

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen met on January 6, 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, Deputy City Clerk Francis Johnson, Police Chief Vanderford, Fire Chief Foresman, Director of Operations Stephen Hodges, Community and Tourism Director Jamie Sowell, Parks and Recreation Director Jamie Chandler, Darrell Dixon, Ricky Stevens, Dan Etherton, Brett Brown, Charlie Sanders, Sandra Vaughn, Daniel Vaughn, Dennis McConnell, and Michael Cathey.

Alderman McConnell gave the invocation.

Approve Agenda

**City of Senatobia**  
**Mayor and Board of Aldermen Agenda**  
January 6, 2026  
City Hall 5pm

1. Call to Order, Prayer, Roll Call
2. Welcome
3. Approve Agenda
4. Authorize to advertise for Street Paving/Repair services
5. Discussion of leaf vac truck
6. Department Reports

Consent Agenda

7. Approve Minutes from the Regular Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on December 16, 2025
8. Approve Docket of Claims numbers: 41329 – 41556 for a total of \$1,159,206.33
9. Authorize to accept a donation in the amount of \$500.00 from Mrs. M.J. Tindall for Police Department equipment
10. Authorize to accept a donation in the amount of \$200.00 from Members of the Senatobia Wal-Mart Loss Prevention Team for the Police Department SWAT Team
11. Authorize Police Chief Vanderford to attend the New Police Chiefs Orientation in Ridgeland, MS on January 11-16, 2026, also authorize to pay travel expenses
12. Authorize Fire Chief Foresman to apply for and attend if accepted for the 2026 Mississippi Executive Fire Officer course
13. Acknowledge the resignation from Police Officer Nicholas Keith effective December 8, 2025
14. Authorize to hire Josh Crain as a full-time certified Police Officer at the rate of P3, pending background and physical screening results
15. Authorize payment of \$115,000 the property located at 208 Scott Street, for the Main St, Scott St Roundabout project
16. Approve the Development Infrastructure Program Grant Matching Funds Resolution, also authorizing Mayor Graves to sign (MDA DIP Grant, matching funds coming from NI project funds)
17. Authorize Mayor Graves to sign an Engagement Letter/Agreement with F.O. Givens & Company for 2024 and 2025 Audit services

Mayor's Corner

## 2026 Outlook

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

Authorize to advertise for Street Paving/Repair Services

Motion was made by Alderman Garrett, seconded by Alderman Dear, to authorize to advertise for Street Paving/Repair Services. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Discussion of Leaf Vac Truck

Mayor Graves stated that an Alderman requested this item for discussion.

Director of Operations Stephen Hodges advised the Board about the situation with the leaf vac truck. It has been in the shop, we finally got it back today and it ran for about 5 miles and broke down again. We took it back to the shop to get another quote for repair. Our truck is old, and it is hard to get parts to repair it.

Mayor Graves asked Alderman McConnell if he had received quotes or information on the leaf vac truck he was looking at.

Alderman McConnell stated yes. I've thought about adding that service to my personal business. I received some information I will share with Hodges.

Alderman Underwood asked what the game plan for the next two months.

Stephen Hodges stated he wanted to update the Board on everything and then get quotes for a new machine/truck.

Alderman Garrett asked if we put ours back in the shop to pay to repair again, just for it to break down again. I don't think it's worth putting more money into it. Do we use gov deals.

Stephen Hodges answered yes, we look on there also. Most of what I see are old models, like what we have. They aren't made for what we use it for.

Alderman McConnell stated plus they put limbs in their piles and that tears the truck up.

Stephen Hodges stated and paint cans.

Alderman Underwood so we can expect for the leaves to sit there for another 3 months. I'm only asking so we know what to expect and how to answer citizens.

Stephen Hodges stated we are trying, aside from the guys using a rake.

Alderman Tanksley asked if we have a backhoe. The guys can put the leaves in it, then put them in a truck.

Alderman McConnell asked if we have a 250 or 350.

Stephen Hodges answered yes.

Department Reports

Alderman Garrett stated that Richard Storey called to tell me that our garbage truck knocked down his mailbox. We probably need to replace that.

Alderman Underwood asked if the Shands Bottom Rd Bridge is closed yet.

Stephen Hodges stated that we left it open through the Holiday. Also, we are waiting on information from Kevin regarding the requirements from MDOT to close it.

Police Chief Vanderford stated that things are going good with the Police Department. Our stats are lower, which is a good thing. We have been doing more foot patrols in shopping centers, banks, schools, etc. We have an officer to hire on the agenda tonight. We aren't getting a lot of applications right now. Other communities around are having the same problem. Some of it is due to ICE taking applications. They can offer a larger salary and better benefits than cities can. We are continuing to change the culture of the Police Department, making changes.

Fire Chief Foresman stated everything is going well with the Fire Department. Outside of the report, we wrapped up evaluations. That went well. We have a good bit of training coming up.

Mayor Graves stated that 911 was pretty busy during the holiday.

Fire Chief Foresman stated yes they were.

Parks and Recreation Director Jamie Chandler stated that Adult Softball has started, the first tournament was this past Saturday. They will have a total of 26 tournaments this season. Registration for recreational baseball is opening up next week. We have new foods in concessions; they have been a big hit. We received a lot of compliments this past weekend. People were thankful to be able to play softball in Senatobia again.

Alderman Dear asked if they are cooking.

Jamie Chandler answered yes, we are using the equipment that has been in there. We would really like to start replacing, improving some of that equipment soon.

Community Development & Tourism Director Jamie Sowell gave the Mayor and Board an updated timeline for the Downtown Project. William will be at the next meeting to give a more detailed update. Mrs. Sowell advised that the water has been reconnected to the homes on College Street today with no issues. They are working backwards from Ward Street to Front Street. Trying to make sure that when they get to Front Street it isn't during the Holidays. Ward Street is the next phase, which will be done in small sections. The overall schedule got way off, behind, due to issues with the railroad, elevation issues behind city buildings, water lines not buried deep enough. Multiple issues that weren't anyone's fault. We also had 15 rain days since they started on College St on October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Sowell advised the Mayor and Board that the Beast and Brews event will be on February 28<sup>th</sup> and the Five Star City Festival will be held on May 8-10<sup>th</sup>. I am still working on grants for the Boy Scout Building.

Mayor Graves asked Mrs. Sowell feels like the Downtown Merchants had a good season.

Mrs. Sowell answered I do. I have always promoted shop local, now citizens are doing that more. It used to be we couldn't get anyone here to shop, now the problem is there isn't enough parking. Mrs. Sowell stated that Cheebo should be opening soon. Also, someone has purchased the old KFC building.

Dan Etherton advised the Mayor and Board that the SHPC will have some Downtown property owners at their next meeting to discuss the condition and lack of repair to their property.

Alderman Garrett asked if we have heard anything about the training center.

Fire Chief Foresman stated I haven't heard anything since the Planning Commission meeting.

Alderman McConnell asked if that is a retention pond.

Stephen Hodges answered yes, supposed to be.

Alderman Dear asked about the water tower.

Mayor Graves answered I'm not exactly sure where they are at on it, maybe 30%.

Darrell Dixon stated I think it may be a little further along than that.

Alderman Dear asked what's the projection on starting the city roundabout.

Mayor Graves stated it should be bid in February or March.

#### Consent Agenda

Mayor Graves went over consent agenda items 7 – 17, 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 December 16, 2025

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to approve the Minutes from the Regular Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on December 16, 2025. All present voting yea, motion carried.

#### Approve Docket of Claims numbers: 41329 – 41556 for a total of \$1,159,206.33

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to approve the Docket of Claims numbers: 41329 – 41556 for a total of \$1,159,206.33, as funds are available. All present voting yea, motion carried.

#### Authorize to accept a donation of \$500 from Mrs. M.J. Tindall for the Police Department to purchase equipment

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to authorize to accept a donation of \$500 from Mrs. M.J. Tindall for the Police Department to purchase equipment. All voting yea, motion carried.

#### Authorize to accept a donation in the amount of \$200 from Members of the Senatobia Wal-Mart Loss Prevention Team for the Police Department to purchase SWAT team uniforms and equipment

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to authorize to accept a donation in the amount of \$200 from Members of the Senatobia Wal-Mart Loss Prevention Team for the Police Department to purchase SWAT team uniforms and equipment. All voting yea, motion carried.

#### Authorize Police Chief Vanderford to attend the New Police Chiefs Orientation in Ridgeland, MS on January 11-16, 2026, also authorize to pay travel expenses

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to authorize Police Chief Vanderford to attend the New Police Chiefs Orientation in Ridgeland, MS on January 11-16, 2026, also authorize to pay travel expenses. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize Fire Chief Foresman to apply for, and attend if accepted, the 2026 Mississippi Executive Fire Officer course

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to authorize Fire Chief Foresman to apply for, and attend if accepted, the 2026 Mississippi Executive Fire Officer course. All voting yea, motion carried.

Acknowledge the resignation from Police Officer Nicholas Keith effective December 8, 2025

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to acknowledge the resignation from Police Officer Nicholas Keight effective December 8, 2025. All voting yea, motion carried.

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

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to authorize to hire Josh Crain as a full-time certified Police Officer at the rate of P3, pending background and physical screening results. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize the payment of \$115,000 for the property located at 208 Scott Street, for the Main Street and Scott Street Roundabout project

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to authorize the payment of \$115,000 for the property located at 208 Scott Street, for the Main Street and Scott Street Roundabout project. All voting yea, motion carried.

Approve the Development Infrastructure Program Grant Matching Funds Resolution, also authorizing Mayor Graves to sign

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to approve the Development Infrastructure Program Grant matching Funds Resolution, also authorizing Mayor Graves to sign. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize Mayor Graves to sign an Engagement Letter/Agreement with F.O. Givens & Company for 2024 and 2025 Audit Services

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to authorize Mayor Graves to sign an Engagement Letter/Agreement with F.O. Givens & Company for 2024 and 2025 Audit Services. All voting yea, motion carried.

Mayor's Corner

2026 Outlook:

Mayor Graves advised the Board that we will have the discussion of privatizing garbage services on the next meeting agenda, please be prepared.

Mayor Graves advised that he and Alderman Garrett will be meeting with Northwest Community College regarding their help for Fire services.

Mayor Graves advised that we heard back from MDOT regarding the mowing for the I55 Interchange. They will be taking the mowing back over.

Mayor Graves advised the Board that the suit with the Magnolia building has litigation set for late February.

Mayor Graves advised the Board that he is meeting with Dan Etherton and the owner of the French hotel tomorrow regarding the condition and their plans for the property.

Alderman Tanksley asked who Ricky sold it to.

Mayor Graves answered Hudson Chadwick.

Alderman McConnell asked if the lighting for West Point was on the January 20<sup>th</sup> agenda.  
Mayor Graves answered yes.

Alderman Underwood asked if we have sent a request to MDOT about stripping.  
Stephen Hodges answered yes, they advised that it is on their schedule to complete.

Adjourn

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

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Greg Graves, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Katie Harbin, City Clerk