

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen met on May 5, 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, Fire Chief Foresman, Police Officer Howell, Building Inspector Bryan Riley, Fire Marshal Brevin Holden, Community Development and Tourism Director Jamie Sowell, Code Enforcement Officer Scottie Pittman, Dan Etherton – SHPC, Mike Schwartz, TCG&HS, Brett Brown – Tate Record, Dennis McConnell, Ricky Stevens, Ashley Casey, and Michael Cathey.

Mayor Graves gave the invocation.

Approve Agenda

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

May 5, 2026
City Hall 5pm

1. Call to Order, Prayer, Roll Call
2. Welcome
3. Approve Agenda
4. Tate County Genealogical & Historical Society, Mike Schwartz
5. Discussion of selling City property on Corporate Court
6. Approve the Resolution of the City of Senatobia, Mississippi Designating a Certain Parcel of Real Property As Surplus Real Property and For the Disposal of Said Real Property Pursuant to Section 17-25-25 of the Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated, As Amended, authorizing to accept bids to sell City Property located at 311 W Main Street
7. Commend Police Officer Cleven and Police Officer Jurlds
8. Department Reports

Consent Agenda

9. Approve Minutes from the Regular Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on April 21, 2026
10. Approve Docket of Claims numbers: 42893 – 43135 for a total of \$1,770,572.07
11. Authorize Fire Captain Duane Ross to attend the MS Fire Chiefs conference, May 26 - 31, 2026 in Biloxi, MS, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses
12. Acknowledge the resignation from Meter Reader Karla White effective May 1, 2026
13. Acknowledge the resignation from Police Officer B. Lowrie effective May 5, 2026
14. Authorize to promote Police Officer Perrette to the position Sergeant (pay increase previously approved)
15. Authorize to promote Police Officer Cleven to Sergeant, with pay increase to Sergeant pay
16. Authorize to hire Justin O'Brien as a full-time Utility Meter Reader at a rate of \$14.00 per hour, pending background and drug screening results

17. Authorize to hire Matthew Whitten Darby as a full-time Downtown Beautification Laborer at a rate of \$13.00 per hour, pending background and drug screening results
18. Authorize to hire McKenzie Goodwin as a full-time Community Development & Tourism Administration Assistant at \$13.00 per hour, pending background and drug screening results
19. Acknowledge the Housing Authority Phase I Environmental Site Assessment for 2026
20. Authorize Mayor Graves to sign the subscription renewal with Cloudpermit for Building & Planning software
21. Authorize Mayor Graves to sign the MOU with Senatobia Main Street for the Mississippi Development Authority MMSRG Grant funding (Grant for boy scout building, granted to Senatobia Main Street)
22. Executive Session for Economic Development and Personnel

Mayor's Corner

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

Tate County Genealogical & Historical Society, Mike Schwartz

Mike Schwartz, President of Tate County Genealogical & Historical Society spoke to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen about the Tate County Genealogical & Historical Society, who they are and what they do. Mr. Schwartz stated that the Tate County Genealogical & Historical Society was founded in 1983. Their organization was formed so that families have their story; for them to research family history. We keep archived records from Tate County. Mr. Schwartz stated they recently received a grant to assist them with a project to make the archived records accessible to the public. We have been working to have the information digitized and the original records stored safely and properly. This process will cost approximately \$1,500 a year. The Tate County Genealogical & Historical Society would like to request funding from the City to help with this cost.

Mayor Graves asked Mr. Schwartz what amount they are requesting.

Mike Schwartz stated \$1,500.00. Mr. Schwartz stated the cost of this project will be on going; it will take a while to get everything completed. We are using the same company that Tate County has used.

Dan Etherton stated we are all volunteers. We keep the Library open on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Mr. Etherton stated they have a nearly complete set of newspapers, from 1880 to 1993.

Mayor Graves asked Mr. Schwartz to email Katie Harbin with their funding request and the Board will consider it during the budget process.

Alderman Garrett asked how far away are you until publishing.

Mike Schwartz stated we have the information on thumb drives. We then have to take the originals and cover them in order to store them properly. Mr. Schwartz answered, maybe by the end of the summer we will be ready to post. We will also do an index at some point.

Discussion of selling City property on Corporate Court

Mayor Graves advised the Board that we have someone interested in purchasing the city property located on the north west side of Corporate Court. Mayor Graves stated he has previously given the Board information regarding this. This property is not in use by the City, and I think it would be in the City's best interest to sale.

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Garrett, to authorize to get appraisals of the City property located on the north west side of Corporate Court. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Approve the Resolution of the City of Senatobia, Mississippi Designating a Certain Parcel of Real Property As Surplus Real Property and For the Disposal of Said Real Property Pursuant to Section 17-25-25 of the Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated, As Amended, authorizing to accept bids to sell City Property located at 311 W Main Street

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SENATOBIA, MISSISSIPPI DESIGNATING A CERTAIN PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY AS SURPLUS REAL PROPERTY AND FOR THE DISPOSAL OF SAID REAL PROPERTY PURSUANT TO SECTION 17-25-25 OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972 ANNOTATED, AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, the City of Senatobia, Mississippi received a donation of a certain parcel of real property located within the city limits and which property is commonly referred to as 311 W. Main Street, Senatobia, Mississippi and which property is more particularly described as follows:

The West Half (W1/2) of Lot No. 81, according to Tatum's survey as shown on the Walter S. Davis map of the Town of Senatobia on record in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of said county and to which reference is hereby specifically made; there is included in this conveyance the building situated on the said lot and one-half interest in the center wall which is situated on the East side of the lot herein conveyed.

Describing herein the identical property conveyed to William P. Johnson by deed of record in Land Deed Book NN at Page 479, in the Office of said clerk and to which reference is also hereby specifically made. The said lot extending from the North side of Main Street to the South boundary of the Senatobia Water Works Department lot. (For reference see Book PP at Page 57, dated April 1, 1960).

Being located in Section 29, Township 5 South, Range 7 West, Tate County, Mississippi. This being the same property as found at Deed Book 2026 Page 100 in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Tate County, Mississippi.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Alderman of the City of Senatobia, Mississippi, do hereby make a finding and determination that the real property as described herein is not suitable for any municipal purposes and find and determine that the same be declared to be surplus property of the City of Senatobia, Mississippi.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Alderman do hereby find that it is in the best interest of the City of Senatobia, Mississippi to dispose of said real property in accordance with Section 21-

17-1 of the Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated, as Amended and Section 17-25-25(2) of the Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated, as Amended;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Alderman do hereby find that a “Public Sale” of the herein described real property should be made in accordance with Section 17-25-25 (1)(2) of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, as Amended and that the same be made subject to the following conditions and/or requirements:

- That conveyance by the City of Senatobia, Mississippi to the successful bidder (purchaser) shall be made by Quitclaim Deed with no warranty as to title by the city;
- That the successful bidder must have the existing structure removed/razed within forty-five (45) days of the bid being accepted by the City of Senatobia;
- That the successful bidder must obtain from The Tate county Mississippi Genalogical and Historical Society, Inc. any certificate required for the removal/razing of the existing structure;
- That the successful bidder must obtain from the City of Senatobia any required permit for the demolition/removal of the existing structure on said real property;
- That the real property is being sold “as is” with no warranty as to condition being made by the City of Senatobia, Mississippi and/or it’s governing authorities;
- The City of Senatobia, Mississippi retains any and all mineral rights, if any it may have in said property if any at all and reserves the right of ingress and egress to remove the same; and
- That the successful bidder must deliver to the City of Senatobia, Mississippi within seventy-two (72) hours of being notified of the acceptance of such bid deliver the funds necessary to complete the purchase of said property to the Municipal Clerk of the City of Senatobia, Mississippi and which funds must be in the form a cashier’s check from a bank authorized to do business in the State of Mississippi. That failure to deliver the funds shall result in any such bid being considered “void”.

WHEREAS, that the Mayor and Board of Alderman do hereby direct that the Municipal Clerk of the City of Senatobia, Mississippi post a Public Notice of Sale of the City of Senatobia, Mississippi in three public places within the municipal boundaries of the City of Senatobia for the purpose of soliciting sealed bids to be delivered to the City Clerk within *ten (10) days* of the three notices being posted and which shall all be posted on the same date. That at least one of the three (3) required notices must be published at the main office of the City of Senatobia, Mississippi and all such notices shall be available for viewing by members of the public. That attached hereto is a “sample” of the notice to be posted by the Municipal Clerk of the City of Senatobia, Mississippi.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Senatobia, Mississippi, that the following real property of the City of Senatobia, Mississippi be and is hereby found to be surplus property and that the same be placed for sale through the “Public Sale” process as set forth in Section 17-25-25(2) of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, as Amended:

The West Half (W1/2) of Lot No. 81, according to Tatum's survey as shown on the Walter S. Davis map of the Town of Senatobia on record in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of said county and to which reference is hereby specifically made; there is included in this conveyance the building situated on the said lot and one-half interest in the center wall which is situated on the East side of the lot herein conveyed.

Describing herein the identical property conveyed to William P. Johnson by deed of record in Land Deed Book NN at Page 479, in the Office of said clerk and to which reference is also hereby specifically made. The said lot extending from the North side of Main Street to the South boundary of the Senatobia Water Works Department lot. (For reference see Book PP at Page 57, dated April 1, 1960).

Being located in Section 29, Township 5 South, Range 7 West, Tate County, Mississippi. This being the same property as found at Deed Book 2026 Page 100 in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Tate County, Mississippi.


Following the presentation of the of the Resolution, it was introduced by Alderman Dear and seconded by Alderman McConnell and which motion included the waiving of the reading of the Resolution.

Thereafter, the Resolution was put to vote, and the results of the roll call vote of the Board of Aldermen is as follows, to-wit:

ALDERMAN	VOTE
Alderman Demetrius Garrett	<u>"AYE"</u>
Alderman Jeff Underwood	<u>"AYE"</u>
Alderman Kevin Dear	<u>"AYE"</u>
Alderman Allen Tanksley	<u>"AYE"</u>
Alderman Chris McConnell	<u>"AYE"</u>

The said Resolution, having received the majority vote of all of the Aldermen present, was declared adopted on this, the 5th day of May, 2026.

CITY OF SENATOBIA, MISSISSIPPI

BY: 

 GREG GRAVES
 MAYOR

ATTESTED TO: 

 KATIE HARBIN
 MUNICIPAL CLERK

(S E A L)

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman McConnell, to approve the Resolution of the City of Senatobia, Mississippi, Designating a Certain Parcel of Real Property As Surplus Real Property and For the Disposal of Said Real Property Pursuant to Section 17-25-25 of the Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated, As Amended, authorizing to accept bids to sell City Property located at 311 W Main Street, waiving the reading of the Resolution. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Commend Police Officer Cleven and Police Officer Jurlds

Mayor Graves stated that Police Officer Cleven and Police Officer Jurlds was able to use life saving measures on a recent call, saving an elderly females life.

Officer Howell reported that Officers were dispatched to a call regarding an unresponsive elderly female. Officer Cleven arrived on scene first and immediately initiated CPR, with Officer Jurlds arriving shortly after to assist. Through their combined efforts, they were able to successfully resuscitate her. Officers followed up with her twice following the incident and are pleased to report that she is alive and doing well

Department Reports

Community Development & Tourism Director Jamie Sowell reminded the Board that the Five Star City Festival is this weekend, starting Friday evening. We have a lot of work to do to be prepared, it is an all-hands-on deck situation. I am thankful to all of the City departments helping me with this Festival, they have been great. Mrs. Sowell stated that we will close some roads Downtown starting Friday afternoon for the Not Yo Mama's 5K.

Mrs. Sowell advised that the demolition work on the Center Street building started today and so far, things are going well.

Alderman Dear asked if the adjoining property is still standing.

Jamie Sowell answered yes, it is. Mr. Caldwell and his contractor had some things to work through on their end.

Fire Chief Foresman advised the Board that things are going well in the Fire Department. They have had a lot of different training going on. Fireman Sam Suggs graduated the Academy on April 16th. We have two pass the EMT class at NWCC and we have two Firefighters going to Hazmat class soon. Chief Foresman stated this week we are completing the annual PT test. Also, the quarterly fire hydrant testing is about to be complete.

Alderman Dear asked is that why some have a bag on them.

Chief Foresman stated yes, those are ones that are out of service. Chief Foresman advised that the new engine is scheduled to be here in July.

Alderman McConnell asked where it will be housed.

Chief Foresman stated the plan is to put it at Station 1.

Police Officer Howell advised the Mayor and Board that they have provided the Stats, if they have any questions on those, let him know. Officer Howell advised that the entire Police Department completed training with the DA's Office regarding First Amendment auditors, along with other items. Officer Howell stated last week they completed their annual firearms certification and testing. We have several in training and more coming up. Some to include drone pilot school training, and the DUI Storm Conference, which we will be able to send down equipment to be recalibrated there. Officer Howell stated we also have tactical training which will include the basics like first responder medical care. We have new hires finishing the process, two certified and two uncertified. Officer Howell stated we had a very successful Special Olympics Torch Run yesterday. We are also preparing for the upcoming festival.

Dan Etherton, SHPC, thanked the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for approving the resolution for the 311 W Main Street property. Mr. Etherton advised that he saw Mr. Hudson has posted his property on W Main Street for sale. There were at least seven people who showed interest in it within 24 hours of it being posted. Mr. Etherton advised that they now have newly appointed Commission members, giving them a full Commission. We are still waiting for what we need to do regarding the Massey property. I believe we are at the point for fines, etc. Mr. Etherton stated he was kind of disappointed, he invited the Aldermen to their last meeting and none of you showed up. Mr. Etherton stated he will continue sending the invitation to them, to attend the meetings. I would also like the press to attend.

Alderman Dear asked about the French Motel property.

Dan Etherton advised Alderman Dear that he is still working on it, to give him time. They are all just volunteers.

Building Inspector Bryan Riley advised the Mayor and Board of Aldermen that they are waiting on the building plans for Waffle House, the process is moving along. Mr. Riley advised that they are still waiting for information for the County's Getwell Drive realignment project. Mr. Riley advised the Mayor and Aldermen that Code Enforcement Officer Pittman has been busy working on a lot of complaints received, of various types.

Mayor Graves asked about the Zona 55 restaurant.

Bryan Riley stated hopefully it will be open by the weekend.

Mayor Graves advised the Board of Aldermen that he is getting updates from and communicating regularly with David Estep and David Cooke regarding Public Works. Mayor stated that Karah is doing a great job of keeping us updated daily with everything going on in Public Works also.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Graves went over consent agenda items 9 - 21, asked if anyone had any questions. No questions were asked.

Motion was made by Alderman Garrett, 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 April 21, 2026

Motion was made by Alderman Garrett, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to approve the Minutes from the Regular Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on April 21, 2026. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Approve Docket of Claims numbers: 42893 – 43135 for a total of \$1,770,572.07

Motion was made by Alderman Garrett, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to approve the Docket of Claims numbers: 42893 – 43135 for a total of \$1,770,572.07, as funds are available. All present voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize Fire Captain Duane Ross to attend the MS Fire Chiefs conference, May 26 - 31, 2026 in Biloxi, MS, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses

Motion was made by Alderman Garrett, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to authorize Fire Captain Duane Ross to attend the MS Fire Chiefs conference, May 26 - 31, 2026 in Biloxi, MS, also authorize to pay registration and travel expenses. All voting yea, motion carried.

Acknowledge the resignation from Meter Reader Karla White effective May 1, 2026

Motion was made by Alderman Garrett, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to acknowledge the resignation from Meter Reader Karla White effective May 1, 2026. All voting yea, motion carried.

Acknowledge the resignation from Police Officer B. Lowrie effective May 5, 2026

Motion was made by Alderman Garrett, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to authorize Acknowledge the resignation from Police Officer B. Lowrie effective May 5, 2026. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to promote Police Officer Perrette to the position Sergeant (pay increase previously approved)

Motion was made by Alderman Garrett, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to authorize to promote Police Officer Perrette to the position Sergeant. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to promote Police Officer Cleven to Sergeant, with pay increase to Sergeant pay

Motion was made by Alderman Garrett, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to authorize to promote Police Officer Cleven to Sergeant, with pay increase to Sergeant pay. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to hire Justin O'Brien as a full-time Utility Meter Reader at a rate of \$14.00 per hour, pending background and drug screening results

Motion was made by Alderman Garrett, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to authorize to hire Justin O'Brien as a full-time Utility Meter Reader at a rate of \$14.00 per hour, pending background and drug screening results. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to hire Matthew Whitten Darby as a full-time Downtown Beautification Laborer 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 Matthew Whitten Darby as a full-time Downtown Beautification Laborer at a rate of \$13.00 per hour, pending background and drug screening results. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to hire McKenzie Goodwin as a full-time Community Development & Tourism Administration Assistant at \$13.00 per hour, pending background and drug screening results

Motion was made by Alderman Garrett, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to authorize to hire McKenzie Goodwin as a full-time Community Development & Tourism Administration Assistant at \$13.00 per hour, pending background and drug screening results. All voting yea, motion carried.

Acknowledge the Housing Authority Phase I Environmental Site Assessment for 2026

Motion was made by Alderman Garrett, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to acknowledge the Housing Authority Phase I Environmental Site Assessment for 2026. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize Mayor Graves to sign the subscription renewal with Cloudpermit for Building & Planning software

Motion was made by Alderman Garrett, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to authorize Mayor Graves to sign the subscription renewal with Cloudpermit for Building & Planning software. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize Mayor Graves to sign the MOU with Senatobia Main Street for the Mississippi Development Authority MMSRG Grant funding (Grant for boy scout building, granted to Senatobia Main Street)

Motion was made by Alderman Garrett, seconded by Alderman Underwood, to authorize Mayor Graves to sign the MOU with Senatobia Main Street for the Mississippi Development Authority MMSRG Grant funding. All voting yea, motion carried. Alderman Underwood announced that the Senatobia Municipal High Schools Girls Track team won the State Championship at the MS State Track & Field Event.

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

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

Go into Executive Session for Economic Development and Personnel

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

Personnel

Motion was made by Alderman Garrett, seconded by Alderman McConnell, to authorize to hire Chris Haley as the full-time Facilities Maintenance Supervisor over the Parks, City Cemeteries, Hwy 51 Roundabout and Interstate Interchange, with an annual salary of \$87,500.00. All voting yea, motion carried.

Come out of Executive Session

Motion was made by Alderman Dear, seconded by Alderman Tanksley, 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