

The Lyerly Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 2023 at Lyerly Town Hall. Those in attendance were:

Mayor Jim Ferguson  
Phil Brooks  
Shirley Davis  
Jim Gilliland  
Juanita Baker

March 8, 2023

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

Mayor Ferguson asked the council if they would like to have the Easter egg hunt at 12:00 or 1:00. Juanita Baker said 1:00. Everyone said that is fine. Juanita Baker asked what day we are doing it. Mayor Ferguson said he was told Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Jim Gilliland said that over here on Hammond Street across from Michael Cabe's house, a guy has cleared off that lot and wants to put storage buildings. He said that he doesn't agree with sticking that in a neighborhood. He thinks we should get some zoning laws asap for people sticking this and that wherever. Shirley Davis said if we get zoning laws, we'll have to get someone to enforce them. Jim Gilliland said that this is not a suggestion. Mayor Ferguson said that he agrees that they shouldn't be putting that there. Jim Gilliland said that before you know it, they'll stick something in your front yard. Shirley Davis said they will sooner or later. Jim Gilliland asked if he gets a second on this. Phil Brooks said that first we have to figure out what to do to get zoning and it will take a lot of work. He said to Jim that he is with him 100% on what he's saying but..... Mayor Ferguson said that he is for it too but enforcement becomes the issue. Juanita Baker said that the man doing that did come and ask Sally if we have zoning before he started that. Jim Gilliland said that you can make anything retroactive. The thing is, if we don't do it now, it will just get worse. He said that since he was kid he has heard "you can't build that there". He said that someone was on him this week about what you can do about moving a house from here to there. He asked if anyone knows anything about that. Mayor Ferguson said its fine as long as the lot is big enough. Phil Brooks said you have to have the clearance from the edges. Jim Gilliland said so you can move a house from here to another lot. He said that when he was young, there was a big problem about it. He is thinking there may be a problem with this. The Methodist Church has given the old parsonage to the people remodeling the old Jones house and they want to tear down the old Jones house and move the parsonage in place of that. Jim Gilliland said that he doesn't have a problem with it. If they move the whole thing, there won't be enough room. It will be over in the street. He said that is another reason he's thinking about zoning. Shirley Davis said that she suggests that they look into why the Methodist church hasn't been able to get rid of that house. Jim Gilliland said that he knows why. He said that no one wanted to pay to move it. Shirley Davis said that isn't why. It's because of asbestos. They better check out what they are getting. Jim Gilliland said that if it has asbestos, you can't tear it down without getting with EPA. Shirley Davis said that why it's still standing there. Juanita Baker said that we can look into zoning and see what we have to have. Jim Gilliland said that if we don't do it, he sees a lot of problems in the future because a lot of people want to move into Lyerly. Just like those people from California. Why would they want to move here? Mayor Ferguson said it's because it's cheap. Phil Brooks asked Mayor Ferguson if he wants to tackle zoning. Mayor Ferguson said that he would have to have help. Phil Brooks said that we all would have to be involved. Shirley Davis asked if we would have to get with a lawyer. Jim Gilliland said that we have to be legal about zoning. Phil Brooks

said that we can make zoning laws without an attorney but our problem will come in with an enforcement mechanism. We will have to appoint a group or the council as a whole. Jim Gilliland said that there are zoning laws in Summerville and Trion. It may be we get with them. We have to look at it to start with to see what we need to do. Shirley Davis said that she saw where Summerville & Trion are working together to get an inspector. Jim Gilliland said that an inspector doesn't mean zoning. Shirley Davis said that if you have zoning laws, you have to have someone to make sure they are being followed. Mayor Ferguson said that we would need a code enforcement officer. And if you have a code enforcement officer that is going to be citing people for not following the codes, then there has to be court. He said that we can pass the zoning laws and as long as everyone voluntarily abides by them, then great. But as soon as they don't and you don't have anyone to enforce it then..... Juanita Baker said that we had that here before. On Chattooga Avenue, they were told they couldn't move a house in there but they showed them one weekend when no one was here. Jim Gilliland said that they can still be fined for that. Mayor Ferguson said that you can't fine them without them having some recourse to dispute the fine. Jim Gilliland said that we need to research it. This is something that should have been done a long time ago. Everyone agreed. Shirley Davis said that when she moved to where she is, there was a rule that no one could have a business in that subdivision. She said that she isn't in the subdivision; she is across the street from it. Juanita Baker said that there used to be a rule that you couldn't have a trailer in there. Jim Gilliland said that there has been a lot of stuff going on for years and people are going to start complaining. Phil Brooks asked what we want to do. Shirley Davis asked what the mayor suggests. Mayor Ferguson said that he suggests that we hire someone to do it. Jim Gilliland said he thought that the mayor may be able to do it. Mayor Ferguson said that he doesn't get paid enough to tackle that bear. Phil Brooks agreed. Mayor Ferguson said it is a lot of work and it's something that he doesn't know that much about. There is someone out there that knows exactly what to do. Phil Brooks made a motion for the mayor to find someone who knows what we need to do to get zoning started. He said that then at a later meeting, they can vote whether or not to hire them. Jim Gilliland seconded. All in favor. Phil Brooks said that if we can find someone to tell us how to write out our zoning laws and how to do everything, that's a start. Jim Gilliland said that he rode by Michael Cabe's house and asked him what was going on the lot across the street from him. Michael told him they are going to put storage buildings. Jim Gilliland said that's right in a residential area. Shirley Davis said that we already have some. Jim Gilliland said but they are where businesses are or used to be. Phil Brooks said that also in that, if you ride by the storage buildings when it rains, it does not drain well. Anytime you put massive roofs up, and storage buildings would be massive roofs, that water has to go somewhere. Michael Cabe said that it is already flooding the utility room at his rental trailer beside that lot. It's where he has the dirt piled up so the water can't disperse. He said that in 22 years, it's never done that before.

Juanita Baker said that she got a letter from Georgia Power and they are going to move the power pole there in her front yard. It is on the highway right of way and they are going to move it across the sidewalk into her yard. She said that she thought there was a waterline there. Michael Cabe said that there was not a water line there to begin with. Juanita's water line used to come in from behind her house and come around but then they ran her a service line under the highway but the main is on the east side of the highway over here and the south side of Foster Street.

Shirley Davis said that she is glad we are getting it done and she wanted it done but how much is the Ragland building costing us so far. Mayor Ferguson said that he isn't sure exactly where we are at. He said somewhere around \$28,000. Jim Gilliland said that he has heard a lot of compliments. Shirley Davis said that everyone wants to know what we are going to do with it. Phil Brooks said that was a good choice on the front. Shirley Davis asked what our next project is when we get through with this. Mayor Ferguson said paint. Juanita Baker asked are we going to paint the whole garage white. Mayor Ferguson said that he thinks if we paint it all white, that will be too much. Shirley Davis said we could paint it blue.

Jim Gilliland said no. Shirley Davis said that there is a grey/black color. Juanita Baker said that we could use a light brown. Shirley Davis said we just need something attractive but she doesn't think white would be the best. Mayor Ferguson said that everyone can submit a suggestion and then we'll choose. Shirley Davis said that we should just let Kasia pick something. Juanita Baker said she likes a beige/brown and do the post in front a dark brown.

Mayor Ferguson opened the floor to the public at 7:32pm.

Phil Brooks made the motion to adjourn. Shirley Davis seconded. All in favor.  
Meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm.

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Mayor

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Town Clerk