

The Lyerly Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at Lyerly Community Center. Those in attendance were:

Phil Brooks
Shirley Davis
Juanita Baker
Gwen Fisher

April 23, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro-Tem Phil Brooks at 7:00pm. He asked if anyone had any old business to discuss. There being none, he said let's move on.

Swearing in Gwen Fisher – Mayor Pro-Tem Phil Brooks said that Probate Judge Gary Woods was here to swear in Mrs. Gwen Fisher for Council Seat #2. Judge Woods asked Gwen Fisher to raise his right hand and repeat after him, “I do solemnly swear that I will well and truly perform the duties of Council Member of the Town of Lyerly and that I will support and defend the charter thereof as well as the Constitution and laws of the State of Georgia and of the United States of America.” Judge Woods congratulated Gwen and then asked her to print and sign her name on the oath. He then printed his name and signed.

Judge Woods said that before he leaves, on behalf of his other job responsibility as Election Superintendent, he would like to thank the council for letting them use our building (Fire Department) to vote in. He knows that it can be inconvenient but they are appreciative. Lyerly is a big prescient and the election in March, percentage wise, it probably had the highest percentage of voters. We also have the election coming up on May 21st and they feel like we will also have a big turnout. So again, on behalf of him, his staff and Chattooga County, thank you for allowing the use of our facilities.

Sign for the Ragland Building – Juanita Baker said that she thinks that it is time to get a sign put on the Ragland building. Phil Brooks asked what kind of sign she wants. Juanita Baker said a sign that says The Ragland Building. Juanita Baker said that she was thinking about one above the awning. Shirley Davis said that we need to see how much it cost. Juanita Baker said yes, we would have to look into it. Sally Kerce asked if they want her to get some prices. Phil Brooks said yes. Get prices for both, one that sticks out toward the road double sided and one that would be flush with the building with raised letters. Shirley Davis asked why we don't just put a plaque like at the Community Center. Phil Brooks said that would look nice at ground level. Juanita Baker said that you wouldn't be able to see it from the road. Shirley Davis said that if we lease the building, they may just take the sign down and do away with it. Phil Brooks said no, it's still The Ragland Building. Shirley Davis said that she just thought we could do a plaque and be done. Phil Brooks said that he likes the idea of a plaque. Sally Kerce said that there is a plaque on the Community Center dedicating it to Otis Tanner. Shirley Davis said she thought we would do something similar to that. Phil Brooks said that he thinks a plaque will be fine but he thinks it still needs a sign above the awning that you see when you come down the road. Juanita Baker said that if the sign is too expensive, we can come down to a plaque.

Down Home Day – Sally Kerce said that people have already been asking for the date of Down Home Day. She said that she has told them that it is usually the last Saturday in September which would be September 28th. She has also been asked for a vendor application so if they will go ahead and set the date, she will get started with everything. Phil Brooks asked what time would we start. Sally Kerce said

that we have done 10am – 2pm or we can try a different time. Everyone agreed to have it 10am – 2pm on September 28th.

Small Library at the Park – Phil Brooks asked what this was. Sally Kerce said that the Literacy Program contacted us about them building a small box / library to keep books in and asked if we would mind having one at the park. They will keep them stocked and everything. All they asked is that once they get it built, could we can install it. Anyone can go and get a book, kids or adults. Sally Kerce said that she kind of took it upon herself to say yes but told the lady that she would talk with the council. Phil Brooks asked who was paying to build it. Sally Kerce said that they will. All they want from us is a place to put it and us to install it. Phil Brooks then asked the council where they would want to put it. Shirley Davis said that she would put it by the pavilion that way they can just pull in and grab a book and leave. Phil Brooks said it would be the same way at the new parking lot. Shirley Davis said that a lot of people wouldn't know to look for it down there. It was discussed and everyone agreed to make the decision when we see the size of it but most likely put it to the right of the pavilion. Sally Kerce said that they didn't say when they would have one ready but they would let us know. Juanita Baker said that she thinks that it will be great to have it at the park. Juanita Baker made a motion to add the library at the park. Gwen Fisher seconded. All in favor.

Phil Brooks asked if anyone had anything else. With nothing else, he turned to the gentleman in attendance.

Mr. William “Lee” Henderson said that he had a tree cut down on the Town's right of way. It was between him and the Pentecostal Church. He said that it was a pecan tree and the limbs kept falling on his and the church property and power lines. He said that it had a fungus on it and he's sure that it was diseased. He decided to go ahead and cut it. He thought about coming to a meeting first and talk with the council about it since it was on our alley way but he didn't. He got Godfrey's to cut it down and grind the stump. He was just wondering if the town could help him out with the cost he paid to have it cut since it was on town property. Juanita Baker asked how much it cost. Mr. Henderson said that it cost \$800. Juanita Baker said that she doesn't see why we couldn't help. Phil Brooks said that there is a chain of command and he should have come to the council and asked before he cut it. Mr. Henderson said that he understands that. Phil Brooks asked how much Mr. Henderson is asking the town to pay. Mr. Henderson said half, \$400. Phil Brooks said that doesn't seem unreasonable. He then asked Michael Cabe if it was on our right of way. Michael Cabe said that it is in one of our alley ways. Shirley Davis said that if we pay this, which she is for, she thinks that going forward; we should require anyone to come to us before taking action of their own. If this comes up again, everyone needs to know to come to the council first and get permission before we will help them with any cost. Juanita Baker made a motion to pay Mr. Henderson \$400 to help with the cost of cutting a tree on our alley way with the acknowledgment that going forward, people who need a tree taken down has to come to us first. Shirley Davis seconded. All in favor.

Juanita Baker made the motion to adjourn. Shirley Davis seconded. All in favor.
Meeting was adjourned at 7:27 pm.

Mayor

Town Clerk