

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen met in regular session September 11, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. in Selmer City Hall. Present were: Mayor David Robinson, Board of Aldermen, John Finlayson, Maurice Hamm, Paul Simpson, John Smith, Harry Smith.

Mayor Robinson asked everyone to pause in silence in memory of the anniversary of the past 911 disaster. Father Wayne Arnold of St Jude The Apostle Church recited prayer. The pledge of allegiance to the United States Flag was lead by Landon Redmon a 6th grader at Selmer Middle School.

The minutes were approved with no deletions or additions.

The financial statement was approved by everyone voting yes.

Motion by Paul Simpson to pass and approve the request presented by Officer Kim Holley to amend the "Police Policy Manual", page 52, concerning dealing with an animal in a domestic suit. Motion seconded by Harry Smith. All five voted yes. Motion carried.

Richard Ashe of the Selmer Utilities Department stated that the Selmer Water situation was now in good shape.

Motion by Maurice Hamm to pass on second reading an ordinance to amend Title 15 of the Selmer Municipal Code relative to Automated Traffic Enforcement at certain intersections in Selmer, Tennessee. Motion seconded by John Finlayson. The discussion was for automated traffic enforcement at the big intersection of Hwy 45 South and Hwy 64 to ticket red light and speeding violators. All five voted yes. Motion carried. Ordinance No 565 passed.

Motion by John Smith to pass on second reading an ordinance amending the membership of the Municipal-Regional Planning commission to require one member from the Planning Region. (Outside city limits)

Motion seconded by Harry Smith. All five voted yes. Motion carried. Ordinance No 566 passed.

Motion by Harry Smith to pass on 1st reading an ordinance to amend Title 16, Chapter 1, Section 16-110, of the Selmer Municipal Code relative to parades in the Town of Selmer. Motion seconded by John Finlayson. Paul Simpson questioned that the power of the vehicle's engine within a parade should be limited in addition to the prohibited speed addressed within the ordinance. John Finlayson did not agree and sited that this would limit tractors and other attractions for a parade. John Finlayson—yes, Maurice Hamm—yes, Paul Simpson—yes, Harry Smith—yes, John Smith—yes. Motion carried. 1st reading passed.

Motion by Harry Smith to pass on 1st reading an ordinance amending the text of the Selmer Municipal Zoning Ordinance defining Bed & Breakfast home stay operations and allowing these operations in specific Residential Districts as special exceptions. Motion seconded by Maurice Hamm. Paul Simpson questioned the exclusion of being allowed in the R-1 Zone. John Finlayson—yes, Maurice Hamm—yes, Paul Simpson—passed, Harry Smith—yes, John Smith—yes. Motion carried. 1st reading passed.

Motion by Maurice Hamm to pass a Resolution establishing guidelines for submitting agenda items for the Board of Aldermen's work sessions. Motion seconded by Harry Smith. John Finlayson—yes, Maurice Hamm—yes, Paul Simpson—No, Harry Smith—yes, John Smith—No. Motion carried.

Motion by John Finlayson to approve Mayor Robinson to enter into an agreement with "Redflex Traffic Systems" to provide digital photo speed enforcement systems for the Town of Selmer. Motion seconded by Maurice Hamm. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Maurice Hamm to authorize Mayor Robinson to apply for the remaining TEA- for funding for the required 20% match approximately \$350,000 in conjunction with McNairy County. Motion seconded by Harry Smith. Mayor Robinson announced that if successful the funds, approximately \$1.7 million, will be used to provide sidewalks from downtown to the south park and other enhancements if funds allowed, possibly even sidewalks out Poplar Ave to the Hospital. All voted yes. Motion carried.

There being no further business Mayor Robinson called for persons wishing to address or make comment to the board. Russell Ingle of the Independent Appeal asked for more information about a paper that he saw last month concerning a deficit in the recreation department. Mayor Robinson thanked Russell for bringing the issue up as he wished to address this. Mayor Robinson's comments and report is shown as follows:

PARKS & RECREATION – CIVIC CENTER – POOL

- First, these are not deficits, a deficit would infer that unplanned expenses occurred that exceeded revenues – this is not the case, the revenues and expenses were and are planned for through the Budget Process
- Revenues help to partially defray the costs of programs such as Soccer, Softball, Basketball, Dance, Gymnastics, etc.
- Operating Costs are borne by the Government to maintain the North Park, City Park, Civic Center and Pool. These costs include the maintenance of all these facilities, utilities, telephone, vehicles, personnel including benefits – retirement and taxes, equipment maintenance, chemicals and supplies, improvements, as well as maintaining the assets of the community such as the recent Community Center renovations, Pool renovations and Park improvements – these are in large part due to Ms. Dancer's efforts in securing grants to help offset some of the costs
- To assume that the Parks & Recreation Department is self funding is ludicrous, membership fees and program fees would in no way fund the necessary costs for the department – this has always been the case and will continue to be the case – all communities face the same situation
- The purpose of a Parks & Recreation Department is to provide fitness, sports and recreational programs for its citizens. This is government service; to in some measure provide these activities for the community, that could not otherwise be provided through privately generated funds
- The same can be compared to the Police Dept., Fire Dept., Street & Sanitation Dept. – these services are provided with tax dollars, they are not self funding nor were they ever intended to be
- The only department that is charged with the responsibility to be self supporting is the Utility Department – their revenues are generated from the rates charged for services provided – the State of Tennessee mandates that a utility department be self supporting and have positive operating results
- Slanderous allegations have been made since the recent Parks & Recreation Dept. restructuring, if anyone has concrete proof, this Board will be happy to address the issue, otherwise personal attacks against city employees are out of line and have no place in this administration. If such attacks are aimed at me or others on this Board, you would be well advised to address your concerns to that particular individual rather than orchestrate those attacks through a city employee; the collateral damage that ensues is both damaging and unfair, and certainly unchristian. I would offer those who make such attacks the opportunity to “walk a few miles” in the shoes of any city employee and then comment on their work ethic, job function or performance.
- This is an open administration, every citizen has the right to examine any of our records and I welcome them to do so.

Russell Ingle said that he would like to review the audits. Mayor Robinson informed that he had them all available, and had reviewed the past ten years in researching this issue. There were no comments from the audience or the board.

Meeting Adjourned.