

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen met in regular session April 8th, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. in Selmer City Hall. Mayor John Smith presided with all five Board of Aldermen as follows: John Finlayson, Johnny Norris, Paul Simpson, Edward Smith, and Chris Tull.

Pastor Murry Kimball of Faith Baptist Church opened with prayer followed by the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag of America led by Paul Simpson.

Motion by Paul Simpson to approve the minutes. Motion seconded by John Finlayson. All five voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Edward Smith to accept the financial statement. Motion seconded by Johnny Norris. All five voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Paul Simpson to donate \$250.00 to an event called "5-2-1-0 Family Fitness Day" to be held in the Park 09/13/14 promoting healthy lifestyles. Motion seconded by John Finlayson. All five voted yes. Motion carried.

Department reports were given.

Mr. Homer Watson asked Mayor Smith to give an update on his agenda for industry and getting business into Selmer. Mayor Smith stated that the M.R.A., McNairy Regional Alliance, was working very hard on some prospects and that he had just attended the WIA Conference with Southwest who worked with 13 businesses in McNairy County trying to expand and extend jobs. He explained that the new Solar Farm would hire 200 plus jobs which would last approximately 2 years, but that a second solar project was planned that would extend those jobs 2 additional years giving approximately 4 years of additional employment. Mayor Smith also related that he had been working with a restaurant, a business moving that would expand jobs, and also some items in capital outlay to further attract prospective business and industry. He stated that Spectrum was really expanding and that Monogram, and United Stainless were adding jobs through expansion. John Finlayson, the board's representative on the Industrial Development Board also gave an impressive update. Aldermen John Finlayson told everyone that the first need for getting new industry was obtaining some level land for industry to build on. Finlayson stated that data processing on how to market jobs and get some more industry in Selmer and keeping what we already have as being one of his priorities in the IDB. He touched on the importance of Spectrum and their large expansion as well as Monogram and United Stainless. Finlayson touched on PEC putting in the new fiber optics necessary for extensive data processing facilities. He also stated that "going green" was really a plus for our county. Mayor Smith related that while in Washington people had actually heard of Selmer, Tennessee through the coming of the "Solar Farm" and that we will be at the top of the list when the solar farm gets underway. Kenneth Sweat asked if there was a trend to have smaller industries and business. Mayor Smith said, "Yes, we are fighting for anything now, and must continue to market what we have!"

A man from the audience requested that 2 hour parking be considered in the downtown area. Mayor Smith told him that he would discuss this with him later.

Motion by Paul Simpson and seconded by Edward Smith to approve the request of Street Superintendent Theadies Sebree to purchase a 2004 Street Paver in the amount of \$14,500 to be used for small jobs and street patching. All five voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Chris Tull and seconded by Johnny Norris to donate \$5,000 as requested by A.I.M. to help pay their utility bill. Discussion began: Edward Smith reminded that this was the Latta Building, a county owned building's utilities?" Chris Tull said this was more than just about utility bills, and that the town would be shooting themselves in the foot if we don't help A.I.M.

Edward Smith stated that he was not disputing that A.I.M. was very important, but the lady who came to the work session said the requested money was definitely for the utility bill. John Finlayson explained that “we must support it for the community, this is the only thing we have going, the benefits are here, and we must help them.” Paul Simpson, “this is not a question of supporting or not, but for the city to pay bills on a County owned building is the question.” Mayor Smith offered an equation for thought by dividing the request by months and contributing the combined amount now for the remaining three months of the cities fiscal year whereby giving time to find the balance in next years budget.

An amendment was made to the original motion by Paul Simpson to donate \$2,500 to A.I.M., and the amendment was seconded by Edward Smith. All five voted yes. Motion carried to amend the motion.

The roll was called on the motion as amended to donate \$2,500 to A.I.M. All five voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Paul Simpson to adopt a resolution approving the application of a LPRF grant for Phase 2 of the Dixie Park Property. Motion seconded by Edward Smith. All five voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Chris Tull and seconded by John Finlayson to adopt on first reading an ordinance to change the language concerning beer license revocation expressively as it applies to the one (1) year revocation period that was in the second paragraph of Ordinance 8-212. All five voted yes. Motion carried. 1st reading passed.

Motion by Paul Simpson and seconded by Johnny Norris to pass on first reading an ordinance relating to the submission of site plans as being in a digital PDF format instead of paper. All five voted. Motion carried. 1st reading passed.

Mayor Smith explained that he had been asked by a board member to submit an ordinance allowing for Sunday Beer sales and although he was not in support of it and did not feel Selmer needed it, he had no choice but to submit it.

Jeff Sisk explained that if people wanted beer they could purchase it prior to Sunday relating it to cooking Sunday dinner in that people could use what they had at home and purchase additional items the next day if needed. Edward Smith said that he felt that it was a slap in the face to Church goers, and they would not want to purchase in a convenience store where the beer drinking crowd was. He further stated that these people will remember this change at the polls. Jeff Sisk stated that he agreed with Edward Smith that people would remember this at the polls and that he certainly would.

Pastor Murry Kimball of Faith Baptist Church asked why anyone would want to give more and more approval of this. He questioned, “Is it worth the tax money for the police to have to get more drunk drivers?”

Paul Simpson stated that the majority of people don’t want Beer sold on Sunday!

Johnny Norris stated that lots of people had asked him to present this and that he requested it due to Bethel Springs and Adamsville, the surrounding towns, selling it on Sunday and getting the tax money instead of keeping it in Selmer.

Kenneth Sweat addressed the board as a deacon of First Baptist Church, and property owner who having had experience with people drunk on beer called beer a dangerous chemical stimulant having detrimental responses on some people. He reported that this had been discussed at the recent Deacon’s meeting and that everyone there was against it! He stated that responsible beer drinkers would purchase it on Friday or Saturday just like gas for their boat or other camping supplies. He further related an experience as a landlord that beer caused a person to do things that they normally would not do.

Kenneth urged the board to leave things alone not letting greed for tax money cause all the problems that this will bring. “The churches are interacting with civic projects now and this would be a slap in the face to them!” “Greed is not worth it!”

Motion by Edward Smith to remove the proposed ordinance prior to first reading concerning Sunday Beer Sales. Motion seconded by Paul Simpson.

Roll call:

John Finlayson--No
Johnny Norris---No
Paul Simpson---Yes
Edward Smith—Yes
Chris Tull-----No.
Motion failed.

Motion by Johnny Norris to pass on first reading an ordinance amending Title 8 Chapter 2 Section 8-211 sub-section 2. by removing “at any time on Sunday” and adding “or before 12:00 Noon on Sunday which would allow beer to be sold on Sunday from 12:00 Noon to 12:00 Midnight.

Motion seconded by Chris Tull.

Roll call:

John Finlayson---Yes
Johnny Norris----Yes
Paul Simpson----No
Edward Smith---No
Chris Tull-----Yes
Motion carried. 1st reading passed.

Paul Simpson suggested that people should let the board know how they feel about Sunday Beer sales prior to the 2nd reading of May13, 2014

Mayor John Smith informed of a scam letter circulating asking for insurance money to repair broken water pipes. He made everyone aware that the city had no part in this!

Meeting adjourned approximately 8:06 P.M.

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