

The Lyerly Town Council met for a public meeting on Thursday, November 16, 2023 at Lyerly Town Hall.  
Those in attendance were:

Mayor Jim Ferguson  
Phil Brooks  
Shirley Davis  
Juanita Baker  
Jim Gilliland (via telephone)

November 16, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ferguson at 6:30pm.

There was no one in attendance. Mayor Ferguson said that we had discussed at the last meeting to leave the millage rate the same as last year but after getting with Joy Hampton, that would be a 40 something percent tax increase for everyone in town. He said that seems a little excessive. He said that if we left the millage rate the same, it would be 7.833 and would bring in \$83,000 and if we drop it to 6%, which is what he suggests that we do, we would bring in about \$62,800 which is about \$4,000 more than we usually bring in. That would be a little bit of an increase to help with inflation but it's not ridiculous. Even at 6%, it's a 10.97% increase. Phil Brooks made a motion that we go with 6.5%. Mayor Ferguson said that Phil Brooks has made a motion that we go with 6.5% as the millage rate. Jim Gilliland seconded. Juanita Baker was in favor. Shirley Davis said she wanted to go with 6%. Mayor Ferguson said that we have 3 votes for 6.5% and Shirley Davis votes no. Phil Brooks said that he is afraid that the way things are going, it's just going to keep escalating with pricing. Sally Kerce said that we will have two more public meetings on Tuesday. Shirley Davis said that going up 20% is better than 40% but with the value of property going up so much, the 10.97% sounds better to her. Phil Brooks said that takes in the property going up. Mayor Ferguson said that we will have the other two public meetings on the 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:30am and 6:30pm, if anyone wants to attend.

The public meeting ended at 6:45pm.

Mayor Ferguson said that he has a resolution to authorize the attorneys to go after the defendants about the PFAS in the water on our behalf alone and pull us from the class action lawsuit. The town attorney thinks that we will get a better settlement that way and everyone else he has talked to agrees. Otherwise, we are so small, our part in the class action will be miniscule. He said that the resolution names the defendants. Shirley Davis asked what this is going to cost us. Do we have to hire the lawyer? Mayor Ferguson said that it will cost us nothing. Phil Brooks made a motion to pass the resolution to pull us from the class action lawsuit. Juanita Baker seconded. All in favor.

Jim Gilliland made the motion to adjourn. Shirley Davis seconded. All in favor.  
Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

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Mayor

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Town Clerk