

The Lyerly Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at Lyerly Community Center. Those in attendance were:

James Ferguson  
Phil Brooks  
Shirley Davis  
Juanita Baker  
Gwen Fisher

July 9, 2024

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

**287 Mill Village Road** – The resident at 287 Mill Village Road wants to build a privacy fence between him and 283 Mill Village Road on our right of way. Mayor Ferguson said that if it doesn't cause any problems for Michael, he doesn't see a problem with it. Phil Brooks made a motion to give Thomas Lynch permission to put a privacy fence on the right of way. Shirley Davis seconded. All in favor.

**Cemetery** – Mayor Ferguson said that he had a meeting with Jimmy Taylor and Jamie Taylor from the board of trustees for the churches in town who collectively operate the Lyerly Cemetery. The way that it works now, the property of the cemetery is owned by the Baptist church. The sale of the plots and the maintenance of the cemetery is operated by a board of trustees made up of all the churches. When Harold Ragland passed away, they lost the person who was managing the cemetery. He was selling plots and marking them off. When he passed away, no one at the church wanted the responsibility. Jimmy Taylor has been doing it but only because it was dropped into his lap. The board of trustees don't want to do it anymore. He said that we have two options. Option one, which they favor is, they would like for the town to assume ownership of the cemetery, assume responsibility for the funds that are currently in a trust fund account to manage the cemetery, to manage the care and maintenance of the cemetery and the selling of the plots. Option two is that we reach some type of agreement with the board of trustees where Michael and Sally would sale the plots and manage that part of it for a fee. He said that they don't really want that. What they want is for the town to take ownership of it and be responsible for it all. Shirley Davis asked how much this would cost. Mayor Ferguson said that there will be no cost to us. Phil Brooks asked how much more work would that be for Sally and Michael. Sally said that whenever someone dies, Michael will have to find and mark off where their plot is. Phil Brooks said yes but everyone will be coming to or calling Sally. Mayor Ferguson asked as far as time goes, how long does it take Michael from start to finish to make a burial happen. Michael Cabe said that if he can locate the plot on the map, it only takes him about 20 minutes. Phil Brooks asked how long it takes Sally to do her part. Sally Kerce said that all she does is, when Michael sells a plot, she fills out the paperwork, notarizes it and takes the money. Phil Brooks said that even if they are on the town's payroll, he thinks that each time a plot is sold or located, we charge a fee for Michael one hour and Sally 30 minutes. Juanita Baker and Shirley Davis said that they are already getting paid. Phil Brooks said that they are getting paid, but this will be an addition to their job. Mayor Ferguson said that the money from the trust fund is \$9,700 cash and \$75,000 in an investment account that's in a CD that will probably mature in about seven months. When we sell a plot, we will take a percentage from that sell into the town to make up for the time they are spending on it. Phil Brooks asked if they receive something themselves. Mayor Ferguson said that he hasn't thought about that yet. Phil Brooks said that they have their jobs, but he thinks there should be some kind of compensation for them since they will have extra duties. Juanita Baker said that they are already getting money for doing this from the church. Mayor Ferguson said yes, the church has

been compensating them for what they do. Sally Kerce said that Michael gets paid, but she doesn't, but it only takes her five minutes to do her part. Mayor Ferguson asked Michael what he gets paid now. Michael Cabe said \$20 per hour. Shirley Davis said that the money that we will spend paying them, we will have to show where that goes, right? Mayor Ferguson said yes. He said that this is a conversation that we can have later. There is a pathway for us to re-coop the cost for their time. Mayor Ferguson said that if we decide to move forward with this, we will pass it back to the church and they will have a business meeting and make a final decision. He then asked if there is any more discussion about this. Phil Brooks made a motion to take over the cemetery. Gwen Fisher seconded. All in favor.

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

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Mayor

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Town Clerk