

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen met on February 3, 2026, at 5:00 P.M., this being the regular meeting time. Mayor Graves called the meeting to order, and the following Aldermen were present: Underwood, Dear, McConnell, Garrett, and Tanksley. Also present were: City Clerk Katie Harbin, Police Chief Vanderford, Fire Chief Foresman, FLSE/PIO Chantay Rhone, Director of Operations Stephen Hodges, Building Inspector Bryan Riley, Fire Inspector Brevin Holden, Operations Administrative Director, Community and Tourism Director Jamie Sowell, Parks and Recreation Director Jamie Chandler, Dan Etherton – SHPC, Buford Givens, FO Givens, Rebecca Caldwell, FO Givens, Ricky Stevens, Brett Brown – Tate Record, Dennis McConnell, Stacy Tittle, Waste Pro, Michael Cathey, Mark Lesure, and Anthony Saulsberry. Alderman Garrett arrived late.

Alderman Underwood gave the invocation.

Approve Agenda

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

February 3, 2026

City Hall 5pm

1. Call to Order, Prayer, Roll Call
2. Welcome
3. Approve Agenda
4. Adopt Audit Report FYE 2022, FO Givens
5. Approve Proposal from Waste Pro for garbage collecting services, also authorize Mayor Graves to sign the agreement
6. Authorize to set new garbage rates
7. Authorize Mayor and Aldermen to attend the Council of Governments trip to Washington, DC trip on March 23-25, 2026, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses
8. Authorize to accept the lowest and best quote from BAR Environmental, Inc. in the amount of \$36,800.00 to replace 4 fluoride pumps
9. Department Reports

**Consent Agenda**

10. Approve Minutes from the Regular Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on January 20, 2026
11. Approve Minutes form the Special Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on January 23, 2026
12. Approve Docket of Claims numbers: 41739 – 41844 for a total of \$331,857.55
13. Authorize to terminate employment with full-time Animal Shelter employee Nathan Farrow for violating City policy, effective immediately
14. Authorize to move part-time Animal Shelter employee Sarah Smith to the full-time position, effective immediately
15. Authorize to advertise for the open part-time Animal Shelter position
16. Authorize Firefighter Sam Suggs to attend the Firefighter Level I/II, NFPA 1010-0102 Class 220 at the MS Fire Academy in Pearl, MS on March 2, 2026 – April 16, 2026, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses

17. Authorize Police Lt. Howell to attend the Bridge the Gap: Agency Success Through Mentoring class in Oxford, MS on February 17, 2026, also authorize to pay registration
18. Authorize to hire James Pratcher as a full-time CDL Driver in the Public Works Department at a rate of \$17.50 per hour, pending background and drug screening results
19. Authorize the waiver of any permissible fees associated with work performed as a result of damage caused by the January 2026 ice storm; as long as the permit has been applied for within 90 calendar days (05/04/2026) of this authorization, required permits shall still be obtained (Bevin Holden & Bryan Riley)

### **Mayor's Corner**

Ice Storm Update  
Corporate Court  
Mid-Year Budget reevaluation

Motion was made by Alderman Underwood, seconded by Alderman Dear, to approve the agenda. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Alderman Garrett arrived.

### **Adopt Audit Report FYE 2022, FO Givens**

Mayor Graves advised the Aldermen that F.O Givens has completed the Audit Report FYE 2022, which Katie sent them to review a couple of weeks ago. Mayor advised that Mr. Givens and Mrs. Caldwell with FO Givens are present to answer any questions they may have.

Alderman McConnell asked how long it will take to complete each of the next years audits.

Bufford Givens answered as soon as we have complete information from the City, it would take us roughly 10 weeks to complete each report.

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to adopt the Audit Report FYE 2022 as presented. All present voting yea, motion carried.

### **Approve Proposal from Waste Pro for garbage collecting services, also authorize Mayor Graves to sign the agreement**

Alderman Dear asked if we get into the contract, can it be broken anytime.

Stacy Tittle, Waste Pro, stated that she is filling in for Lori, who has more information about the contract. There is certain language in the contract that allows for certain things on termination.

Mayor Graves stated that it can't hold a new Board to agreements.

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to approve the proposal from Waste Pro for garbage collection services, also authorizing Mayor Graves to sign the agreement.

Those voting "Aye": Alderman Underwood, Alderman Dear, Alderman McConnell, and Alderman Tanksley.

Those voting "Nay": Alderman Garrett.

Motion carried.

### **Authorize to set new garbage rates**

Alderman Dear stated I hate to do it, but we can't keep losing money.

Alderman Underwood stated his only concern is the ones with multiple cans.

Director of Operations Stephen Hoges stated he understands that concern, however there aren't many accounts with multiple cans. Mr. Hodges also feels like that if the rates are raised some customers might decide that they don't need an additional can.

Mayor Graves stated we've been losing badly on these cans at the current rates.

Director of Operations Stephen Hodges stated we actually did a can audit and found cans that weren't registered or being paid for. The purpose of the same fee for additional cans is due to the fact that we have the same expense per can. We have to incur the costs; it hasn't been covered. The dump fees aren't being covered, each can cost the same to dump. It is based on tonnage. Also, we were notified that the dump fees are being raised again very soon. Alderman Underwood stated that was my concern.

Mayor Graves stated you don't want to have the need to raise the fees every other year either.

Director of Operations Stephen Hodges advised the Board that he sent them the information and numbers. The reality is the price for trash is going down on cans, but will be charging for leaf, grass, brush, etc. pickup. Also, trash pickup will go to five days a week instead of four days a week.

Alderman McConnell stated we will still do the billing, correct.

Director of Operations Stephen Hodges answered yes.

Alderman Garrett stated I understand, but for an additional trash can, we would be going up from \$10 to \$20 on each one. I can't go for it.

Alderman Underwood stated I would be a no.

Alderman McConnell stated I think the citizens will see better services. The Public Works staff will be able to focus on keeping the streets better, everything else cleaner.

Alderman Garrett stated I think it's a bit much to offset something that we haven't been giving.

Director of Operations Stephen Hodges stated out of the total can count, about 230 accounts have multiple cans. We can leave those at \$10 and raise the first can more.

Alderman Tanksley stated I see what your saying, but with the cost of living going up, I hate to keep pounding the citizens for more.

Director of Operations Stephen Hoges stated again, these numbers are based on the numbers I received, we based the proposed rates on those. We kept it at a minimum.

Alderman McConnell stated is there any way to go down on the second can.

Director of Operations Stephen Hodges stated it would affect the knuckleboom services. The CDL personnel is roughly \$100,000 plus other expenses we will still incur.

Mayor Graves stated to Alderman Tanksley's point, COVID raised all salaries. We used to be at \$9 and \$11 per hour for street personnel, we've raised it to \$13 and \$15.

Director of Operations Stephen Hodges stated our CDL's were raised to \$16.50 per hour.

Stacy Tittle, Waste Pro, stated after the changes, I think you'll find that the customers will find out they don't need the extra cans.



## BOARD ORDER FOR GARBAGE RATE INCREASE

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen took up for further consideration the need to increase the fees for garbage services in the City of Senatobia; finding that the expense to provide these services has substantially increased, further finding there is a need to raise the fee charged in order to continue providing garbage collection services for the City of Senatobia.

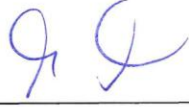
Upon motion made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman McConnell, there was a unanimous vote to raise the fee for Residential services City wide to \$23.00 per can and for Commercial services City wide to \$30.00 per can, excluding the Historic Downtown District Commercial area, effective April 1, 2026, adopted by the Board of Aldermen for the City of Senatobia, Mississippi.

ORDERED AND DONE on this the 3rd day of February 2026.

ATTEST:

Katie Harbin, City Clerk  
City of Senatobia



Greg Graves, Mayor  
City of Senatobia

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Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman McConnell, to authorize to raise the fee for residential services city wide to \$23.00 per can and for commercial services city wide to \$30.00 per can, excluding the Historic Downtown District Commercial area, effective April 1, 2026.

Those voting "Aye": Alderman Underwood, Alderman Dear, and Alderman McConnell.

Those voting "Nay": Alderman Garrett and Alderman Tanksley.

Motion carried.

Authorize Mayor and Aldermen to attend the Council of Governments trip to Washington, DC trip on March 23-25, 2026, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses

Mayor Graves stated that I believe Alderman Garrett has previously gone on this trip. Alderman Garrett, would you like to attend to represent the City again?

Alderman Garrett answered yes, if the Alderman want to approve that. Alderman Garrett stated regardless of who goes, it is a really big deal to attend. Tate County and the City have received a lot out of it. The County got the Hospital. I spoke of the need for a full-time Fire Department for the County. It takes us here, voicing our opinions with them.

Alderman McConnell stated they way it's worded made it a concern for me, Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

Mayor Graves stated whoever the Board wants to go. I don't have any interest in going. The Board just has to approve a representative.

Alderman Garrett stated you see a lot of Representatives. They actually sent money because of us going and our requests. It's with Tate County. We get together with the County and come up with requests and a plan.

Motion was made by Alderman Tanksley, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to authorize Alderman Garrett to attend the Council of Governments in Washington, DC, on March 23-25, 2026, also authorizing to pay registration and travel expenses. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to accept the lowest and best quote from BAR Environmental, Inc. in the amount of \$36,800.00 to replace 4 fluoride pumps

Mayor Graves stated that the Board previously voted to keep fluoride in our system. This item is about replacing the pumps that are needed. Mayor Graves advised the Board that we received notice from the State that our levels are off and we have to get it corrected, as he has previously advised them. We have to respond to the State with a plan of action.

Alderman Garrett asked if it is time for the pumps to be replaced.

Mayor Graves answered yes. These things age out, stop working, and we have to replace them to keep our levels where they need to be.

Alderman McConnell stated I feel it's not needed. Especially with the times right now.

Alderman Garrett asked if we didn't obey what the State tells us, then that's a whole other issue.

Alderman McConnell stated the State says we have to have a year's cost for fluoride set aside. Do we have that and where is it?

City Clerk Katie Harbin answered it will be budgeted for out of supplies in either the Water/Sewer or Treatment Purification budget.

Alderman Tanksley asked if the City Clerk can email them the numbers.

City Clerk Katie Harbin answered yes.

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize to accept the lowest and best quote from BAR Environmental, Inc., in the amount of \$36,800.00 to replace four (4) fluoride pumps.

Those voting "Aye": Alderman Underwood, Alderman Dear, and Alderman Garrett.

Those voting "Nay": Alderman McConnell and Alderman Tanksley.

Motion carried.

Department Reports

Fire Chief Foresman went over his report, advised the Mayor and Board that it's a new system they are using so the report looks a little different. Chief Foresman stated he wanted to commend his staff, they did an excellent job getting prepped and prepared for the winter storm. They all did a fantastic job, and I want to thank them for that. Chief Foresman stated we have some staff in training and have more to come.

Mayor Graves asked if any of our staff got hurt, feel, etc.

Fire Chief Foresman answered no sir, they used the proper equipment and safety measures.

Police Chief Vanderford stated I would also like to thank my staff. They did a fantastic job. They came in and worked, some on their days off. We had no injuries. Chief Vanderford went over the numbers on his report with the Board. Chief Vanderford stated that they were on the Interstate for several hours each day during the storm, working with MDOT and the Highway Patrol. I received several questions about the 18 wheelers in town. We had to put them somewhere. They have to have breaks so that they don't go over the number of hours they are allowed to be on the road. Some were stuck on the Interstate for ten (10) hours. We had about 150-200 trucks in our city at one time. Our gas stations and restaurants were packed.

Mayor Graves asked if the Holiday Inn stayed packed.

Chief Vanderford answered every time we went by there they were packed.

Parks & Recreation Director Jamie Chandler advised the Mayor and Board that everything has been going good. Adult Softball tournaments have started and is going good. We had to cancel last weekend's tournament due to the weather. Baseball registration is going on, it is going good so far. Ms. Chandler stated when she started with the City she met with our Pepsi representative to go over the contract we have in place, how it worked, etc. In the past week we have received around \$40,000 in rebates and sponsorship funds from them. They advised that they owed it to us for the past couple of years.

Mayor Graves stated Animal Shelter Director Crystal Kelley wasn't able to be here tonight. Mrs. Kelley has been doing a wonderful job. During the storm she keep the shelter going, even slept at the shelter to keep everything going, and picked up employees in her personal vehicle. Mrs. Kelley wrecked her personnel vehicle the other morning on her way to pick up employees to give them a ride to work. Thankfully she is ok, but her truck isn't. I will ask Alderman McConnell, he was speaking with her about that.

Alderman McConnell stated yes, she has been doing a great job. She did wreck her vehicle, hit a patch of ice.

Chief Vanderford stated that he wanted to take a minute to also thank Walmart for helping us with needed supplies. We had some Officers stay at the Station due to them not having power or having a tree fall on their home.

Community Development & Tourism Director Jamie Sowell advised the Mayor and Board that she has been working with Joe Max, Tate Co. EDF Director. Tate County has contracted with Mr. Max for the Director position. Mr. Max is very experienced and brings a lot of knowledge. Mrs. Sowell stated that she previously mentioned the MOSTF grant, for a walking trail. We were notified that we didn't get that grant, neither did the County. They did, however, give us good feedback. We can use the same information to apply for other grants. I am in the process of applying for the America250 grant. Mrs. Sowell stated that she's been working with businesses to see if there are any other locations/properties they can use temporarily if needed, due to the ice storm. Mrs. Sowell advised that she's going to pick up on the shop local, shop small, to help with our local businesses. They take a hit on business after Christmas. Mrs. Sowell advised that it was put out that \$20 million is being given to MS to assist with storm repair expenses from damage reports they receive. I will help any business and citizens get the resources needed to help with their damage.

Alderman Garrett stated we probably need to get a list together of all the property damages around.

Community Development & Tourism Director Jamie Sowell stated she was told there were around 50 buildings on the ground in Tate County.

SHPC Chairman Dan Etherton advised the Mayor and Board that the SHPC met earlier this month. Cheebo received approval for lighting, but I'm meeting with the contractor about the installation location. The pawn shop and adult daycare properties were sent demo by neglect letters in July, they didn't respond. They were recently sent another letter for them to come before the SHPC Board, and they showed up. If it is determined it is a demo by neglect situation, property owners have 90 days. It's a lot of work. The owners agreed to submit an application to bring in within 90 days, showing some work, a movement in the right direction. If they do, we'll

be lenient with them on the fines. A lot of people don't know what SHPC does, we went over that at our board meeting. We also spoke about the 210 E Gilmore home. It was built in 1935 to be a funeral home, a second location for CO Pate. The current owner is coming to our next meeting to talk about the condition of it. I spoke to the owner of the French Hotel about the demo by neglect situation, however another property he owns, the bus shop, needs work done as well.

Alderman Dear asked about the demo by neglect, is it they have 90 days to work on it. Do you have a time limit, if extending the deadline? Someone can tell you they will fix something, but it doesn't mean they will.

Dan Etherton stated we didn't set an exact date. We probably should put that in place. I don't know the owner's situation, finances, etc.

Jamie Sowell stated your code allows for it, it gives them the authority to move forward with the demo by neglect if the owner doesn't follow through with repairs.

Alderman Dear stated that's all I'm asking, to put a little teeth in it.

Dan Etherton stated correct. There's teeth, it allows for charges, fines levied, etc.

Mayor Graves stated he wanted to commend Mr. Etherton. The Adult Daycare owner agreed to repair, pretty much from the start of their conversation.

Dan Etherton stated we are trying to be proactive.

Mayor Graves stated he wanted to commend the Public Works staff for their work. We go home and go to sleep, don't worry about anything, just expect all of the utilities to work. That staff worked around the clock to make sure everything stayed running smoothly.

Director of Operations Stephen Hodges stated he wanted to thank our staff, they really did a great job. We met and prepped before the storm moved in. They put salt down prior to the ice. They got heaters from Walmart for our pump houses, to keep them working. If they get too cold, they would freeze and we wouldn't have had water. They had to check them every hour. The staff kept working in the bad conditions, they didn't complain and got the job done. Mr. Hodges stated some say we dodged a bullet with the storm, I say our staff kept us going.

Alderman McConnell stated for the future can we look at improving or having something for heat in the pump houses, so staff doesn't have to check it every hour.

Stephen Hodges stated we plan to. I'm thinking we need to repair or upgrade the breakers at the very least.

Alderman Dear stated he wanted to thank the Public Works, Fire and Police Departments. They all did a great job.

#### Consent Agenda

Mayor Graves went over consent agenda items 10 – 19, asked if anyone had any questions. No questions were asked.

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

#### Approve Minutes from the Regular Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on January 20, 2026

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to approve the Minutes from the Regular Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on January 20, 2026. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Approve Minutes from the Special Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on January 23, 2026

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to approve the Minutes from the Special Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on January 23, 2026. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Approve Docket of Claims numbers: 41739 - 41844 for a total of \$331,857.55

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to approve the Docket of Claims numbers: 41557 – 41738 for a total of \$3,221,243.75, as funds are available. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to terminate employment with full-time Animal Shelter employee Nathan Farrow for violating City policy, effective immediately

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to authorize to terminate employment with full-time Animal Shelter employee Nathan Farrow for violating City policy, effective immediately. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to move part-time Animal Shelter employee Sarah Smith to the full-time position, effective immediately

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to authorize to move part-time Animal Shelter employee Sarah Smith to the full-time position, effective immediately. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to advertise for the open part-time Animal Shelter position

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to authorize to advertise for the open part-time Animal Shelter position. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize Firefighter Sam Suggs to attend the Firefighter Level I/II, NFPA 1010-0102 Class 220 at the MS Fire Academy in Pearl, MS on March 2, 2026 – April 16, 2026, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to authorize Firefighter Sam Suggs to attend the Firefighter Level I/II, NFPA 1010-0102 Class 220 at the MS Fire Academy in Pearl, MS on March 2, 2026 – April 16, 2026, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize Police Lt. Howell to attend the Bridge the Gap: Agency Success Through Mentoring class in Oxford, MS on February 17, 2026, also authorize to pay registration

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to authorize Police Lt. Howell to attend the Bridge the Gap: Agency Success Through Mentoring class in Oxford, MS on February 17, 2026, also authorize to pay registration. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to hire James Pratcher as a full-time CDL Driver in the Public Works Department at a rate of \$17.50 per hour, pending background and drug screening results

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to authorize to hire James Pratcher as a full-time CDL Driver in the Public Works Department at a rate of \$17.50 per hour, pending background and drug screening results. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize the waiver of any permissible fees associated with work performed as a result of damage caused by the January 2026 ice storm; as long as the permit has been applied for within 90 calendar days (05/04/2026) of this authorization, required permits shall still be obtained (Bevin Holden & Bryan Riley)

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to authorize the waiver of any permissible fees associated with work performed as a result of damage caused by the January 2026 ice storm; as long as the permit has been applied for within 90 calendar days (05/04/2026) of this authorization; required permits shall still be obtained. All voting yea, motion carried.

### Mayor's Corner

#### Ice Storm

Mayor Graves passed out a chart to the Board showing the amount of ice fallen over Mississippi. Stating that we were 50 miles from the worst of it, where they had the most ice. Mayor Graves stated that he wanted to work on something to show appreciation for our staff that worked through the storm, keeping us going.

#### Mid-Year Budget Revaluation

Mayor Graves advised the Board that Alderman McConnell had previously mentioned doing a revaluation of the budget around mid-year to see if we could give raises. I will plan to have this information to you for discussion, hopefully in March.

#### 201 Corporate Court

Mayor Graves advised the Board that someone has reached out to me regarding purchasing our property located at 201 Corporate Court. I wanted to let you know and get your thoughts to see if you would be interested in possibly selling this property.

Mayor Graves stated he wanted to commend the Fire, Police and Public Works Departments for working hard and doing a great job through this ice storm. They did wonderful. No one else reached out to us to see if we needed assistance, until this past Sunday. Our local EMA office asked then if we needed anything. Our staff kept our City running.

### Adjourn

Motion was made by Alderman Underwood, and seconded by Alderman Tanksley, to adjourn. All voting yea, motion carried.

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Greg Graves, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Katie Harbin, City Clerk