parcel isn't ½ acre, it's only .35 but since it isn't for a trailer, the council may grant a variance for a small house. Juanita Baker asked where it is. Phil Brooks asked if it would be for a family dwelling. A single family dwelling? Mr. Carswell said yes, small, maybe 20x60. Mayor Ferguson said that it won't be a tiny home; it will be a single family dwelling, right? Juanita Baker said that she doesn't have a problem with it. Phil Brooks said he doesn't have a problem since it would be a house. Mayor Ferguson said that if a small house was built on that lot, it would add value to the neighborhood. Phil Brooks agreed. Mayor Ferguson asked if there were any more questions for Mr. Carswell. Juanita Baker made a motion to grant Mr. Carswell a variance to build a small house on his property. Phil Brooks seconded. All in favor.

Garbage Contract – Mayor Ferguson said that we currently pay \$10 per can and Wright's is raising it to \$12 per can. Everyone else he serves pays \$12; we were the only ones still paying \$10. Phil Brooks made a motion to pay \$12 per can. Mayor Ferguson said that we currently charge the customers \$8. He said that he is super satisfied with Wright's service and their response to any special request or problems that we may have. He said that he has no interest to bid this out. Phil Brooks agreed. Sally Kerce said that we were supposed to be raised to \$11 a while back but it got overlooked. Juanita Baker said that without this service, the town would really look bad. Shirley Davis said that she hates that we went up on taxes and now this but that's just how it is right now. Mayor Ferguson said that the council has not

agreed to go up on the customer part. As it stands right now, the town will absorb the cost increase. Shirley Davis said so right now, the town absorbs \$4 instead of \$2. Sally Kerce said that's what she needs to know. Do ya'll want to leave the customer cost at \$8 or raise it? Mayor Ferguson asked if they want to pass all or some of this increase to the customers. Phil Brooks asked if we can revisit it at a later time. Mayor Ferguson said that he hasn't had time to do the math for the total cost per year. He said maybe address it at next month's meeting when he has the math. Sally Kerce said that it will go up about \$840 per month. That's the increase to us. Juanita Baker said that since we didn't go up last time, shouldn't we go up this time? Shirley Davis said that we could go up to \$10 for the customer part. Mayor Ferguson said that we will talk about it at the next meeting but keep in mind that \$840 per month in the current environment is not a small amount. Shirley Davis said that if we go up to \$10, we will still absorb the same as we do now. Phil Brooks said that we will probably go up but since we just had the tax increase, he would like to see where thing level out at this time.

Phil Brooks made the motion to adjourn. Juanita Baker seconded. All in favor.
Meeting was adjourned at 7:13 pm.

Mayor

Town Clerk