

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen met on April 7, 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, FLSE/PIO Chantay Rhone, Fire Captain Ross, Dan Etherton – SHPC, Community Development and Tourism Director Jamie Sowell, Code Enforcement Officer Scottie Pittman, Brett Brown – Tate Record, Dennis McConnell, Pattie Wallander, Irene Jones, and Michael Cathey.

Alderman Garrett gave the invocation.

Approve Agenda

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

April 7, 2026
City Hall 5pm

1. Call to Order, Prayer, Roll Call
2. Welcome
3. Approve Agenda
4. Accept the lowest and best bid from Hickson Major Construction LLC in the amount of \$290,512.00, for the Scott, Main, Hwy 4 Roundabout Utility Relocation project, also authorize Mayor Graves to sign the Notice of Award to Hickson Major Construction, LLC
5. Discussion of purchasing a Street Sweeper / Paving Machine
6. Authorize to approve the lowest and best quote from Showcase Flooring in the amount of \$2,450 for striping the Basketball Court on Scott Street – Alderman Tanksley
7. Council of Government, Washington Trip Update – Alderman Garrett
8. Department Reports

Consent Agenda

9. Approve Minutes from the Regular Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on March 17, 2026
10. Approve Minutes from the Special Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on March 31, 2026
11. Approve Docket of Claims numbers: 42372 – 72704 for a total of \$4,598,808.54
12. Authorize Police Sgt. Hampton to attend Firearms Instructor School in Tupelo, MS on April 13-17, 2026, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses
13. Authorize Police Detective McCarrens to attend CIP School in Pearl, MS on April – October 2026 (7-week school), also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses
14. Authorize Police Chief Vanderford to attend the Chief's Conference in Biloxi, MS on June 15 – 19, 2026, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses
15. Authorize Public Works Gas Department employees David Cooke and Eddie Chambers to attend the MNGA Annual Conference in Perdido Key, AL on July 8 – 10, 2026, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses

16. Authorize Firefighter Gage Smith to attend the Hazmat Tech Level 1 FD-Regional Course in Hernando, MS on April 20 – May 8, 2026, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses
17. Acknowledge the resignation of Public Works Gas Department employee Kevin Busby, effective March 11, 2026
18. Authorize to advertise for a Facility Maintenance Supervisor in the Parks & Recreation Department (Don's position)
19. Authorize to hire Darnell Jackson in the Public Works Water/Sewer Department, at a rate of \$15.00 per hour, pending drug screening results
20. Authorize to hire Trenton Grace in the Public Works Street Department, at a rate of \$15.00 per hour, pending drug screening results
21. Authorize to move Public Works Street Department employee Tyrese Newsome to the Gas Department, no change in salary
22. Authorize to advertise to accept bids to purchase a Skid Steer (budgeted for)
23. Authorize to accept the MDA Development Infrastructure Program grant for our Sewer Project in the amount of \$4,046,253.75, also authorize Mayor Graves to sign any necessary documents
24. Reappoint Senatobia Housing Authority Board Member Nellie Mosley with a term to expire January 1, 2031
25. Accept the SCADA project as completed, also authorize Mayor Graves to sign the necessary documents
26. Approve the Public Assistance State and Local Disaster Assistance Agreement, for DR-4899, naming City Clerk Katie Harbin as the Applicant Agent, also authorize Mayor Graves to sign
27. Authorize Mayor Graves to sign the Entergy ROW for the Downtown Revitalization Project
28. Executive Session – Personnel

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

Accept the lowest and best bid from Hickson Major Construction LLC in the amount of \$290,512.00, for the Scott, Main, Hwy 4 Roundabout Utility Relocation project, also authorize Mayor Graves to sign the Notice of Award to Hickson Major Construction, LLC

Motion was made by Alderman Garrett, seconded by Alderman Dear, to accept the lowest and best bid from Hickson Major Construction LLC in the amount of \$290,512.00, for the Scott, Main, Hwy 4 Roundabout Utility Relocation project, also authorize Mayor Graves to sign the Notice of Award to Hickson Major Construction, LLC. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Discussion of purchasing a Street Sweeper / Paving Machine

Motion was made by Alderman McConnell, seconded by Alderman Dear, to approve the lowest and best quote from Covington in the amount of \$74,895 for the purchase of a 4 Ton Falcon Hot Box with listed equipment, finding that this quote is the best due to the construction quality of the machine and local servicing. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to approve the lowest and best quote from Showcase Flooring in the amount of \$2,450 for striping the Basketball Court on Scott Street – Alderman Tanksley

Mayor Graves advised the Board that Alderman Tanksley requested for this work to be done and provided the two quotes. Mayor Graves asked Alderman Tanksley about the logo that was quoted with the striping.

Alderman Tanksley stated yes, he wanted a logo, just like a “S” or something.

Mayor Graves stated if we do a logo, it will need to be the City’s logo, it is City property. Mayor advised that Admin staff can provide the correct logo for the vendor to use.

Motion was made by Alderman McConnell, seconded by Alderman Dear, to approve the lowest and best quote from Showcase Flooring in the amount of \$2,450 for striping the Basketball Court on Scott Street, using the City logo. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Council of Government, Washington Trip Update – Alderman Garrett

Alderman Garrett advised the Mayor and Board that it was a good trip; they had lots of meetings with several representatives. They meet about the Counties Chrom Craft property and a Fire Station in the county. We also meet about more funding for the Hospital. They were really big on adding a Fire Station in the county and also the additional improvements for the hospital. It was a successful trip.

Mayor Graves asked if they had any interest in a Fire Station on the west side, in City limits. That would greatly help the City and the County.

Alderman Garrett stated I think the County is looking at putting the station in Coldwater, which would help them out a lot. Alderman Garrett stated we most definitely will have to look at a station on the west side in the city limits.

Department Reports

Mayor Graves advised the Board that they were provided the department reports and asked if they had any particular questions.

Police Chief Vanderford advised that things continue to go well for the Police Department. Chief Vanderford introduced Scottie Pittman, our new Code Enforcement Officer. Chief Vanderford advised the Board that they have been reviewing applications they’ve received. They have the promotional test for Sergeant coming up and have a lot of ongoing training. Chief Vanderford advised that they have several investigations going on right now.

Fire Captain Ross advised the Board that Fire Fighter Sam Suggs will be graduating from the Academy on April 16th. They have on going training for others and currently have three students at NWCC in the EMT program. Captain Ross advised that their Squad 3 and another vehicle have been in the shop, but they just got them back today. They have been trying to run those two vehicles for medical response to help save wear and tear, and gas on the larger fire trucks. We will need to look at replacing the older vehicles very soon. Captain Ross stated that they started Fire plug testing on April 1st, incase any citizens call with complaints of “dirty” water, that is why.

Alderman Garrett asked how hold is the brush truck.

Captain Ross stated it’s a 1999.

Alderman Garrett stated I wouldn’t keep putting money in it. Captain Ross stated it had an electrical problem, but I believe they have it figured out now.

Community Development & Tourism Director Jamie Sowell advised the Mayor and Board that her current Downtown employee advised her that he will be leaving soon. He’s trying to get on

with a Fire Department. We are advertising, but if you know of anyone that would be interested, send them my way. Mrs. Sowell advised there hasn't been much movement with the work on the Boy Scout Building project due to us having to drain the tank that was full of water, and then additional water from the rain. Mrs. Sowell stated thanks to our legislator, we will be getting additional funding for this project. It will have a water feature, indoor and outdoor areas, an office, etc. It will be a beautiful property that would could use for events when it is done. Mrs. Sowell advised that the Five Star City Festival is May 8th and 9th. It is our largest event in the City, it takes all hands-on deck to pull it off. We will have the VIP event for the festival on April 23rd, please let us know so we can RSVP for you.

Senatobia Historic Preservation Commission Chairman Dan Etherton advised the Mayor and Board that the Commissions next meeting is coming up. They have had two open positions on the Commission and have received some really good applicants. The Commission will narrow it down to two candidates at the next meeting and plan to have their recommendation on the next Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting agenda. Property owner Mr. Chadwick will be at our next meeting for his French Hotel property.

Alderman Dear asked Mr. Etherton about the status of the buildings caving in on Main St.

Dan Etherton stated we have 311, 309, 307 and 305. The property at 311 was donated to the City, Mr. Johnson owns 309 and 307 and Mr. Scott owns 305. If the City were to sell the property you would have to get an appraisal and not sell for any less than the appraised value. Mr. Johnson won't be willing to pay what it would appraise for. The City was looking at donating the property to the Tate County Mississippi Genealogical and Historical Society. Between SHPC, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Scott, we had a good plan but have run into a snag. Mr. Kenny Stockton is looking into the legal side of things for the City to donate the property at 311. Everyone is ready to do something, the process hasn't stopped, we just keep running into issues.

City Attorney Kenneth Stockton stated that there is a 2 year Reverter clause that would have to be included in the document for the City to donate property. The City can only donate for certain uses. I just found this information today, so I am researching for more information to see if this can still be worked out.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Graves went over consent agenda items 9 - 27, asked if anyone had any questions.

Alderman Garrett asked about item number 21, if there was a reason for the salary remaining the same.

Mayor Graves stated he would find out and let him know.

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 March 17, 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 March 17, 2026. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Approve Minutes from the Special Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on March 31, 2026

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to approve the Minutes from the Special Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on March 31, 2026. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Approve Docket of Claims numbers: 42372 – 72704 for a total of \$4,598,808.54

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to approve the Docket of Claims numbers: 42372 - 72704 for a total of \$4,598,808.54, as funds are available. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize Police Sgt. Hampton to attend Firearms Instructor School in Tupelo, MS on April 13-17, 2026, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize Police Sgt. Hampton to attend Firearms Instructor School in Tupelo, MS on April 13-17, 2026, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize Police Detective McCarrens to attend CIP School in Pearl, MS on April – October 2026 (7-week school), also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize Police Detective McCarrens to attend CIP School in Pearl, MS on April – October 2026 (7-week school), also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize Police Chief Vanderford to attend the Chief's Conference in Biloxi, MS on June 15 – 19, 2026, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize Police Chief Vanderford to attend the Chief's Conference in Biloxi, MS on June 15 – 19, 2026, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize Public Works Gas Department employees David Cooke and Eddie Chambers to attend the MNGA Annual Conference in Perdido Key, AL on July 8 – 10, 2026, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett to authorize Public Works Gas Department employees David Cooke and Eddie Chambers to attend the MNGA Annual Conference in Perdido Key, AL on July 8 – 10, 2026, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize Firefighter Gage Smith to attend the Hazmat Tech Level 1 FD-Regional Course in Hernando, MS on April 20 – May 8, 2026, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize Firefighter Gage Smith to attend the Hazmat Tech Level 1 FD-Regional Course in Hernando, MS on April 20 – May 8, 2026, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses. All voting yea, motion carried.

Acknowledge the resignation of Public Works Gas Department employee Kevin Busby, effective March 11, 2026

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to acknowledge the resignation of Public Works Gas Department employee Kevin Busby, effective March 11, 2026. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to advertise for a Facility Maintenance Supervisor in the Parks & Recreation Department

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize to advertise for a Facility Maintenance Supervisor in the Parks & Recreation Department. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to hire Darnell Jackson in the Public Works Water/Sewer Department, at a rate of \$15.00 per hour, pending drug screening results

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize to hire Darnell Jackson in the Public Works Water/Sewer Department, at a rate of \$15.00 per hour, pending drug screening results. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to hire Trenton Grace in the Public Works Street Department, at a rate of \$15.00 per hour, pending drug screening results

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize to hire Trenton Grace in the Public Works Street Department, at a rate of \$15.00 per hour, pending drug screening results. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to move Public Works Street Department employee Tyrese Newsome to the Gas Department, no change in salary

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize to move Public Works Street Department employee Tyrese Newsome to the Gas Department, no change in salary. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to advertise to accept bids to purchase a Skid Steer (budgeted for)

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize to advertise to accept bids to purchase a Skid Steer. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to accept the MDA Development Infrastructure Program grant for our Sewer Project in the amount of \$4,046,253.75, also authorize Mayor Graves to sign any necessary documents

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize to accept the MDA Development Infrastructure Program grant for our Sewer Project in the amount of \$4,046,253.75, also authorize Mayor Graves to sign any necessary documents. All voting yea, motion carried.

Reappoint Senatobia Housing Authority Board Member Nellie Mosley with a term to expire January 1, 2031

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to reappoint Senatobia Housing Authority Board Member Nellie Mosley with a term to expire January 1, 2031. All voting yea, motion carried.

Accept the SCADA project as completed, also authorize Mayor Graves to sign the necessary documents

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to accept the SCADA project as completed, also authorize Mayor Graves to sign the necessary documents. All voting yea, motion carried.

Approve the Public Assistance State and Local Disaster Assistance Agreement, for DR-4899, naming City Clerk Katie Harbin as the Applicant Agent, also authorize Mayor Graves to sign

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to approve the Public Assistance State and Local Disaster Assistance Agreement, for DR-4899, naming City Clerk Katie Harbin as the Applicant Agent, also authorize Mayor Graves to sign. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize Mayor Graves to sign the Entergy ROW for the Downtown Revitalization Project

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize Mayor Graves to sign the Entergy ROW for the Downtown Revitalization Project. All voting yea, motion carried.

Go into Closed Session to discuss going into Executive Session for Personnel

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

Go into Executive Session for Personnel

Motion was made by Alderman Tanksley, seconded by Alderman McConnell, to go into Executive Session for Police Personnel. All voting yea, motion carried.

Termination of Parks and Recreation Director Jamie Chandler

Motion was made by Alderman Garrett, seconded by Alderman Tanksley, to terminate employment with Parks and Recreation Director Jamie Chandler. 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

MOTION FAILED

Suspension of Parks and Recreation Director Jamie Chandler

Motion was made by Alderman Tanksley, and seconded by Alderman Garrett, to suspend Parks and Recreation Director Jamie Chandler without pay for 30 days. A vote was taken with the following results:

Those voting "Aye": Alderman Tanksley, Alderman Garrett, and Alderman McConnell

Those voting "Nay": Alderman Dear and Alderman Underwood

Motion carried.

This action was vetoed by Mayor Graves. Proper notification was sent to the Board of Aldermen on April 10, 2026, at 2:43pm

 Outlook

Veto of 4.7.26 Executive Session Personnel Matter Vote

From KATIE HARBIN <KHARBIN@cityofsenatobiams.gov>

Date Fri 4/10/2026 2:43 PM

To Jeff Underwood <jUnderwood@cityofsenatobiams.gov>; KEVIN DEAR <KDEAR@cityofsenatobiams.gov>; Kevin Dear <walterkevindear@hotmail.com>; Chris McConnell <cMcConnell@cityofsenatobiams.gov>; Demetrius Garrett <dGarrett@cityofsenatobiams.gov>; Demetrius Garrett <demetriusgarrett21@gmail.com>; ALLEN TANKSLEY <ATANKSLEY@cityofsenatobiams.gov>; Allen Tanksley <atanksley.74@gmail.com>

Good afternoon. I have received notice from Mayor Graves of his veto of the motion made to suspend Parks and Recreation Director Jamie Chandler, without pay for 30 days, that was made at the April 7, 2026, Board meeting.

Please see below for the notice of veto from Mayor Graves.

**To Katie Harbin, Clerk of the City of Senatobia,
At the Board of Alderman meeting on 4/7/2026, on a 3-2 vote, the Board voted to suspend Parks Director, Jamie Chandler for 30 days.
By the authority vested in me by Mississippi code 21-3-15, I'm returning this motion with a veto for the following reasons,**

1) The director has NO disciplinary actions to date in her personnel file. I feel we would be inviting legal action against the city.

2) The park would've been without a director in the heart of the spring baseball, softball, and soccer season. This could've done irreparable harm to our sports programs and park.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

**Greg Graves
Mayor
City of Senatobia
662-562-4474**

Thank you,

Katie Harbin, MMC
City Clerk
City of Senatobia
662.562.4474 p
662.562.4476 f

No meeting was called by the Board of Aldermen to vote on the veto. According to MS State Statue 21-3-15, the above motion to suspend employee Jamie Chandler without pay for 30 days is now void.

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