

The Lyerly Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at Lyerly Community Center. Those in attendance were:

Mayor Jim Ferguson
Phil Brooks
Shirley Davis
Juanita Baker

February 13, 2024

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

Garbage Contract – Mayor Ferguson said that as of January 2024, the fee for garbage service is \$12 per customer per month instead of \$10. Right now we charge the customer \$8 per month. We can go to \$10 to stay within \$2 of it, got to \$12 to recover the entire cost or leave it at \$8. Mayor Ferguson said that he thinks we should go to \$10. Juanita Baker agreed. She then made a motion to charge the customer \$10 per can per month. Shirley Davis seconded. All in favor.

FY2024 Budget – Mayor Ferguson said that everyone should have a budget. He said that we finished 2023 pretty close to what we figured. Next year we are predicting about the same. We should be to the good but not by a fortune. Phil Brooks asked Michael Cabe how much he thinks the maintenance will go up. Michael Cabe said that it went up about 15% in the last few years. Mayor Ferguson said that it will probably go up 5% more this year. Michael Cabe said that chemicals have gone up 60%. Phil Brooks asked Michael Cabe if he looked at the trees on Cemetery Road that are hanging over. Michael Cabe said yes. We will have to hire someone to cut those down because there is so much dead, it's not safe for our workers to do. Juanita Baker asked which trees he is talking about. Phil Brooks said that there is one right past John Jones house and then a couple of houses down, there are two more that are leaning over the road. Juanita Baker said that when they come to cut them, let them go on up to the cemetery and cut those big limbs that are hanging over the road, so they won't have to come back and do it later. Michael Cabe said that one of them may be considered two trees because there are two bases that come together. Mayor Ferguson said it should be about \$3,000 or \$4,000. He said that if it's less than \$5,000, we won't bid it out, we'll just do it. If it ends up being more than \$5,000, we will bid it out. Mayor Ferguson asked if the council has any questions about the budget. Phil Brooks made a motion to table approving the budget until the next meeting so they have a chance to look at it. Juanita Baker seconded. All in favor.

Lot on North Chattooga Avenue – There is a lot on North Chattooga that is just under ½ acre. Someone is inquiring that if they bought it, would the council grant them a variance to build a small house. Phil Brooks said no. Juanita Baker said that the council would have to because there used to be a house there. Sally Kerce showed them the lot on the map. She said that it could be measured wrong because the lot is bigger than most of the lots around it. Juanita Baker said that Emily Futral had a house there. Phil Brooks said that he is getting really cautious on these lots from looking at that other one. Sally Kerce asked if he is referring to the variance they just granted to Rufus in December. Phil Brooks said yes. The lot is not wide at all. He said but it is a house and not a trailer. Sally Kerce said that you don't have to vote on the variance now, she had just been asked to bring it up and see if the council would likely do it or no. Juanita Baker said that there was a house there so she thinks it would be grandfathered in. Mayor Ferguson agreed.

Election to fill vacant Council Seat #4 – Mayor Ferguson said that as far as the election, we don't need to do anything. Sally just put it on here to keep us informed. Qualifying for the Special Election to fill Council Seat #4 due to Jim Gilliland passing away was held last week. Gwen Fisher and Steven Hall qualified. The Special Election will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at Town Hall from 7am – 7pm.

Shirley Davis said that she saw Jan Kilgo out somewhere and she asked if we can blow out the tile at her house like we did before. Since she is building a new house, she would like for us to try and keep the tile cleaned out so it doesn't flood her yard and house like it did before.

Shirley Davis said that since we don't have any help to do these big events, she suggest that we stick to Down Home Day and not do anything else. Sally Kerce said that she left it off of the agenda but she was going to ask about Easter. Shirley Davis said that the First Baptist Church always has something for Easter so let's just let them handle it. We don't have any help. She asked Juanita Baker if that is ok with her. Phil Brooks said that Shirley is right. Shirley Davis said that if we don't have anyone to step up and do the work, it is a burden on the four or five people that do it. Let's just cut it back to Down Home Day this year. Mayor Ferguson asked Juanita Baker what she thinks. Juanita Baker said that she thinks that we should wait and see if anyone calls about it and see if they are willing to help. Mayor Ferguson said that if we are going to do Easter, we have to decide tonight. Phil Brooks said that Easter is a big popular thing. Shirley Davis said that it is but they will have something at the church. Juanita Baker said that she hasn't heard anything about one this year. Phil Brooks said he doesn't want to go against Shirley but he thinks we should do it. Mayor Ferguson said that people like Easter and Kasia is willing to decorate and put her work into it. Juanita Baker said that if Kasia will start it, she will help. Mayor Ferguson said that Tasha will help too. Sally Kerce asked if they still want to do hot dogs and stuff. Shirley Davis said that they will get so much candy, they won't need food. Juanita Baker said we can just do the Easter egg hunt and prizes. Mayor Ferguson said that the food is not the burden. The burden is setting up so if we still want to do hot dogs, that completely fine. Phil Brooks made a motion to have an Easter Egg Hunt. Juanita Seconded. All in favor. Shirley Davis said that Easter is March 31st so we would have to do it on the 30th. Sally Kerce said that last year, we turned the kids loose at 12 noon. So the Easter egg hunt will be Saturday, March 30th at 12 noon. We will have hot dogs, chips and drinks. Shirley Davis said that if we are going to continue to have stuff, we are going to have to have help; Even if we have to hire someone to help. Let's do Easter and then go to Down Home Day and skip the fourth of July like we did last year.

Mayor Ferguson asked if anyone had anything else. Juanita Baker said that Joe and Jan Pullen have been broken in to a couple of times. Shirley Davis said that someone stole all of the equipment out of Tim Rutledge's shed too. Juanita Baker said that Joe and Jan wanted to know if we had a camera here at the Community Center that could have caught anything. Mayor Ferguson said that we don't have any that don't look at the community center.

Mr. William Henderson was in attendance and he said that he would like to talk about a few things. He said that he lives beside the Pentecostal Power Ministries on Lyerly Dam Road. He said that there is a right of way in between the church property and his. He was wondering if we could dig a drainage ditch down that because water stands really bad right there and then runs into his yard. He said it is like a creek running through his yard. Phil Brooks asked Michael Cabe if this is something that we can look into. Michael Cabe said that he can shoot it and see but we have a sewer line through there and it is about four feet deep. We can't get anywhere near that. We'll have to stay a couple of feet above that. Phil Brooks asked Michael Cabe to look at that and see what we can do.

Mr. Henderson asked if we still have a leash law in town. Mayor Ferguson said that we do. Mr. Henderson said that he has called animal control several times about stray dogs in his yard but never heard anything.

Mr. Henderson said that he has one more thing. He lived in Trion until the 90's when he moved to Lyerly. Trion always had a way to pick up leaves and stuff. They had a truck that picked them up. Could we get something like that or use shovels and get them up? We need a way to pick up leaves so people will quit burning them or they will quit stopping up the tiles. He said that we probably don't have the workforce to do that. Mayor Ferguson said that we don't have the workforce or equipment. He said that we could contract it once a year but everyone in town would have to pay for it.

Phil Brooks made the motion to adjourn. Juanita Baker seconded. All in favor.
Meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Mayor

Town Clerk