

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen met on January 20, 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 Attorney Kenneth Stockton, City Clerk Katie Harbin, Police Chief Vanderford, Fire Chief Foresman, FLSE/PIO Chantay Rhone, Director of Operations Stephen Hodges, Community and Tourism Director Jamie Sowell, Parks and Recreation Director Jamie Chandler, William Franklin - PATH, Carla Meier - PATH, Dan Etherton – SHPC, Ricky Stevens, Brett Brown – Tate Record, Karen Brown – Sycamore Arts, and Michael Cathey.

Alderman Garrett gave the invocation.

Approve Agenda

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

January 20, 2026
City Hall 5pm

1. Call to Order, Prayer, Roll Call
2. Welcome
3. Approve Agenda
4. Funding request from Sycamore Arts Funding, Karen Brown
5. Update on the Downtown Revitalization Project, William Franklin, PATH
6. Discussion of street lighting in West Point subdivision
7. Discussion of garbage collection services

Consent Agenda

8. Approve Minutes from the Regular Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on January 6, 2026
9. Approve Docket of Claims numbers: 41557 – 41738 for a total of \$3,221,243.75
10. Authorize City Clerk Katie Harbin and Deputy City Clerk Francis Johnson to attend the Annual Spring Municipal Clerks Conference on April 29 – May 1, 2026, in Starkville, MS, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses
11. Authorize Mayor Graves, Board of Aldermen, and Department Heads to attend the CMO Elective Evening Class for Municipal Purchasing on February 26, 2026, in Oxford, MS, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses (alternate dates and locations to be February 12, 2026, in Ridgeland, MS or March 26, 2026, in Hattiesburg, MS)
12. Authorize Deputy City Clerk Francis Johnson to attend the Annual MML Summer Conference in Biloxi, MS on June 28 – July 2, 2026, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses (mistakenly left off previous agenda)
13. Acknowledge the resignation from Police Sgt. J. Griffin effective January 26, 2026
14. Acknowledge the resignation from Daniel Clemons, Public Works Meter Reader, effective January 7, 2026
15. Authorize to hire Willam Allred as a full-time Meter Reader in the Public Works Department at a rate of \$14.00 per hour, pending background and drug screening results

16. Authorize to hire Lucy Yancy as a full-time Meter Ready in the Public Works Department at a rate of \$14.00 per hour, pending background and drug screening results
17. Authorize to hire Heather Barlow as a part-time Utility Billing Clerk at a rate of \$13.00 per hour, pending background and drug screening results
18. Approve the best bid for Municipal Depository Services from Bank First
19. Authorize to temporarily move Police Officer Perrette to Sergeant, with the increase in pay to match
20. Authorize Mayor Graves to sign the Umpire Assigner Agreement with Chris Jeter
21. Authorize to hire William Delcourt as a full-time Public Works Street Department employee at the rate of \$15.00 per hour, pending background and drug screening results

Mayor's Corner

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

Funding request from Sycamore Arts Funding, Karen Brown

Karen Brown, Sycamore Arts, introduced herself and presented their annual request for funding. Mrs. Brown introduced members of the Sycamore Arts Board. Mrs. Brown advised that they are all volunteers and they are a 501C3 organization. All of the money stays here in Tate County. Mrs. Brown stated that they are very thankful for the continued support from the City.

Mayor Graves asked Mrs. Brown to tell us what you do for the schools.

Karen Brown advised that they have grants for the arts program that goes to 9 different schools. Some of the grants provide an in-house artist that will teach kids how to draw. We try to broaden students' vision of what the world can be for them. Try to bring something positive into their lives.

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to approve the funding request from Sycamore Arts in the amount of \$6,000, finding that this is a means for advertising and bringing into favorable notice the opportunities, possibilities, and resources of the City of Senatobia. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Update on the Downtown Revitalization Project, William Franklin, PATH

William Franklin, PATH Co., presented an update on the Downtown Revitalization project stating he'd like to get any concerns and questions anyone may have. Mr. Franklin advised that tons of work has been going on with the project. We have run into some unexpected issues, as is always expected.

Mayor Graves stated that originally Front Street was due to be done during November/December, but due to feedback from some Downtown businesses, we decided to move it to the last phase and should be done in Spring and Summer months.

Carla Meier, PATH, stated that is correct. Front Street will be the last phase to complete, in order to not hinder businesses. We hope to have good weather during those months.

William Franklin advised that they've had lots of water line issues on College Street.

Alderman Dear stated he's received some calls from residents on College St about the sewer, there isn't a sewer line being replaced on College?

Carla Meier answered that is correct. Due to the elevation required, where the lines are, etc., it wasn't a feasible option for the sewer lines to be done.

Mayor Graves asked where they are currently.

Carla Meier answered some cross College St to Ward St and some run back from College St toward the school.

Mayor Graves asked Alderman Underwood if everything has been ok with the school.

Alderman Underwood answered yes. PATH has been very helpful, and communications have been great from them.

Alderman Dear asked what the timeline was for College Street, with the upcoming weather.

Carla Meier stated that they've kept hitting water lines on College due to how shallow they are. We've turned our focus to finding the existing main to turn the water off. The water coming from that existing main has been causing issues, leaks.

Mayor Graves asked if they killed the second one.

Carla Meier answered yes, we got the 4 inch one from the school to Hwy 51 off.

Alderman Underwood asked about the plan and timeline for the sidewalks.

Carla Meier answered that they are scheduled to work on those this coming Thursday, depending on the weather.

Alderman Garrett stated he appreciated what y'all are doing. Progress takes time, to do it right. Thank you for not rushing and being honest with us.

William Franklin stated our goal is to be available as often as you need and to help in anyway I can.

Discussion of street lighting in West Point subdivision

Mayor Graves stated that two Aldermen requested we get this quote to add additional streetlights to the West Point Subdivision. There should have been more placed before the current phases of the subdivision when they were completed and the streets turned over, however it wasn't caught back then.

Alderman Garrett stated that we need to go with what was suggested by PATH, not the list the HOA has requested.

Motion was made by Alderman McConnell, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize installing 15 streetlights in the West Point Subdivision for a total of \$13,173.00, due to sufficient street lighting not being installed when the current phases of the subdivision was completed. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Discussion of garbage collection services

Director of Operations Stephen Hodges went over the information previously collected and provided to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen regarding the cost of garbage collection services. Mr. Hodges stated after considering the overall numbers and impact, he recommends outsourcing the services to WastePro. Mr. Hodges stated that WastePro provided us with the best quote for the services. Mr. Hodges stated that the city would still bill and collect the payments for these services, just as we do now. We would then turn around and pay the invoice from WastePro for the services. Mr. Hodges stated that the City would need to continue to operate our two knuckleboom trucks, the street vac, and other equipment, to continue to provide the other services. WastePro would collect and dump the trash, supply and maintain cans. As our cans

break, they will replace them with their cans. WastePro will keep in contact with us regarding their schedule for pick up and holidays. Also, their trucks have cameras with video which would allow us to watch at any given time to investigate any situation if needed. Waste Pro would run five days a week.

Alderman Garrett asked how many cans we have.

Stephen Hodges answered about 3,296 residential and about 230 commercial. Based on our last audit and my calculations we'd need to raise the residential fee \$5.40 per can, with no discounts for additional cans.

Mayor Graves asked if the pickup location for businesses will change.

Stephen Hodges stated there are some transitions / changes we'd have to make. WastePro will come and run the routes to look at everything to see what will work best. Mr. Hodges stated another benefit with WastePro is that they have a satellite truck that can come out to help if something was missed.

Alderman Tanksley asked if we are responsible for any damage they create.

Stephen Hodges answered no, they have their own insurance. It is a lot of liability we'd be able to take off of the City. Mr. Hodges stated I'm not eliminating any jobs. The staff are excited about this possibility.

Alderman Underwood asked how many employees we have.

Stephen Hodges answered we used to have about 18, we are down to about 6 or 8 for the sanitation and street departments.

Alderman Dear stated it sounds like a win win to me.

Alderman Underwood asked if there is any profit with the extra cans we have now.

Stephen Hodges answered there is limited availability to get rid of them, especially since they are branded with our name. We can look into maybe recycling them.

Alderman Underwood asked if we end up with extra employees for this department, could we look at moving them to another department.

Stephen Hodges stated yes. Mayor, Jamie Sowell, Jamie Chandler, Katie and I have actually discussed this possibility.

Alderman Underwood stated we are about to have no employees in the parks department, If the ones we have retire.

Alderman Tanksley asked if they can get the numbers to look at.

Stephen Hodges answered yes, I have a copy right here, I will get you a copy.

Alderman Garrett stated his biggest thing is, we just went up on water. If we don't go up in services provided, people are going to come kill us. It's not the citizens' problem.

Alderman Dear stated we haven't raised prices like we should have been doing over the years.

Mayor Graves stated we can't do it to lose money.

Stephen Hodges stated I understand where you're coming from Alderman Garrett. I haven't taken this lightly. I have been working on this for about a year now. If we don't increase the fee, we will be losing, either way we go.

Alderman Underwood stated basically it will be an increase of \$6 a household, and we will be able to provide the services needed, that other cities offer, and citizens will see better services, correct?

Stephen Hodges answered yes.

Alderman Garrett asked so outsourcing gives you a couple more guys to do other work that needs to be done, correct.

Stephen Hodges answered correct.

Mayor Graves stated that CDL's will still be needed to drive the knucklebooms.

Alderman Dear stated if we don't do this, how much will we need to go up. We can't lose money.

Stephen Hodges answered about the same amount, to cover expenses. Also, I'd have to bring back the third CDL position.

Mayor Graves stated that we left that position open to help save money in the budget.

Alderman McConnell stated I don't see any other way than to outsource it. I hate raising the price for the citizens, but if we have to we have to.

Alderman Tanksley stated putting it off 2 weeks won't hurt.

Mayor Graves stated we've had the information for months now, I reminded the Board that it would be on tonight's agenda.

Alderman Garrett stated I'd just like to look at the numbers myself. The math isn't mathing to me. I'm not saying we shouldn't, I just want to look. I'd like to go to the people and ask them. They are the ones that voted me in. If they want better services for the extra money, but if not, I probably won't vote for it.

Alderman Dear stated we still have to do an increase.

Motion was made by Alderman Tanksley, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to table this item until the February 3, 2026, Board meeting for further review. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Graves went over consent agenda items 8 – 21, asked if anyone had any questions. No questions were asked.

Alderman Garrett asked to pull item # 20 for discussion.

Alderman Tanksley asked to pull item # 17 for discussion in executive session.

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to approve the consent agenda, as presented, after removing item numbers 17 and 20 for discussion. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Approve Minutes from the Regular Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on January 6, 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 6, 2026. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Approve Docket of Claims numbers: 41557 – 41738 for a total of \$3,221,243.75

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 City Clerk Katie Harbin and Deputy City Clerk Francis Johnson to attend the Annual Spring Municipal Clerks Conference on April 29 – May 1, 2026, in Starkville, MS, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to authorize City Clerk Katie Harbin and Deputy City Clerk Francis Johnson to attend the Annual Spring Municipal Clerks Conference on April 29 – May 1, 2026, in Starkville, MS, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize Mayor Graves, Board of Aldermen, and Department Heads to attend the CMO Elective Evening Class for Municipal Purchasing on February 26, 2026, in Oxford, MS, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses (alternate dates and locations to be February 12, 2026, in Ridgeland, MS or March 26, 2026, in Hattiesburg, MS)

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to authorize Mayor Graves, Board of Aldermen, and Department Heads to attend the CMO Elective Evening Class for Municipal Purchasing on February 26, 2026, in Oxford, MS, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses (alternate dates and locations to be February 12, 2026, in Ridgeland, MS or March 26, 2026, in Hattiesburg, MS). All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize Deputy City Clerk Francis Johnson to attend the Annual MML Summer Conference in Biloxi, MS on June 28 – July 2, 2026, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses (mistakenly left off previous agenda)

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to authorize Deputy City Clerk Francis Johnson to attend the Annual MML Summer Conference in Biloxi, MS on June 28 – July 2, 2026, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses (mistakenly left off previous agenda). All voting yea, motion carried.

Acknowledge the resignation from Police Sgt. J. Griffin effective January 26, 2026

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to acknowledge the resignation from Police Sgt. J. Griffin effective January 26, 2026. All voting yea, motion carried.

Acknowledge the resignation from Daniel Clemons, Public Works Meter Reader, effective January 7, 2026

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to acknowledge the resignation from Daniel Clemons, Public Works Meter Reader, effective January 7, 2026. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to hire Willam Allred as a full-time Meter Reader in the Public Works Department at a rate of \$14.00 per hour, pending background and drug screening results

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to authorize to hire Willam Allred as a full-time Meter Reader in the Public Works Department at a rate of \$14.00 per hour, pending background and drug screening results. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to hire Lucy Yancy as a full-time Meter Ready in the Public Works Department at a rate of \$14.00 per hour, pending background and drug screening results

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to authorize to hire Lucy Yancy as a full-time Meter Ready in the Public Works Department at a rate of \$14.00 per hour, pending background and drug screening results. All voting yea, motion carried.

Approve the best bid for Municipal Depository Services from Bank First

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to approve the best bid for Municipal Depository Services from Bank First. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to temporarily move Police Officer Perrette to Sergeant, with the increase in pay to match

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to authorize to temporarily move Police Officer Perrette to Sergeant, with the increase in pay to match. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to hire William Delcourt as a full-time Public Works Street Department employee at the rate of \$15.00 per hour, pending background and drug screening results

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to authorize to hire William Delcourt as a full-time Public Works Street Department employee at the rate of \$15.00 per hour, pending background and drug screening results. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize Mayor Graves to sign the Umpire Assigner Agreement with Chris Jeter

Alderman Garrett asked if this is something we've always done or new.

Parks & Recreation Director Jamie Chandler answered this is new, since we've taken over recreational baseball. Mr. Jeter will assign and pay umpires instead of the City doing it.

Alderman Garrett stated he had a questions about a section in the agreement, stated it sounds like it contradicts itself.

Parks & Recreation Director Jamie Chandler advised that it is standard language in agreements. It is basically saying I can dictate if someone needs to leave the park and not be used again, due to an incident. Ms. Chandler stated he will be an independent contractor. He charges \$5 per game to assign. Mr. Jeter assigns the umpires, he's responsible for them. We pay the umpires through him.

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize Mayor Graves to sign the Umpire Assigner Agreement with Chris Jeter. All voting yea, motion carried.

Go into Closed Session to discuss going into Executive Session for Utility Billing Department 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 Utility Billing Department Personnel. All voting yea, motion carried.

Go into Executive Session for Utility Billing Department Personnel

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize to go into Executive Session for Utility Billing Department Personnel. All voting yea, motion carried.

Patricia Wright, Utility Billing Supervisor

Motion was made by Alderman Tanksley, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to move Patricia Wright to the Utility Billing Supervisor position. A vote was taken with the following results:

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

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

The motion failed.

Authorize to hire Heather Barlow as a part-time Utility Billing Clerk at a rate of \$13.00 per hour, pending background and drug screening results

Motion was made by Alderman Garrett, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to authorize to hire Heather Barlow as a part-time Utility Billing Clerk at a rate of \$13.00 per hour, pending background and drug screening results. All voting yea, motion carried.

Come out of Executive Session

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

Mayor's Corner

Mayor Graves advised that Cheebo should be opening soon, hopefully within the next 2-3 weeks. They are working on the sewer now.

Alderman Dear asked about the building and Mr. Scott.

Mayor Graves stated there was a lien on the property, Mr. Stockton has been working on this, and the paperwork has been filed to correct everything.

Adjourn

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

Greg Graves, Mayor

ATTEST:

Katie Harbin, City Clerk