

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen met in regular session May 12, 2015 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.

The meeting opened with prayer by Bro. Jeremy Weekley of 4th Street Church of Christ followed by the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag of America led by Johnny Norris.

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

Motion by John Finlayson and seconded by Johnny Norris to approve the minutes. All five voted yes. Motion carried.

Department reports were given.

Motion by Paul Simpson and seconded by Edward Smith to adopt on second reading an Ordinance amending the FY 2015 Budget. All five voted yes. Motion carried. 2nd reading passed. Ordinance No 648 passed.

Motion by John Finlayson and seconded by Johnny Norris to adopt on 2nd reading an ordinance to amend Title 8-209 of the Selmer Beer Ordinance that would remove the present 1000 ft. distance requirement for an establishment to sell beer.

Motion to table action on the beer ordinance. Motion seconded by Edward Smith to table action. Roll call on Table: John Finlayson—No, Johnny Norris---No, Paul Simpson—yes, Edward Smith---yes, Chris Tull---No. Motion to table failed.

Discussion began as follows:

Mr. Lewis Jernigan addressed the room. Mr. Jernigan began by thanking everyone for allowing him to speak. He said that he knew that no one took the job for money, that it was to help people with their needs, and they do not need beer! Mr. Jernigan addressed John Finlayson. “John, you like to play football.” “My son liked to play golf, but a drunk driver ran over him and killed him!” He handed John his son’s picture as he spoke. He attempted to explain how painful the hurt of losing his son was to him and his wife forty-five years ago. He stated that they had to endure the pain because the man who ran over him had to have his juice. He explained that he was a businessman who built a very successful business and knew that we have to have money. “Please don’t do it this way!” “Whatever you do, I’m still your friend!”

Pastor J.D. Matlock stated that he wished to say what had been on his heart: I Corinthians 11 and Proverbs 22:28 and that he felt strongly, “Those who vote for it will put themselves under a curse.” “Mr. Finlayson is a home town hero and this will shadow his reputation.” “Mayor, you might need to step in on this!”

Bro. Client Overton, pastor of Lakeview Baptist Church began with James 1:5 and questioned if they had asked God and his wisdom in this. He stated that he would make a commitment to pray for them daily.

Bro Jeremy Weekley of 4th Street Church presented petitions, which had 280 signatures against the ordinance changing amendment. Bro. Weekley asked, “Have you asked the people of Selmer how they feel?” “You are not hearing from a minority amount of people!” He again asked to consider what the people feel.

R.A. Johnson addressed the board. He stated that his ministry was called “Reformers Unanimous” and that most of his work was in the jails. He stated, “Alcohol is the prerequisite to drugs”. ”Then gangs come in and they will come as they have other towns that followed this pattern!” “It is the Devil orca straightens this move.” “Most people are in denial!”

Nicky Atkins of Moody Auto Sales addressed the room. Mr. Atkins said, “I am a Christian, and as Christians all we can do is pray and ask God to take care of them!” He stated that in Hardin County there were many more DUI’s prior to allowing it in restaurants. “Don’t beat up John Finlayson!” He stated that everyone had come together against this but not to help someone and sited times that he had helped homeless people living under the canal bridge. He asked that everyone come together and build a factory to get jobs in Selmer. “We need to focus on other things!”

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David Robinson stated, "I do pray for you everyday!" "Whether this ordinance passes or fails, it's not going to help or hinder the sale of beer in McNairy County or Selmer, Tennessee so I'm supporting it!"

Mr. Jernigan said, "It's just a matter of doing what God wants us to do or what we want to do!" "Nicky Atkins, asked, "Did Jesus drink wine?"

Mr. James McCullar asked, "How will these people feel if a man leaves drunk and gets killed?"

Paul Simpson said, "Everyone knows where Edward and I stand." "There has always been a distance." "If this passes there is no distance requirement and we will be bound by law to give anyone a permit by a church or school!"

Shelia Willis addressed the board. "Why are you three so bent on doing this when everyone else is against it?" "The Lord is telling us to come down here!" "I lost three brothers to drugs and alcohol" "We are still a Christian town, do you want to be responsible for it changing?" She thanked Chief Burks for the improvement on her street. She then asked, "Please think about what you are doing. You have to answer to God!"

Gordon Yopp stated that alcohol had caused heartaches in his family. "How is this going to help Selmer?" "I'm not here to beat anyone up, if it can help Selmer tell me about it!"

Shelia Willis asked, "Why is it so important to you all!"

Chris Tull explained that when CITGO was selling a bad substance and license was suspended for a year, a new owner purchased the location and the board had rewritten the ordinance to allow the new owner to purchase a license and approved the permit knowing that it was too close to the Dixie Park and the proposed Splash pad. He further stated that a hard working businessperson who had proved to run a good restaurant wanted to sell beer in his restaurant and according to the 1000 ft ordinance was too close to the school to obtain a license. The change would allow this business to obtain a permit, and that it was a matter of being fair.

Shelia Willis questioned, "What does it mean to you?" "What about all the people in the churches here and all the people who are working to help these people?"

Jeff Sisk asked, "Where are those business men tonight?" "Have they talked tonight?"

Addressing John Finlayson Jeff said, "You said you would have them here, where are they?"

Mrs. Johnny Norris stated, "I'm worried about teaching your kids about ignorance!" She referred to gun safety and other areas that she felt were necessary to expose children to in the right way.

Chris Tull called for question on the proposed beer ordinance.

The roll was called to adopt on second reading the ordinance to amend Section 8-209 of the Selmer Beer Ordinance that would remove the present 1000 ft distance requirement from any church, school, or public gathering place to sell beer:

John Finlayson---yes, Johnny Norris---yes, Paul Simpson---No, Edward Smith---No, Chris Tull---yes. Motion carried. 2nd reading passed. Ordinance No. 649 Passed.

Motion by Edward Smith and seconded by Paul Simpson to pass on first reading the 2015-2016 Budget Ordinance that includes adopting the same property tax rate for 2015 of \$0.806 per \$100.00 value. All five voted yes. Motion carried. 1st reading passed.

John Finlayson announced that there was an issue with an employee in the police department where he felt the personnel policy protocol was not followed because the department head was not involved. Chris Tull and John Finlayson expressed that Bradley Huckabee in the Police Department had resigned under duress due to being afraid that if he did not resign that he might lose his retirement.

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Chris Tull made a motion to reinstate Bradley Huckabee if he wanted to come back to work due to his resignation being written under duress. Motion seconded by John Finlayson.

Paul Simpson moved that it be tabled until Attorney Abernathy could look into this and postpone action until that time and further have Bradley come to the meeting. Motion to table seconded by Edward Smith. Roll call on Table: John Finlayson---No, Johnny Norris---No, Paul Simpson---yes, Edward Smith---yes, Chris Tull---No. Motion to table failed. Feelings were discussed among the Board and Police Chief Neal Burks. Chief Burks said that he felt that the situation had caused Mr. Huckabee great dishonor and with all the sickness if he didn't get a job he was going to lose his house.. Edward Smith suggested that he be given the opportunity to withdraw his resignation. City Attorney Abernathy suggested that Chief Burks discipline Bradley for his prior actions. The Board decided to withdraw their motion and that Mayor Smith, Chief Burks, and Bradley Huckabee should talk.

Motion was made by Chris Tull to allow Bradley Huckabee to resend his resignation and be reinstated with Selmer Police Department. Motion seconded by Johnny Norris. John Finlayson---yes, Johnny Norris---yes, Paul Simpson---No, Edward Smith---yes, Chris Tull---yes. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned.