The Mayor and Board of Aldermen met in special session in Selmer City at 5:00 P.M., August 27, 2025, to approve the second reading of the 2026 Budget, discussion of a Capital Outlay Loan for the new Police Building, and discission for Mark Godwin & Associates to do the FY 2026.

Mayor Sherry Inman and four of the Board of Aldermen were present as follows: John Finlayson, J. T. Hawkins, LaShell Moore, and Willie Sain. Johnny Norris was absent.

Because of the late date and need to send the Budget to the State Comptroller's office it was moved by Willie Sain and seconded by John Finlayson to approve the FY 26 Budget Ordinance on second reading. The Ordinance contains the same $.90 per $100 assessed value property tax Rate for the 2025 Calander year. All four present voted yes. Motion carried. 2nd Reading Ordinance No. 713, FY 2026 Budget Passed.

Prior to passing the 2nd reading of the Fy26 Budget there were questions concerning what was contained in some of the broadline items. One of the questions that LaShell Moore asked was concerning the Grants & Donations section of the proposed FY 26 Budget where she noted that a new line item, Mid-South Food Bank, had been added with a $5,500 entry, and that $1000.00 had been taken away from the Senior Citizen's normal $6,000 amount. Ms. Moore stated that she was not in favor of this! Willie Sain stated that he was not in favor of this and they requested that this be changed back to the normal $6,000 yearly amount.

There was much concern with the Recreation Department Budget, and it was specifically noted that the Recreational salaries were highly elevated. Recreational wages were questioned by the Board and compared to the total budget amount of the (17) Street Department employees. Recreational Director Robert Powell was not present.

Mayor Inman had asked Justin Hanson, Marketing Representative with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund to prepare the papers for a $400,000 Loan for a 12 year pay and present for the Boards approval. Mr. Hanson presented and explained the necessary action required for the 12-year loan and amortization schedule with a 4.890% interest rate. This prompted discussion from the board concerning why they were asked to approve borrowing $400,000 for the new Police Building. Police Chief Kim Holley stated that it should not be said that the new building project overspent $450,000 because $250,000 to $260,000 was simply not allocated in the beginning. Chief Holley explained that the new building still lacked signage and cameras, but that he planned to take this out of the Drug Fund. He told everyone that he intended to leave the parking lot to settle approximately a year prior to paving.

LaShell Moore told Mayor Inman that she should never have asked to borrow $400,000 and J. T. Hawkins stated that this amount should be kept close to what was owed. Motion by J. T Hawkins and seconded by Willie Sain requesting Mr. Hanson to prepare the figures for a $260,000 loan through the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund. Mr. Hanson was not sure what the interest rate would be but stated that he would certainly begin the process. All four voted yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Mark Godwin of Godwin & Associates PLLC explained a lot about the Audit Process. Alderman Sain questioned why Mr. Godwin declined doing last year's audit. Mr. Godwin stated that they had done the Town of Selmer's Audit since 2006 but that last year, after the contract was not signed and sent back to his company as normal, and with all the confusion here, they had felt it best to decline. Willie Sain asked Mr. Godwin if he would be willing to go back and pick the Town of Selmer up again June 30, 2026. Mark explained that he would be honored, and that he would like to have the contract no later than May. Chief Holley, realizing that the board was not talking about an actual starting date to begin working here but intended instead for his company to do the Fy25 year-end Audit and related to everyone this possible misunderstanding. Mr. Godwin, concerned with this late date, questioned the request because his prior answer was for FY 26. However, he agreed to review this request and give it much consideration. Later during further discussion of the audit, Mayor Inman admitted that she may have signed the Audit Contract with ATA Advisory LLC of Jackson, Tn and this prompted much board discussion. J. T. Hawkins reminded that the audit contract was tabled at the last meeting. John Finlayson asked, "Did you sign the contract?" Mayor Inman explained that it had to be put in by a certain date, but that she would have to check and make sure concerning the contract. Mayor Inman asked Tammy Blakely if they had signed and sent in the contract. Lashell Moore then asks Tammy if what was signed was a contract? LaShell seemingly disgusted with the perplexing unanswered question, said," Communication! Sherry, you could have sent us a simple e-mail to let us know!" J.T. Hawkins, "Did we enter in a contract with a signature?"

After being unable to resolve the issue, LaShell Moore asked that the meeting be adjourned and left the room.

Meeting Adjourned