

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen met on April 21, 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 (via phone), McConnell, Garrett, and Tanksley. Also present were: City Attorney Kenneth Stockton, City Clerk Katie Harbin, Police Chief Vanderford, Fire Chief Foresman, Police Officer Howell, Director of Operations Stephen Hodges, Building Inspector Bryan Riley, Fire Marshal Brevin Holden, Administrative Director Erika Holden, Dan Etherton – SHPC, Community Development and Tourism Director Jamie Sowell, Code Enforcement Officer Scottie Pittman, Brett Brown – Tate Record, Denise Liddell, EDF, Joe Max Higgins, EDF Director, Chris Fleming, EDF, Dennis McConnell, Bo Humphrey, Tate County Fair Association, and Michael Cathey.

Alderman McConnell gave the invocation.

Approve Agenda

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

April 21, 2026
City Hall 5pm

1. Call to Order, Prayer, Roll Call
2. Welcome
3. Approve Agenda
4. Commend Police Officer Blocker

Consent Agenda

5. Approve Minutes from the Regular Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on April 7, 2026
6. Approve Docket of Claims numbers: 42705 – 42892 for a total of \$770,265.48
7. Authorize Firefighter Sam Suggs to attend the Hazmat Tech Level 1 FD-Regional in Hernando, MS on April 20 – May 8, 2026, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses
8. Authorize Police Officer Fred Perez to attend the Mississippi Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission class on June 16 – June 18, 2026, in Biloxi, MS, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses
9. Authorize Fire and Life Safety Educator Chantay Rhone to attend the Mississippi Association of Public Fire Safety Educators conference in Biloxi, MS, June 23-25, 2026, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses.
10. Acknowledge the resignation from Director of Operations Stephen Hodges, effective April 25, 2026
11. Authorize a temporary move Fire Sergeant Hunt to the position of Fire Captain, with a temporary pay increase reflecting Captain pay
12. Authorize to move Firefighter Tanner Parker from full-time to part-time
13. Authorize to hire Xavier Bynum as a Parks & Recreational Seasonal employee
14. Authorize to hire Christiana Porter as a Parks & Recreational Seasonal employee
15. Authorize to hire Bethany Ward as a Parks & Recreational Seasonal employee

16. Authorize to hire Armaria Ward as a Parks & Recreational Seasonal employee
17. Authorize to hire Kelsey Hoffman as a Parks & Recreational Seasonal employee
18. Appoint Michael Heindl to the Senatobia Historic Preservation Commission with a term expiring January 1, 2030, per the Senatobia Historic Preservation Commissions recommendation
19. Appoint Melvin Cowan to the Senatobia Historic Preservation Commission with a term expiring January 1, 2029, per the Senatobia Historic Preservation Commissions recommendation
20. Authorize to temporarily close Cunningham Loop for the Tate County Fair Association for their annual fair
21. Approve Welcome Letter for the Frazier Family
22. Authorize to surplus a Land Pride Bushhog with S/N 446728, from the Public Works Department
23. Authorize to surplus a 2003 Chevrolet Model 150 with VIN ending in 15918, from the Public Works Department
24. Authorize to surplus a 2000 Dodge 3500 with VIN ending in 29396, from the Public Works Department
25. Approve the lease extension with the United States Post Office, also authorizing Mayor Graves to sign the agreement
26. Executive Session – Economic Development, Joe Max Higgins

Mayor's Corner

Center Street Building

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

Commend Police Officer Blocker

Mayor Graves stated that Police Officer Blocker was able to use life saving measures on a recent call, saving a gentleman's life.

Officer Howell reported that a call was received regarding a person choking at a local restaurant. Upon arrival, Officer Blocker discovered that bystanders were already attempting to assist the victim, though their efforts had been unsuccessful. Officer Blocker was able to administer life-saving measures using the extensive training he's received over the years.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Graves went over consent agenda items 5 - 25, asked if anyone had any questions.

Alderman Garrett asked to pull item number 11 for discussion.

Motion was made by Alderman Underwood, seconded by Alderman McConnell, 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 April 7, 2026

Motion was made by Alderman Underwood, seconded by Alderman McConnell, to approve the Minutes from the Regular Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on April 7, 2026. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Approve Docket of Claims numbers: 42705 – 42892 for a total of \$770,265.48

Motion was made by Alderman Underwood, seconded by Alderman McConnell, to approve the Docket of Claims numbers: 42705 – 42892 for a total of \$770,265.48, as funds are available. All present voting yea, motion carried.

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

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

Authorize Police Officer Fred Perez to attend the Mississippi Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission class on June 16 – June 18, 2026, in Biloxi, MS, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses

Motion was made by Alderman Underwood, seconded by Alderman McConnell, to authorize Police Officer Fred Perez to attend the Mississippi Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission class on June 16 – June 18, 2026, in Biloxi, MS, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize Fire and Life Safety Educator Chantay Rhone to attend the Mississippi Association of Public Fire Safety Educators conference in Biloxi, MS, June 23-25, 2026, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses.

Motion was made by Alderman Underwood, seconded by Alderman McConnell, to authorize Fire and Life Safety Educator Chantay Rhone to attend the Mississippi Association of Public Fire Safety Educators conference in Biloxi, MS, June 23-25, 2026, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses. All voting yea, motion carried.

Acknowledge the resignation from Director of Operations Stephen Hodges, effective April 25, 2026

Motion was made by Alderman Underwood, seconded by Alderman McConnell, to acknowledge the resignation from Director of Operations Stephen Hodges, effective April 25, 2026. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to move Firefighter Tanner Parker from full-time to part-time

Motion was made by Alderman Underwood, seconded by Alderman McConnell, to authorize to move Firefighter Tanner Parker from full-time to part-time. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to hire Xavier Bynum as a Parks & Recreational Seasonal employee

Motion was made by Alderman Underwood, seconded by Alderman McConnell, to authorize to hire Xavier Bynum as a Parks & Recreational Seasonal employee. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to hire Christiana Porter as a Parks & Recreational Seasonal employee

Motion was made by Alderman Underwood, seconded by Alderman McConnell, to authorize to hire Christiana Porter as a Parks & Recreational Seasonal employee. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to hire Bethany Ward as a Parks & Recreational Seasonal employee

Motion was made by Alderman Underwood, seconded by Alderman McConnell, to authorize to hire Bethany Ward as a Parks & Recreational Seasonal employee. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to hire Armaria Ward as a Parks & Recreational Seasonal employee

Motion was made by Alderman Underwood, seconded by Alderman McConnell, to authorize to hire Armaria Ward as a Parks & Recreational Seasonal employee. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to hire Kelsey Hoffman as a Parks & Recreational Seasonal employee

Motion was made by Alderman Underwood, seconded by Alderman McConnell, to authorize to hire Kelsey Hoffman as a Parks & Recreational Seasonal employee. All voting yea, motion carried.

Appoint Michael Heindl to the Senatobia Historic Preservation Commission with a term expiring January 1, 2030, per the Senatobia Historic Preservation Commissions recommendation

Motion was made by Alderman Underwood, seconded by Alderman McConnell, to appoint Michael Heindl to the Senatobia Historic Preservation Commission with a term expiring January 1, 2030, per the Senatobia Historic Preservation Commissions recommendation. All voting yea, motion carried.

Appoint Melvin Cowan to the Senatobia Historic Preservation Commission with a term expiring January 1, 2029, per the Senatobia Historic Preservation Commissions recommendation

Motion was made by Alderman Underwood, seconded by Alderman McConnell, to appoint Melvin Cowan to the Senatobia Historic Preservation Commission with a term expiring January 1, 2029, per the Senatobia Historic Preservation Commissions recommendation. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to temporarily close Cunningham Loop for the Tate County Fair Association for their annual fair

Motion was made by Alderman Underwood, seconded by Alderman McConnell, to authorize to temporarily close Cunningham Loop for the Tate County Fair Association for their annual fair. All voting yea, motion carried.

Approve Welcome Letter for the Frazier Family

Motion was made by Alderman Underwood, seconded by Alderman McConnell, to approve a Welcome Letter for the Frazier Family. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to surplus a Land Pride Bushhog with S/N 446728, from the Public Works Department

Motion was made by Alderman Underwood, seconded by Alderman McConnell, to authorize to surplus a Land Pride Bushhog with S/N 446728, from the Public Works Department. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to surplus a 2003 Chevrolet Model 150 with VIN ending in 15918, from the Public Works Department

Motion was made by Alderman Underwood, seconded by Alderman McConnell, to authorize to surplus a 2003 Chevrolet Model 150 with VIN ending in 15918, from the Public Works Department. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to surplus a 2000 Dodge 3500 with VIN ending in 29396, from the Public Works Department

Motion was made by Alderman Underwood, seconded by Alderman McConnell, to authorize to surplus a 2000 Dodge 3500 with VIN ending in 29396, from the Public Works Department. All voting yea, motion carried.

Approve the lease extension with the United States Post Office, also authorizing Mayor Graves to sign the agreement

Motion was made by Alderman Underwood, seconded by Alderman McConnell, to approve the lease extension with the United States Post Office, also authorizing Mayor Graves to sign the agreement. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize a temporary move Fire Sergeant Hunt to the position of Fire Captain, with a temporary pay increase reflecting Captain pay

Alderman Garrett stated that he feels employees should get paid for the rank they are working in. Alderman Garrett stated he would like to approve the pay, being retroactive.

City Attorney Kenneth Stockton advised Alderman Garrett that by law, unfortunately, the City cannot retro pay.

Motion was made by Alderman Garrett, seconded by Alderman Tanksley, to authorize a temporary move Fire Sergeant Hunt to the position of Fire Captain, with a temporary pay increase reflecting Captain pay. All voting yea, motion carried.

Mayors Corner

Center Street Building – Mayor Graves advised the Board that demo has started on the Center Street building.

Go into Closed Session to discuss going into Executive Session for Economic Development

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

Go into Executive Session for Economic Development

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

Come out of Executive Session

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

Adjourn

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

Greg Graves, Mayor

ATTEST:

Katie Harbin, City Clerk