

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen met in regular session April 9, 2019 in Selmer City Hall. Mayor John Smith and the Board of Aldermen were present as follows: John Austin, John Finlayson, J. T. Hawkins, Troy Moore, and Johnny Norris.

The meeting opened with prayer by Russell Ingle followed by the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag of America led by Attorney Terry Abernathy.

Motion by Johnny Norris and seconded by J. T. Hawkins to approve the March 2019 minutes. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion by J. T. Hawkins and seconded by John Finlayson to accept the March 2019 financial statement.

Motion by Johnny Norris and seconded by John Finlayson to pass on second reading the adoption of an Ordinance amending the text of the Selmer Municipal Zoning Ordinance adding nonprofit Transient Lodging requirements in the B-1 (General Business) District. All five Board of Aldermen voted yes after protests were made by the surrounding residents stating that they did not want this in their neighborhood. Motion carried. 2nd reading Passed. Ordinance No. 674 Passed.

Jimmy Whittington and persons from "Jesus Cares" asking for the allowance at 452 Cherry Ave. were also present. Prior to the final voting a brief discussion and protest were again voiced: Teresa Johnson stated, " I still want to reiterate our objections! We were never once consulted. We are concerned about our safety. Adamsville did not want this because they were concerned about persons getting out of prison. If no other area wants this, then we will become a drop off area! It is not true that our safety can be assured! We are going to have to have security systems that some of use cannot afford! We do not appreciate this! We have not had any say about this! We are concerned about our safety as well as the effect it will have on our property values! We object strongly to this! If you found out it was coming to your neighborhood you would not be for it! If my Dad or me or anyone there gets harmed it will be a very serious concern to "Jesus Cares" and to the Town of Selmer."

W.J Surratt, owner of a business across the side street from the property, had questions as follows: "Is there going to be a monitoring system in place? If these people get out, is Jesus Cares responsible? What about Bolivar, Hardin County and the surrounding towns, do they have one? I want to know what the real deal is! I am for giving someone a second chance but most of these people need to get a job!"

Ina who lived across the street from the property and husband Billy Fulton addressed the issue. Mr. Fulton said that he was a supporter of Jesus Cares but did not want this across the street from their residence. He explained that he had worked at a home where persons were to be monitored and that it was impossible for one person to monitor six people. He asked that it be put somewhere else. Jokingly he suggested the Golf Course!

Patricia Davis Barnes who lives next to the 452 Cherry Ave. property stated that one man can't monitor 6 men. "Adamsville Aldermen heard the voices of their people who did not want this! Why don't you hear us! We have feelings too! If this goes next to me, I do not want to live in my house. I don't want to lay down and sleep in my house with that next door! I have grandchildren. At the last meeting mentally challenged children were compared to these people. I have a mentally challenged grandchild and mentally challenged people can not be compared to people who have been in prison! Mentally challenged children are some of the sweetest people in the world!" Ms. Barnes told the Board that she understood that they probably went to church with some of the people who wanted this and understood that they did not want to make anyone mad, but that she and the area residents had feelings also!

Jimmy Whittington reminded that "This is not a Halfway House!"

Maryann Lavandero, Street Department secretary, stated that earlier her house and belongings had burned up and that "Jesus Cares" had paid for she and her family to rent a motel, provided clothing and much needed help for them. She questioned and stated that "Jesus Cares" helped people in need other than just criminals! Debra Mutters with Jesus

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Cares stated, "We are not guaranteeing anyone's safety! We are not taking hardened criminals! We want to eventually make part of this our thrift store. Some of the people will be working at the Thrift Store!" She stated that she had allowed these people to stay in her house.

Mayor Smith stated that if the government chose to put a "Halfway House " in a residential area there would be nothing that anyone could do about it.

Again, Teresa Johnson stated, " If my Dad or anyone's safety is compromised, this will be a serious concern for everyone!"

The roll was called as shown above and the second reading passed. Ordinance No. 674 was passed.

Motion by J. T. Hawkins and seconded by John Austin to approve for consideration to meet requirements of the Tennessee Department of Environmental and Conservation (TDEC) Local Parks and Recreation Fund (LPRF) of the proposed project improvements to Patriot Park that must be reviewed and approved by the Board and submitted to TDEC prior to contract documents between the State of Tennessee and the Town of Selmer being developed. It is requested that the Board approve the project as submitted in the application phase in order to meet the requirements of TDEC and to move forward with the contracts with the State of Tennessee.

All five Board of Aldermen voted yes.

Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned.