

The Lyerly Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at Lyerly Town Hall. Those in attendance were:

Mayor Jim Ferguson
Shirley Davis
Jim Gilliland
Juanita Baker

February 7, 2023

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

AirMedCare Network – Mayor Ferguson asked the council would like to keep the life flight insurance. Juanita Baker asked if the town will pay for it or will everyone have to pay for their own. Clerk Sally Kerce said that the town has been paying it for the last few years. The company sent an email to see if we wanted to renew our membership. Mayor Ferguson said that he doesn't think we should because of what is next on the agenda. Shirley Davis said that is the only benefit that we get. Juanita Baker asked who is ever going to need it. Shirley Davis said that Juanita May need it tomorrow. Shirley Davis asked if it picks you up wherever you're at. Mayor Ferguson said yes. Shirley Davis said that since it's the only benefit that we get, she thinks that we should keep it. Juanita Baker said that it will cost a lot for all of these people. Jim Gilliland agreed. Juanita Baker said \$65 for each employee and council. Shirley Davis asked how many employees we have. Clerk Sally Kerce said there are 4 employees, 14 or 15 fire fighters and then the mayor and council. Mayor Ferguson figured it up and said it would be around \$1,500. Jim Gilliland made a motion to drop the membership with AirMedCare Network. Juanita Baker seconded. All in favor. Juanita Baker said she would prefer to ask Phil about it but he isn't here. Mayor Ferguson said that we could call him.

Water Rates – Mayor Ferguson said that the reason he is bringing this up is because inflation has caused a \$10,000 increase on our chemicals and testing. That is where it is right now and could continue to go up. That doesn't include supplies and other things. Shirley Davis asked if we would have to go up on the garbage rates. Mayor Ferguson said we don't right now. Wright's hasn't asked for a new price. He said that a 6% increase would cover the inflation that we have experienced up to this point but wouldn't address if anything goes up more. Jim Gilliland said that if that happens, we can just go up again. Mayor Ferguson said with a 6% increase, we are still less than Trion and Menlo. We are even with Summerville. We have been cheaper than everyone up to this point. Jim Gilliland asked Michael Cabe what he is using besides chlorine and fluoride. Michael Cabe said that is all he uses for water. Jim Gilliland asked didn't the council have a discussion one time about not adding fluoride. Clerk Sally Kerce said that we did and put it on the ballot and people voted to keep adding it. Mayor Ferguson said we would increase both the minimum and then per 1,000. Clerk Sally Kerce explained the current water rates. She said that right now, inside customers pay \$15 for up to 1,500 gallons and for every thousand over that they pay \$3.95. Mayor Ferguson said that basically \$15 becomes \$16 (\$15.90) and \$16 becomes \$17 (\$16.96) and the rate would become \$4.19 per thousand for inside customers as opposed to \$3.95. Juanita Baker said that isn't that much. Mayor Ferguson said that isn't much. The outside rate would change to \$4.40. Shirley Davis asked if sewer rates are going up too. Mayor Ferguson said no. Juanita Baker made a motion to raise water rates 6%. Jim Gilliland seconded. All in favor. Mayor Ferguson said we will raise water rates 6% effective next month.

Jim Gilliland said that he would like to have a discussion about the front of the Ragland building. He said that it wouldn't cost much more to brick those columns. He said that he would also like to have the front of the building lettered "Ragland Building" since they were good enough to donate it to the city. Juanita Baker said that would be nice. She then asked when it will be painted. Mayor Ferguson said that he would like to see pictures from when it was an active service station.

Easter – Mayor Ferguson asked when we will have Easter. Clerk Sally Kerce said she just needs to know if we are going to do it or not. If so, are we doing sack lunches or just the egg hunt? Juanita Baker said that the kids enjoy the egg hunt. Everyone agreed. Mayor Ferguson said that we need to find out when the churches are doing their stuff and then we can pick a date at the next meeting.

Enclosing Behind Town Hall – Mayor Ferguson said he just wanted to update everyone. Smith Ironworks is planning to put the metal on the back of the building next week. Shirley Davis asked what they lack having it finished after the metal. Clerk Sally Kerce said that a roll up door will have to be installed. Michael Cabe said some electrical will have to be ran and put in some insulation. Mayor Ferguson said that Shane Hurley said that he would come and cut the door in the block wall.

Jim Gilliland made a motion to name the Ragland Building. Shirley Davis and Juanita Baker said that it doesn't matter to them. Shirley Davis seconded. All in favor.

Mayor Ferguson opened the floor to the public at 8:14pm.

Juanita Baker asked about the city limit signs. Mayor Ferguson said that he would like to get everything we have going finished first. Michael Cabe said that we may want to wait until they get finished with this highway project too.

Juanita Baker made the motion to adjourn. Shirley Davis seconded. All in favor.
Meeting was adjourned at 7:19 pm.

Mayor

Town Clerk