

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen met on February 17, 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, Community and Tourism Director Jamie Sowell, Parks and Recreation Director Jamie Chandler, Dan Etherton – SHPC, Jacob Red, Kevin McLeod, Elliot & Britt Engineering, Marcy Demuth, Jr. Auxiliary of Tate-Panola, Leigh Ann Darby, Tate County Supervisor, Zander Billingsly, Tate County Supervisor, Tony Sandridge, Tate County Supervisor, Ron Williams, Tate County Supervisor, George Stepp, Tate County Supervisor, Cole Massie, Tate County, Dawn W Stevens, Tate County, Joy Tindall, Highland Hills, Jennifer Bouchillon, Highland Hills, Jenny Miller, Highland Hills, Craig Shidelen, Highland Hills, Bob Luke, LPK Architects, Justin Kinard, LPK Architects, Carolyn Ladner, LPK Architects, Crystal Wilson, Ricky Stevens, Tate County, Brett Brown – Tate Record, Thurman Caldwell, Boyd Kellum, MES, Michael Cathey, and Anthony Saulsberry..

Alderman Garrett gave the invocation.

Approve Agenda

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

February 17, 2026
City Hall 5pm

1. Call to Order, Prayer, Roll Call
2. Welcome
3. Approve Agenda
4. Junior Auxiliary Tate-Panola request to hold 5K and temporary close streets
5. Authorize to approve the lowest and best quote for light repair at the Sports Park from Mississippi Energy Solutions in the amount of \$58,920.00, also authorize Mayor Graves to sign the contract
6. Modifications of Getwell Dr, Tate County
7. Demolition of Boy Scout Building

Consent Agenda

8. Approve Minutes from the Regular Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on February 3, 2026
9. Approve Docket of Claims numbers: 41845 – 42000 for a total of \$711,863.04
10. Authorize Community Development & Tourism Director Jamie Sowell to attend the MS Tourism Association Day at the Capitol in Jackson, MS on March 3 – 5, 2026, also authorize to pay registration and travel expense
11. Authorize Police Officer K. Jurlds and Police Officer T. Blocker to attend the Desoto County Sheriff's Office SWAT Course on February 23 – March 6, 2026, in Holly Springs, MS, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses
12. Authorize Fire Inspector Brevin Holden to attend the MS Fire Investigators Association Seminar in Oxford, MS on April 15 – 17, 2026, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses
13. Acknowledge the resignation from part-time Utility Billing Clerk Heather Barlow effective February 20, 2026

14. Authorize to hire Kristan Gross as a part-time Utility Billing Clerk at \$13.00 per hour, pending background and drug screening results
15. Authorize to hire Hunter Lester for the open full-time Downtown Beautification position at \$13.00 per hour, pending background and drug screening results
16. Authorize to accept the lowest and best bid for street paving & repair services from Double T Construction
17. Authorize to advertise the Utility Relocation for the Highway 4, Scott St, Main St Roundabout Project
18. Approve quote for repair work to three (3) weather sirens from Integrated Communications, Inc. in the amount of \$8,293.38
19. Executive Session – Economic Development (Tate County) and Utility Billing Personnel

Mayor's Corner

201 Corporate Court

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

Junior Auxiliary Tate-Panola request to hold 5K and temporarily close streets

Marcy Demuth with Junior Auxiliary Tate-Panola presented their request to temporarily close streets to hold a 5K to the Mayor and Aldermen. They are requesting to have the 5K on Saturday March 21, 2026, using the route approved by the Police Department. They plan to start the 5K event at 7am and finish at 11am, at Gabbert Park.

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman McConnell, to approve the request from the Junior Auxiliary Tate-Panola for their 5K, temporarily closing streets and also using Gabbert Park. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to approve the lowest and best quote for light repair at the Sports Park from Mississippi Energy Solutions in the amount of \$58,920.00, also authorize Mayor Graves to sign the contract

Mayor Graves advised the Board that these are the lights that we have been having issues with for a little while now. When Rob was here with us, he had mentioned the need for them to be repaired or replaced.

Parks & Recreation Director Jamie Chandler presented information to the Mayor and Aldermen regarding the lights that needed replacing/repair for fields 7, 8, 9, the concession stand, restrooms, cooking and sitting areas for those fields. Ms. Chandler advised that these lights have been out for a little while now. When she first started a company had come out to repair some.

Boyd Kellum, Mississippi Energy Solutions, went over some of the details about the lights and the areas the work will be done at. Mr. Kellum advised that theses will be LED lights.

Alderman Tanksley asked if the lights were totally out.

Parks & Recreation Director Jamie Chandler answered 9 of the bulbs are out.

Alderman Garrett asked if we have gotten a price per light.

Parks & Recreation Director Jamie Chandler answered no sir, not recently. When we had the work done back in June, it was roughly \$8,000 per light.

Alderman Dear asked if there was a savings with Entergy if we do this.

Boyd Kellum answered yes sir. After the work is done documentation will be submitted to Entergy. They have their formula for the calculation to get the total amount of rebate, I think it is around 2.5% per watt. I am estimating it to be around \$4,500, give or take.

Parks & Recreation Director Jamie Chandler advised that this is to replace 9 bulbs for the three fields and also lights for the concession, restroom, cooking and sitting area for those fields.

Boyd Kellum stated that these lights have warranties on them. Also, the ballasts are made into the bulbs.

Mayor Graves stated we received the unexpected and unbudgeted revenue, around \$41,000, that we can use for this expense.

Alderman Tanksley asked if we have to use that money for parks. We are crunched for money anyway, I don't see why we have to do this now.

City Clerk Katie Harbin answered this money was received from Pepsi, according to our contract with them, for rebates of our purchases and sponsorship fund, for the Sports Park which is in our Tourism fund.

Alderman Tanksley asked City Attorney Kenneth Stockton if we have to spend this money in the Sports Park.

City Attorney Kenneth Stockton answered he would have to look at the contract.

Alderman Tanksley stated I don't think we should spend the money right now. We are tight for money as it is.

Motion was made by Alderman Underwood, seconded by Alderman Dear, to approve the quote from Mississippi Energy Solutions in the amount of \$58,920.00 for light repair/replacement for fields 7, 8, 9, the concession stand, cooking area, sitting area and restrooms for those fields, at the Sports Park; also authorizing Mayor Graves to sign the contract.

Those voting "Yea": Alderman Underwood and Alderman Dear.

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

Motion Failed.

Mayor Graves advised the Board that we will get a quote for just replacing the 9 bulbs and bring them back to our next Board meeting.

Modifications of Getwell Dr, Tate County

Kevin McLeod, Elliott & Britt, Tate County Engineer, spoke to the Mayor and Aldermen about Tate Counties request and plan for Getwell Drive. Mr. McLeod advised that Tate County is wanting to straighten up Getwell Drive to get rid of the curve. They would like to move the road about 115 feet north of its current location. Mr. McLeod advised that the City would have to apply for the MDOT permit since it is a City road. I would do that process for you. It is still early in the process. When the new road is completed, the ROW will be donated to the City, and the old ROW will be abandoned and given back to the property owner(s).

Demolition of Boy Scout Building

Community Development and Tourism Director Jamie Sowell spoke to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen about the need to remove the section of the old Boy Scout building that is no longer structurally sound. Part of the building is starting to fall, and we would like to remove the danger before it happens. I have provided you with an engineers' letter advising of the situation and condition of the building. Our plan is to save the section of the building on the south end of the building. I have grant money and a plan for that section and area around the building. Mrs. Sowell stated that this is a City building, therefore we need City approval before moving forward.

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize to move forward with the demolition of the sections that are not structurally sound, of the old Boy Scout Building, based on the engineer's recommendation. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Graves went over consent agenda items 8 – 18, asked if anyone had any questions.

Alderman Garrett asked if we ever got the siren at NWCC working.

Fire Chief Foresman answered yes sir. This quote is to have the necessary repairs done in order for us to turn it over to Tate County Dispatch, for them to accept it.

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, 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 February 3, 2026

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to approve the Minutes from the Regular Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on February 3, 2026. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Approve Docket of Claims numbers: 41845 - 42000 for a total of \$711,863.04

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to approve the Docket of Claims numbers: 41845 - 42000 for a total of \$711,863.04, as funds are available. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize Community Development & Tourism Director Jamie Sowell to attend the MS Tourism Association Day at the Capitol in Jackson, MS on March 3 – 5, 2026, also authorize to pay registration and travel expense

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize Community Development & Tourism Director Jamie Sowell to attend the MS Tourism Association Day at the Capitol in Jackson, MS on March 3 – 5, 2026, also authorize to pay registration and travel expense. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize Police Officer K. Jurlds and Police Officer T. Blocker to attend the Desoto County Sheriff's Office SWAT Course on February 23 – March 6, 2026, in Holly Springs, MS, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize Police Officer K. Jurlds and Police Officer T. Blocker to attend the Desoto County Sheriff's Office SWAT Course on February 23 – March 6, 2026, in Holly Springs, MS, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize Fire Inspector Brevin Holden to attend the MS Fire Investigators Association Seminar in Oxford, MS on April 15 – 17, 2026, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize Fire Inspector Brevin Holden to attend the MS Fire Investigators Association Seminar in Oxford, MS on April 15 – 17, 2026, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses. All voting yea, motion carried.

Acknowledge the resignation from part-time Utility Billing Clerk Heather Barlow effective February 20, 2026

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to acknowledge the resignation from part-time Utility Billing Clerk Heather Barlow effective February 20, 2026. All voting yea, motion carried.

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

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

Authorize to hire Hunter Lester for the open full-time Downtown Beautification position at \$13.00 per hour, pending background and drug screening results

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize to hire Hunter Lester for the open full-time Downtown Beautification position at \$13.00 per hour, pending background and drug screening results. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to accept the lowest and best bid for street paving & repair services from Double T Construction

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize to accept the lowest and best bid for street paving & repair services from Double T Construction. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to advertise the Utility Relocation for the Highway 4, Scott St, Main St Roundabout Project

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize to advertise the Utility Relocation for the Highway 4, Scott St, Main St Roundabout Project. All voting yea, motion carried.

Approve quote for repair work to three (3) weather sirens from Integrated Communications, Inc. in the amount of \$8,293.38

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to approve quote for repair work to three (3) weather sirens from Integrated Communications, Inc. in the amount of \$8,293.38. All voting yea, motion carried.

Mayor's Corner

201 Corporate Court

Mayor Graves asked the Board if they thought about whether we wanted to look at selling this property as discussed at our last meeting.

Community Development and Tourism Director Jamie Sowell advised the Board that she has spoken to Mr. Joe Max, with EDF, and he agreed that it would be more beneficial to the property owner next to this lot than it would be for the City to keep it. Mrs. Sowell stated I think it is important to note that if we sold it, that would be additional tax revenue coming in.

Alderman Tanksley stated I think we should just wait, sit on this. We need to see what the property owner next to this lot is going to do with their property.

Crossover Rd Bridge

Kevin McLeod advised the Mayor and Board that he has been able to contact three out of the four property owners so far. Two of those are ok with the ROW and Easements needed. One of the property owners is thinking about it and I am still trying to reach the last property owner.

Water

Mayor Graves provided the Board with a letter from the State regarding our water system and rates. Mayor Graves advised that it stated we are doing good job and we have sound financial management over our water system and rates.

Go into Closed Session to discuss going into Executive Session for Economic Development and Utility Billing Personnel

Motion was made by Alderman Tanksley, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to authorize to go into Closed Session to discuss going into Executive Session for Economic Development and Utility Billing Personnel. All voting yea, motion carried.

Go into Executive Session for Economic Development and Utility Billing Personnel

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

Economic Development

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to approve Tate County to move forward with the process of relocating Getwell Drive, also authorizing the City to file the permit needed with MDOT. All voting yea, motion carried.

Utility Billing Department Personnel

Motion was made by Alderman McConnell, seconded by Alderman Dear, to approve to Michael Woolfolk to the Utility Billing Supervisor, at the budgeted rate of \$20.00 per hour; in addition to remaining the Meter Reader Supervisor. All voting yea, motion carried.

Those voting “Yea”: Alderman Underwood, Alderman Dear, Alderman McConnell, and Alderman Garrett.

Those voting “Nay”: Alderman Tanksley.

Motion Passed.

Come out of Executive Session

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

Adjourn

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

Greg Graves, Mayor

ATTEST:

Katie Harbin, City Clerk

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