

The Lyerly Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, March 7, 2024 at Lyerly Community Center. Those in attendance were:

Mayor Jim Ferguson
Phil Brooks
Shirley Davis
Juanita Baker

March 7, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ferguson at 6:00pm.

Mayor Ferguson asked if anyone came in to early vote for Council Seat #4. Sally Kerce said that she had five. She said that the last day to early vote is tomorrow.

FY2024 Budget – Mayor Ferguson asked if anyone has any questions about the budget. Phil Brooks said that he was fine with it. He thought it looked pretty good. Phil Brooks made a motion to approve the 2024 budget. Juanita Baker seconded. All in favor.

Upgrade / Restore Ball Fields – Mayor Ferguson asked if we need to check with anyone else about this. Sally Kerce and Michael Cabe said that there isn't anyone else local that does it. Sally Kerce said that he does the fields for Chattooga and Trion High Schools. Michael Cabe said that Richie told him that he has been doing it so long, that he is almost as good as a laser grade. He said that he could use the laser grade but it would be almost twice the price. Mayor Ferguson said that for what we use it for, we can trust his eye. Michael Cabe said that he will come back and check to see if he needs to do anything to them later. Mayor Ferguson asked if we asked Richie about the outfield on the small field. Sally Kerce said that if the council votes to let him fix the fields, she was going to ask him about it while he was here. Michael Cabe said that neither of the fields have ever had the right dirt on them. Mayor Ferguson asked if he will get rid of the rocks. Michael Cabe said yes. He uses a 60/40, 60 clay 40 sand mix. Shirley Davis asked if this would come out the SPLOST or the General budget. Mayor Ferguson said it would come from the SPLOST budget. Phil Brooks made a motion to approve Richie McWhorter to come redo the ball Fields for approximately \$14,600. Shirley Davis said that if we need it, ok. Phil Brooks said that we need it. Shirley Davis seconded. All in favor. Sally Kerce said, on the same note, several people have asked about lights for the ball fields. She thinks that would be way too expensive. We used to have them and they were rotting so Josh took them down. Michael Cabe said that if he isn't mistaken, Josh looked into it and it was going to be \$40,000-\$60,000 and that was several years ago. Mayor Ferguson said that he was thinking it could cost \$100,000. Phil Brooks asked if Sally would try to get a price on that. Juanita Baker agreed.

Juanita Baker said that she wanted to ask about the sewer. We had that company come to check it and it didn't rain. Now it is raining. Mayor Ferguson asked Michael Cabe how the infiltration has been. Michael Cabe said it has stayed about the same. Juanita Baker asked if we need them to come back and check it again. Michael Cabe said that they narrowed it down, according to them, to this side of the highway. He said that they have looked and he just can't find it. Sally Kerce asked if we pay them to narrow it down or find it. Michael Cabe said that ADS has narrowed it down to where they should be able to find it, if they come back. Shirley Davis asked if that would cost the same fee again. Phil Brooks asked if we could use the COVID money for that. Mayor Ferguson said yes. He said we can call them again. Michael Cabe said that he thinks there is a lot of infiltration from the school, when it rains. Sally

Kerce asked if we pay them again, will they come and find it. Michael Cabe said that there are only two main lines left so they should be able to find it. They used four for the whole system last time. Juanita Baker asked what we are going to do if they find it. Mayor Ferguson said that we would correct it. Juanita Baker said that we need to do that, right? Mayor Ferguson said yes, he just really doesn't want to pay them another \$20,000. Phil Brooks said that he doesn't either but this is something that won't go away unless we do it. Michael Cabe said that we have a lot of inflow too. That comes from the top of the ground coming in from people's cleanouts and yards. He said as soon as it dried back up, he can get Georgia Rural Water to come and smoke test the sewer lines and that's free. We normally find 20 or more cleanouts that have been broken. Shirley Davis asked what the cleanout is. Phil Brooks said it is your access to the sewer line in case it gets clogged; you won't have to dig it up. Michael Cabe said that the city has a cleanout and so does the customer. The customer's cleanout is normally the culprit. People will hit them with the lawnmower or open it to help drain their yard. Mayor Ferguson told Michael Cabe to go ahead and call Georgia Rural Water and get them lined up. Michael Cabe said that it has to dry up some. With them, we will find the open customer cleanouts but if there are any breaks in the sewer lines, we won't find them with smoke. Phil Brooks said that he personally thinks that we need to get ADS to come back. He hates to spend that money but if we don't, it will cost use more in the long run. Mayor Ferguson said that he will call them again. Phil Brooks said that he would rather spend the COVID money before they take it back.

Juanita Baker asked if there is anything else that we have left off the last couple of years that needs to be done. Mayor Ferguson said that the water tank never got painted. Phil Brooks said that we probably need to go ahead with the water tower. That is one of those things that if you let it go, it will get out of your mind. Michael Cabe said that he has an inspection coming probably next week. She will probably recommend again that it gets painted.

Michael Cabe said that the trees on Cemetery Road got cut down. Shirley Davis asked who we used. Michael Cabe said that we used Absolute Tree Service. Shirley Davis asked if they gave us a good price. Michael Cabe said that \$4,500 was a pretty good price for what they did. They probably cut 6 or 7 trees. Juanita Baker asked if they cleaned up the brush and stuff. Michael Cabe said that it isn't totally cleaned up yet but should be in a few days.

Phil Brooks asked if the council thinks we need to go ahead and paint the water tower. Michael Cabe said that he can get a quote and get back with them to let them know a cost.

Shirley Davis asked about adding a street light at the corner of Williams Street and Reynolds Street. Sally Kerce said she would contact Georgia Power and ask.

Phil Brooks made the motion to adjourn. Juanita Baker seconded. All in favor.
Meeting was adjourned at 7:21 pm.

Mayor

Town Clerk