

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen met on August 20, 2024, at 5:00 P.M., this being the regular meeting time. Mayor Greg Graves called the meeting to order, and the following Aldermen were present: Simpson, Hale, Garrett, and Tanksley. Also present were: Attorney Taylor Heck, City Clerk Katie Harbin, Deputy City Clerk Francis, Johnson, Assistant Police Chief Warren, Fire Chief Foresman, Building & Planning Director Stephen Hodges, Fire Inspector Brevin Holden, Building & Planning Administrative Assistant, Fire Inspector Larry Sowell, Public Works Director David Cooke, Community Development/Tourism Director Jamie Sowell, Robert Wilson, Animal Shelter Director Kris Robinson, Thurman Caldwell, Brett Brown, Joe Cooper, Kelly Smith, and Michael Cathey. Alderman Dear was absent.

Mayor Graves gave the invocation.

Approve Agenda

**City of Senatobia  
Mayor and Board of Aldermen Agenda**

August 20, 2024  
City Hall 5pm

1. Call to Order, Prayer, Roll Call
2. Welcome
3. Approve Agenda
4. Update on Downtown projects, Jamie Sowell
5. Discussion of City Flag

**Consent Agenda**

6. Approve Minutes from the Special Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on August 5, 2024
7. Approve Minutes from the Regular Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on August 6, 2024
8. Approve Minutes from the Special Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on August 12, 2024
9. Approve Docket of Claims numbers: 35098 – 35249 for a total of \$875,518.47
10. Authorize to pay Lamar & Hannaford P.A. Invoice 42636 for a total of \$460.00 (didn't make the docket)
11. Authorize part-time Fire Inspector Larry Sowell to attend the Fire Inspector 1031-II course on September 29, 2024 – October 3, 2024, at the State Fire Academy in Pearl, MS, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses
12. Authorize to hire Bradley Hoyt as a full-time uncertified Police Officer at a rate of P1, pending physical and background screening results
13. Authorize to hire Laura Parrette as a full-time certified Police Officer at a rate of P3, pending physical and background screening results
14. Authorize to hire Thomas Cockrell as a part-time Firefighter at a rate of \$14.33 per hour, pending physical and background screening results

15. Authorize to hire Tyler Harris as a part-time Firefighter at a rate of \$12.40 per hour, pending physical and background screening results
16. Authorize Pamela Patton to be the Interim Utility Billing Supervisor with a pay raise of \$1.00 per hour
17. Authorize to accept the resignation from Public Works employee Christopher Bradshaw
18. Authorize to accept the resignation from Public Works employee Clinton Partain
19. Authorize to hire Joseph Wimberly as a part-time Public Works Gas Department employee at a rate of \$14.00 per hour, pending physical and background screening results (previous seasonal employee)
20. Authorize to hire Rodney Wells as a full-time Public Works Water Department employee at a rate of \$13.00 per hour, pending physical and background screening results
21. Authorize to hire Kelly Smith as the Animal Shelter Director at a rate of \$16.00 per hour, pending physical and background screening results
22. Authorize to temporarily close Ward Street from Main Street to Tate St. for the Witches Night Out event on October 10, 2024
23. Authorize to temporarily close Front Street and Main Street for the Trunk or Treat event on October 29, 2024
24. Authorize to accept the lowest and best quote from Allen Home Services in the amount of \$5,300 to replace the existing wooden bridge at the Bank First Park
25. Executive Session – Public Works Personnel and Litigation

#### **Mayor's Corner**

##### Senior Citizen Center

Motion was made by Alderman Simpson, seconded by Alderman Hale, to approve the agenda as presented. All present voting yea, motion carried.

#### **Update on Downtown Projects**

Community Development/Tourism Director Jamie Sowell updated the Mayor and Board of Aldermen on things going on downtown. Mrs. Sowell advised that PATH and A2H have been here working downtown every day. We are still on track for the timeline PATH previously brought to us.

Mrs. Sowell advised that the feasibility study that was done on the old boy scout building came back with results saying it is feasible to renovate the old boy scout building. We have been looking at renovating the building and creating a space for special events behind it by putting a stage and lights, and creating an alleyway to connect to Main Street. Main Street will be using grant funds to pay for this project.

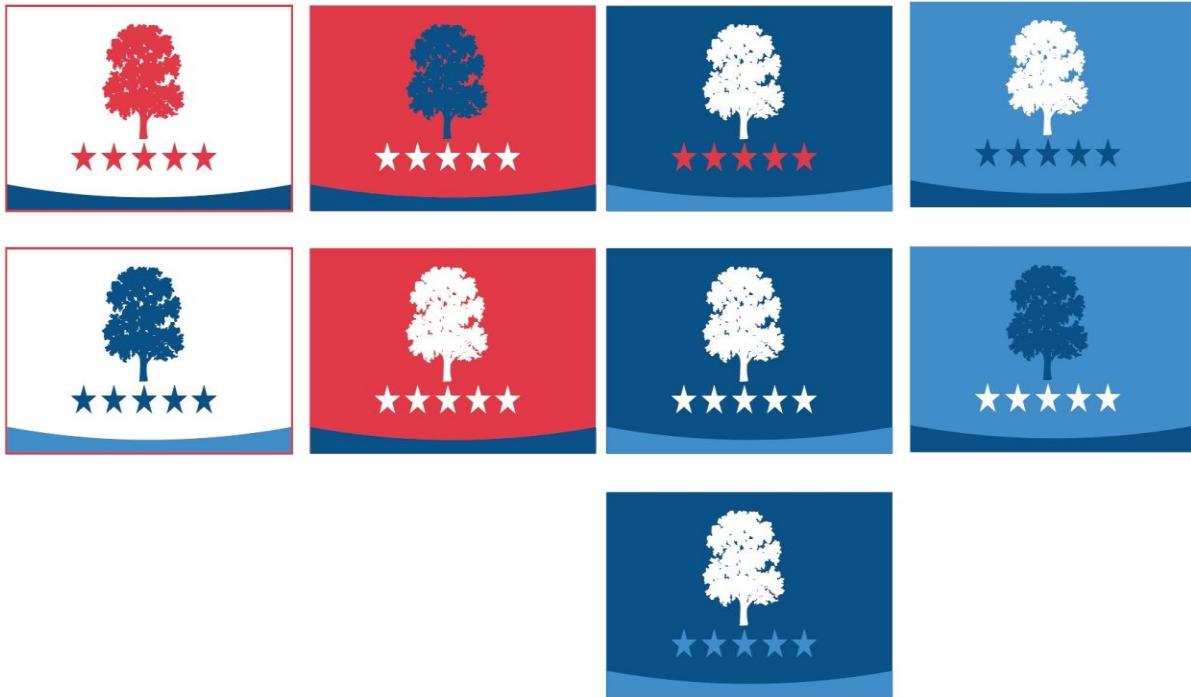
Mayor Graves asked if there were any funds that could be used for a billboard.

Jamie Sowell answered we have Tourism ARPA grant funds, promotional grants. We are looking to see if we can do that, what we've found so far is that we can rent one but not purchase one.

Jamie Sowell advised the Mayor and Board that Bill and Ward, Downtown workers, have been working hard and doing a great job cleaning up everything around downtown. We are making them a space next door to be their "home base".

Discussion of City Flag

Community Development/Tourism Director Jamie Sowell presented options for a new city flag. Mrs. Sowell stated that the flag should be symbolic, simple, not include words. It should represent the city.



Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to adopt a new city flag as presented, being one with a blue background, white tree, five red stars and a light blue strip at the bottom. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Graves went over the consent agenda items, numbers 6 - 24, and asked if anyone had any questions.

No questions were asked.

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to approve the consent agenda as presented. All voting yea, motion carried.

Approve Minutes from the Regular Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on August 5, 2024

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to approve the Minutes from the Regular Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on August 5, 2024. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Approve Minutes from the Regular Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on August 6, 2024

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to approve the Minutes from the Regular Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on August 6, 2024. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Approve Minutes from the Regular Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on August 12, 2024

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to approve the Minutes from the Regular Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on August 12, 2024. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Approve Docket of Claims numbers: 35098 - 35249 for a total of \$875,518.47 (as funds are available)

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to approve the Docket of Claims numbers: 35098 – 35249 for a total of \$875,518.47 as funds are available. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to pay Lamar & Hannaford P.A. Invoice 42636 for a total of \$460.00 (didn't make the docket)

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize to pay Lamar & Hannaford P.A. Invoice 42636 for a total of \$460.00. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize part-time Fire Inspector Larry Sowell to attend the Fire Inspector 1031-II course on September 29, 2024 – October 3, 2024, at the State Fire Academy in Pearl, MS, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize part-time Fire Inspector Larry Sowell to attend the Fire Inspector 1031-II course on September 29, 2024 – October 3, 2024, at the State Fire Academy in Pearl, MS, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to hire Bradley Hoyt as a full-time uncertified Police Officer at a rate of P1, pending physical and background screening results

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize to hire Bradley Hoyt as a full-time uncertified Police Officer at a rate of P1, pending physical and background screening results. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to hire Laura Parrette as a full-time certified Police Officer at a rate of P3, pending physical and background screening results

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize to hire Laura Parrette as a full-time certified Police Officer at a rate of P3, pending physical and background screening results. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to hire Thomas Cockrell as a part-time Firefighter at a rate of \$14.33 per hour, pending physical and background screening results

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize to hire Thomas Cockrell as a part-time Firefighter at a rate of \$14.33 per hour, pending physical and background screening results. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to hire Tyler Harris as a part-time Firefighter at a rate of \$12.40 per hour, pending physical and background screening results

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize to hire Tyler Harris as a part-time Firefighter at a rate of \$12.40 per hour, pending physical and background screening results. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize Pamela Patton to be the Interim Utility Billing Supervisor with a pay raise of \$1.00 per hour

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize Pamela Patton to be the Interim Utility Billing Supervisor with a pay raise of \$1.00 per hour. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to accept the resignation from Public Works employee Christopher Bradshaw

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize to accept the resignation from Public Works employee Christopher Bradshaw. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to accept the resignation from Public Works employee Clinton Partain

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize to accept the resignation from Public Works employee Clinton Partain. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to hire Joseph Wimberly as a part-time Public Works Gas Department employee at a rate of \$14.00 per hour, pending physical and background screening results (previous seasonal employee)

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize to hire Joseph Wimberly as a part-time Public Works Gas Department employee at a rate of \$14.00 per hour, pending physical and background screening results. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to hire Rodney Wells as a full-time Public Works Water Department employee at a rate of \$13.00 per hour, pending physical and background screening results

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize to hire Rodney Wells as a full-time Public Works Water Department employee at a rate of \$13.00 per hour, pending physical and background screening results. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to hire Kelly Smith as the Animal Shelter Director at a rate of \$16.00 per hour, pending physical and background screening results

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize to hire Kelly Smith as the Animal Shelter Director at a rate of \$16.00 per hour, pending physical and background screening results. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to temporarily close Ward Street from Main Street to Tate St. for the Witches Night Out event on October 10, 2024

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize to temporarily close Ward Street from Main Street to Tate St. for the Witches Night Out event on October 10, 2024. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to temporarily close Front Street and Main Street for the Trunk or Treat event on October 29, 2024

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize to temporarily close Front Street and Main Street for the Trunk or Treat event on October 29, 2024. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to accept the lowest and best quote from Allen Home Services in the amount of \$5,300 to replace the existing wooden bridge at the Bank First Park

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize to accept the lowest and best quote from Allen Home Services in the amount of \$5,300 to replace the existing wooden bridge at the Bank First Park. All voting yea, motion carried.

### **Mayors Corner**

Senior Citizen Center – Mayor Graves stated that he would like to look at doing this program if it fits in the budget.

Mayor Graves advised the Board that we will need to set a date to do budget discussions.

Alderman Simpson asked if anyone has seen the paving crew out working.

Mayor Graves answered he was told last Thursday that they would start this week, but I haven't actually seen them myself.

Go into Closed Session to discuss going into Executive Session for Public Works Personnel and Litigation

Motion was made by Alderman Tanksley, seconded by Alderman Simpson, to authorize to go into Closed Session to discuss going into Executive Session for Public Works Personnel and Litigation. All voting yea, motion carried.

Go into Executive Session for Economic Development

Motion was made by Alderman Tanksley, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize to go into Executive Session for Public Works Personnel and Litigation. All voting yea, motion carried.

Public Works Personnel

Motion was made by Alderman Simpson, seconded by Alderman Hale, to terminate employment with Public Works employee Melvin Moore effective immediately, for violating city policy. All voting yea, motion carried.

Public Works Personnel

Motion was made by Alderman Simpson, seconded by Alderman Hale, to terminate employment with Public Works employee James Garrett effective immediately, for violating city policy. All voting yea, motion carried.

Public Works Personnel

Motion was made by Alderman Simpson, seconded by Alderman Hale, to terminate employment with Public Works employee Mark Mullins effective immediately, for violating city policy. All voting yea, motion carried.

Come out of Executive Session

Motion was made by Alderman Simpson, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize to come out of Executive Session. All voting yea, motion carried.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Alderman Simpson, and seconded by Alderman Tanksley, to recess until August 26, 2024, at 5pm. All voting yea, motion carried.

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Greg Graves, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Katie Harbin, City Clerk