

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen met on September 3, 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, Dear, Hale, Garrett, and Tanksley. Also present were: City Attorney Ginger Miller, City Clerk Katie Harbin, Deputy City Clerk Francis, Johnson, Police Chief Chandler, Assistant Police Chief Warren, Fire Chief Foresman, Building & Planning Director Stephen Hodges, Building Inspector Bryan Riley, Fire Inspector Brevin Holden, Public Works Director David Cooke, Community Development/Tourism Director Jamie Sowell, Parks & Recreation Director Rob Boyd, Brett Brown, Denise Liddell, and Greg Smith.

Alderman Tanksley gave the invocation.

Approve Agenda

**City of Senatobia**  
**Mayor and Board of Aldermen Agenda**  
September 3, 2024  
City Hall 5pm

1. Call to Order, Prayer, Roll Call
2. Welcome
3. Approve Agenda
4. Public Hearing for Ad Valorem Tax Levy and Budget FYE 2025
5. Discuss logo for Water Tower, Greg Smith, Mendrop
6. Authorize to advertise for bids for the Water Tower project, Greg Smith, Mendrop
7. Discuss Parking at the sports park, Greg Smith, Mendrop
8. Update on Paving Project, Greg Smith, Mendrop
9. Department Reports

**Consent Agenda**

10. Approve Minutes from the Special Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on August 19, 2024
11. Approve Minutes from the Regular Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on August 20, 2024
12. Approve Minutes from the Special Mayor and Board of Alderman meeting on August 26, 2024
13. Approve Docket of Claims numbers: 35250 – 35426 for a total of \$478,279.18
14. Authorize Building Inspector Bryan Riley to attend the Flood Plain FEMA Conference on October 13-17, 2024, in Bryam, MS, also authorize to pay travel expenses
15. Authorize to hire Jearl Avant as a Public Works Street Department employee, pending physical and background screening results
16. Authorize to advertise for the Public Works Street Supervisor position
17. Authorize the Fire Department to apply for a surplus vehicle from the MS Forestry Commission

18. Authorize to accept the FY24 Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$30,000 for the Police Department
19. Authorize to accept the resignation from Senatobia Housing Authority Board member Tredis Richardson
20. Authorize Mayor Graves to sign the amended lease with ABB
21. Executive Session – Economic Development and Police Personnel

### **Mayor's Corner**

#### WWTP

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

#### Public Hearing for Ad Valorem Tax Levy and Budget FYE 2025

Mayor Graves opened the Public Hearing for the proposed Ad Valorem Tax Levy and Budget FYE 2025 and asked if anyone in the audience was there to speak on either items.

No one spoke.

Mayor Graves asked the Board if they had any questions or comments on either item. No questions or comments were made.

#### Adopt the Resolution to set the Ad Valorem Tax Levy FYE 2025

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
OF THE CITY OF SENATOBIA, TATE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI,  
FIXING THE RATE OF TAXES LEVIED FOR THE YEAR 2024-2025 ON ALL  
TAXABLE PROPERTY IN THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATE LIMITS  
OF THE CITY OF SENATOBIA AND THE SENATOBIA MUNICIPAL SEPARATE  
SCHOOL DISTRICT, TATE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Senatobia, Tate County, Mississippi, that the tax rate authorized to be collected on all taxable property in the City of Senatobia and the Senatobia Separate School District, Tate County, Mississippi, is as follows:

FOR General purposes and general improvements there is hereby levied, fixed, and authorized to be collected, twenty-five and forty-nine hundredths (25.20) mills on the dollar of assessed valuation on all the taxable property in the corporate limits of the City of Senatobia (Section 27-39-307 Mississippi Code, 1972 Annotated).

For the retirement of G. O. Bonds for Debt Service there is hereby levied, fixed, and authorized to be collected, four and twenty-one hundredths (4.50) mills on all taxable property in the corporation limits of the City of Senatobia (Section 21-33-87).

For the funding of a new Fire Truck there is hereby levied, fixed, and authorized to be collected, One (1.00) mill on all taxable property in the corporation limits of the City of Senatobia.

For the support of the District Maintenance Fund there is hereby levied, fixed, and authorized to be collected, fifty-two and sixteen hundredths (52.88) mills on the dollar of the assessed valuation on all taxable property in the Senatobia Separate School District (Section 37-57-104, Mississippi Code, 1972 Annotated).

For the retirement of G. O. School Bonds for the 2015 3,000,000 Bond Issue there is hereby levied, fixed, and authorized to be collected two and 4 hundredths (2.04) mills on the dollar of the assessed valuation on all taxable property in the Senatobia Separate School District (Section 37-59-1, Mississippi Code, 1972 Annotated).

For the retirement of G. O. School Bonds for the 2015 Bond Issue there is hereby levied, fixed and authorized to be collected seven and four hundredths (7.04) mills on the dollar of the assessed valuation on all taxable property in the Senatobia Separate School District (Section 37-59-1, Mississippi Code, 1972 Annotated).

For the support of the Regional Vocational Education Center, there is hereby levied, fixed, and authorized to be collected one and nine hundredths (1.09) mills on the dollar of the assessed valuation on all the taxable property in the Senatobia Separate School District (Section 37-7-409, Mississippi Code, 1972 Annotated).

For the purpose of defraying costs of collection of school taxes, there is hereby levied, fixed and authorized to be collected one and ninety-four hundredths (1.94) mills on the dollar of the assessed valuation on all the taxable property in the Senatobia Separate School District (Section 37-57-1, Mississippi Code, 1972 Annotated).

All levies thus made are in compliance with Section 27-39-3231, Mississippi Code, 1972 Annotated.

ORDERED AND DONE on this the 3rd day of September 2024.

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Greg Graves, Mayor  
City of Senatobia

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Katie Harbin, City Clerk  
City of Senatobia

Motion was made by Alderman Garrett, seconded by Alderman Hale, to adopt the Resolution setting the Ad Valorem Tax Levy FYE 2025. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Discussion of logo for the new Water Tower, Greg Smith, Mendrop

Greg Smith, Mendrop advised the Mayor and Board that the Water Tower Project is ready to go out for bids, except for the logo. Mr. Smith asked the Board if they knew what logo they would like to have on the new Water Tower.

There was a short discussion on different logos and paint colors.

Community Development & Tourism Director Jamie Sowell advised the Mayor and Board that we do have new logos that we adopted when we did the rebranding. Mrs. Sowell stated that she thinks "The One and Only" would be a good choice to go with.

Mayor Graves and the Board asked if they could get some pictures with different options on them to review before deciding.

Greg Smith answered yes.

Authorize to advertise for bids for the Water Tower project, Greg Smith, Mendrop

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Tanksley, to table this item until the September 17, 2024, Board meeting so they can decide on a logo to use. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Discussion of parking at the Sports Park, Greg Smith, Mendrop

Greg Smith, Mendrop, discussed new information obtained for the parking project at the Sports Park. Mr. Smith advised that he has learned about a gas line running under the proposed option 3 area. Mr. Smith advised that he recommended not using this area due to the gas line.

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Hale, to rescind the previous approval for option 3 and retain option 1 and 6. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Update on Paving Project, Greg Smith, Mendrop

Greg Smith, Mendrop updated the Mayor and Board on the progress of the paving project. Mr. Smith advised that the paving crew is about 75 % complete with the paving. There have been some setbacks but seem to be on a good track now. Mr. Smith advised that we are still running under budget.

Alderman Simpson stated I don't blame you for any of the delays, but I do have questions. After we started this project, we told our citizens that we would be finished with the paving last year, then we had a delay and had to wait on the weather, and then we had to wait on it to settle. It's getting old. Will they be finished by the end of this year?

Greg Smith stated an honest and short answer, I don't know. They have been doing pretty good since they've started back.

Alderman Simpson asked we haven't paid them have we?

Greg Smith answered yes. They have only billed about 25% so far. We have only paid for what work has been completed. We do hold 5%, per the contract, out for retainage and they have the incentive to get the work done correctly and on time so they don't get into damages cost.

Department Reports

Mayor Graves advised the Board that they have the department reports and department heads here if they have any questions.

Mayor Graves introduced Anna Cardona, EDF Director, to the Board.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Graves went over the consent agenda items, numbers 10 - 20, 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, after removing item 21 for the ABB amended lease. All voting yea, motion carried.

Approve Minutes from the Special Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on August 19, 2024

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to approve the Minutes from the Special Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on August 19, 2024. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Approve Minutes from the Regular Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on August 20, 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 20, 2024. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Approve Minutes from the Special Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on August 26, 2024

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to approve the Minutes from the Special Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on August 26, 2024. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Approve Docket of Claims numbers: 35250 – 35426 for a total of \$478,279.18 (as funds are available)

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to approve the Docket of Claims numbers: 35250 – 35426 for a total of \$478,279.18 as funds are available. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize Building Inspector Bryan Riley to attend the Flood Plain FEMA Conference on October 13-17, 2024, in Bryam, MS, also authorize to pay travel expenses

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize Building Inspector Bryan Riley to attend the Flood Plain FEMA Conference on October 13-17, 2024, in Bryam, MS, also authorize to pay travel expenses. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to hire Jearl Avant as a Public Works Street Department employee, pending physical and background screening results

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize to hire Jearl Avant as a Public Works Street Department employee, pending physical and background screening results. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to advertise for the Public Works Street Supervisor position

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize to advertise for the Public Works Street Supervisor position. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize the Fire Department to apply for a surplus vehicle from the MS Forestry Commission

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize the Fire Department to apply for a surplus vehicle from the MS Forestry Commission. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to accept the FY24 Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$30,000 for the Police Department

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize to accept the FY24 Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$30,000 for the Police Department. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to accept the resignation from Senatobia Housing Authority Board member Tredis Richardson

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize to accept the resignation from Senatobia Housing Authority Board member Tredis Richardson. All voting yea, motion carried.

Mayors Corner

WWTP – Mayor Graves advised the Board that a company has reached out to us wanting to see if we would be interested in selling our WWTP. We will get you more information regarding this, if you would be interested in the idea.

Go into Closed Session to discuss going into Executive Session for Economic Update and Police Personnel

Motion was made by Alderman Tanksley, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize to go into Closed Session to discuss going into Executive Session for Economic Updates and Police Personnel. All voting yea, motion carried.

Go into Executive Session for Economic Update and Police Personnel

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

Economic Update – ABB

Motion was made by Alderman Garrett, seconded by Alderman Tanksley, to authorize Mayor Garves to sign the letter of support to ABB regarding their expansion and tax exemption. All voting yea, motion carried.

Police Personnel

Motion was made by Alderman Simpson, seconded by Alderman Dear, to suspend Police Officer Hickey for two weeks without pay. All voting yea, motion carried.

Come out of Executive Session

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

Recess

Motion was made by Alderman Simpson, and seconded by Alderman Tanksley, to recess until September 10, 2024, at 5pm. All voting yea, motion carried.

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Greg Graves, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Katie Harbin, City Clerk