

Mayor Sherry Inman and Board of Aldermen met in regular session August 8, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. in Selmer City Hall. Aldermen present: John Austin, John Finlayson, J.T. Hawkins, Johnny Norris, and Willie Sain.

The meeting opened with prayer by Ray Ouellette followed by the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag of America led by Johnny Norris.

The Town of Selmer paid special tribute to the 2022-2023 McNairy Central Lady Bobcats Softball Team winning the State Championship. This was especially an honor since it was the first time in history. All the team was awarded each a special engraved plaque congratulating them from the Town of Selmer. Each plaque had a softball engraved in the center followed by "2023 STATE CHAMPIONS MCNAIRY CENTRAL LADY BOBCATS SOFTBALL TEAM followed by CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE TOWN OF SELMER."

Coach Mellanie Surratt and most of the team present along with coaches Jimmy Ray, Steve King, Robin York, and Ross Shelton were honored and the newspaper made everyone's picture at the end of the presentation by John Finlayson.

The honored team players are: Lynnlee Brown, Kiersten Kiddy, Maddie Kirk, Madison Montgomery, Chanley Price, Chloe Shelton, Aspen Teague, Marion Harrison, Kayla Moore, Cailin Gray, Noelle Johnson, Annalei Maness, Merideth Ross, Callie Finlayson, Bailee Shelton, Sadie Youngblood, and Gabby Simmons.

Motion by J. T. Hawkins and seconded by Willie Sain to approve the minutes of July, 2023. All five voted yes. Motion carried. Motion carried.

Motion by Johnny Norris and seconded by John Austin to accept the July, 2023 financials. All five voted yes. Motion carried.

Department Reports were given.

Sybil Dancer read the resignation letter of Joshua Gray. She explained that she had been working in the areas that Josh normally did, cleaning picking up limbs, wasp nest removal with the help of Isaiah Jackson. She asked if Isaiah could be moved to a part time position with the standard rate of \$11.50 per hour. Everyone was in agreement with this. She further thanked the Board and all other departments for their help and support.

Fire Chief Anthony Carr stated that Frankey Gilbert and volunteers had not been given the salary increase that was due them. He stated that he had discussed this with our CMFO and that Anji had advised that his request to move \$8,000 within his Fire Department budget to correct their wages would be allowed since rearranging would not affect the bottom line of his budget. The Board agreed with his request.

Motion by John Austin and seconded by Johnny Norris to approve the request of Jeeps and Jam to have a Fireworks show off roads event in the Selmer City Park on August 19, 2023 from 4:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. with the approval of Fire Chief Carr.

All five voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Willie Sain and seconded by Johnny Norris to accept the bid of Elliott Logging in the amount of \$97,638.61 per year for a 5 year contract enabling the town to continue doing the Hwy Mowing and Litter pickup as provided for Selmer within the State of Tennessee Hwy Mowing Contract.

All five voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Johnny Norris and seconded by J. T. Hawkins to approve the request to move the Work session and Regular monthly meeting of October, 2023 to October 16 and 17, 2023.

All five voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Johnny Norris and seconded by Willie Sain to table the Performance Evaluation Policy to be used for merit raises until further study by the board.

All five voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion by John Finlayson and seconded by Johnny Norris to approve TLM as Engineers for the Multimodal Project. (No other Bids). (Project for Sidewalks from Dog Park to City Park).

All five voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Willie Sain and seconded by Johnny Norris to adopt a resolution calling for a Capital Outlay Note in the amount of \$220,000 for funding the necessary repairs on Henco Drive for the Phillip 66 Sinkhole Remediation Project and further accepting the bid of First Horizon Bank, FHN, at 6.23% with no closing cost and optional redemption at anytime. (Bids shown on next page.)

All five voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion by John Austin and seconded by J. T. Hawkins to authorize Attorney Terry Abernathy to negotiate a lower rate with Waste Connections for commercial Garbage Pickup.

All five voted yes.

Motion carried.

Motion by John Austin and seconded by J. T. Hawkins to approve the request of Fire Chief Anthony Carr to apply for the following Fire Grants:

Selmer Utility Department Public Entity Partners Safety Grant \$3,000.00 match \$1500.00  
AFG Truck Grant \$125,000.00 match \$6,200.00, AFG Safer Grant \$425,000.00 no match, Tennessee Highway Safety Grant \$12,500.00 no match, Fire House Sub Grant \$35,000.00 no match, Dynamic International Grant \$50000.00 no match, Tennessee State fire Marshall Office Grant \$35,000.00 no match.

All five present voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion by John Finlayson and seconded by J.T. Hawkins to put the Recreation Department back like it was. John Austin---yes, John Finlayson--yes, J.T. Hawkins---yes, Johnny Norris---yes, Willie Sain----No. Motion carried.

Homer Watson asked, "CAN WE ALL JUST GET ALONG!" "We need people to participate." "Lots of problems are personal." "We need to get rid of personal stuff!" "The whole town knows it!" "We went to 44% tax increase instead of getting new ways to bring in revenue." He urged that everyone look for ways to bring in more revenue and make sure that everyone is doing their job. "Leaders need to quit hating each other." "Quit doing what we always have done."

Ed Huggins of 432 East Poplar Ave. stated that for the past four years millions of dollars have been dumped in the park and we still don't have a ball field to play on. He questioned the East Selmer Park ball field as making no new progress since he first lived here years ago. Sybil Dancer explained that the County owned this field and that it was impossible to get a grant for it. She further stated that the plan was for the ball playing to be moved to the Patriot Park once completed and letting the School have the County owned field back.

Alicia Tull of 728 Circle Hill Drive stated that she had felt for some time that the town's spending habits were going to lead to a tax increase. She felt that many things were started and not finished, and purchased unnecessarily. She further felt that everyone was not treated fairly.

Isaiah Jackson stated that he was only 18 years old but could see much of the trouble here. He said that everyone was fighting and no one was taking their free time to help make things better. He felt that everyone continued to lose because of this. He stated that he hoped that everyone could get together.

Meeting Adjourned.

