

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen met on August 15, 2022, at 5:00 P.M., this being the special meeting time. Mayor Greg Graves called the meeting to order, and the following Aldermen were present: Simpson, Dear, Hale, Moore, and Tanksley. Also present were: City Clerk Katie Harbin, Police Chief Richard Chandler, Fire Chief Foresman, and Deputy City Clerk Francis Johnson.

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NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Date: August 10, 2022

From: Mayor Greg Graves

Subject: Special Meeting

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Special Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Senatobia shall be held on Monday August 15, 2022 at 5:00p.m. at the City Hall Building Board Room, in the City of Senatobia, Mississippi.

The purpose of the meeting is to:

- 1. Discuss Budget FYE 2023



Greg Graves, Mayor

ATTEST:

 Katie Harbin, City Clerk

All Aldermen were notified in person on 8/8/2022 at 5:30p.m.

Approve Agenda

CITY OF SENATOBIA
CITY HALL
August 15, 2022
5:0 P.M.
SPECIAL MEETING

- 1. Call to Order, Prayer, Roll Call
- 2. Welcome
- 3. Budget FYE 2023 Discussions

Budget FYE 2023 Discussions

Mayor Graves opened the meeting for budget discussions

Alderman Hale asked about the Animal Shelter numbers being higher.

Deputy City Clerk Francis Johnson answered that is where she added in amounts for the donations.

Alderman Simpson stated we've never budgeted for the donations before, have we.

Deputy City Clerk Francis Johnson answered we haven't included them before, but we've always told them that donations revenue goes to them. We have been receiving a lot more lately.

Alderman Simpson stated right, as it should go to them, but it went good without adding those numbers before. Alderman Simpson stated, about the Firemen, I love my Fire department, but we are getting a fire truck, and giving raises, I just don't see adding new positions at this time.

Mayor Graves stated the option with no addition positions includes a 5% raise for them, not the 3%.

Alderman Hale stated if we match what we transferred last year, take out the overage in the Animal Shelter, we will be back in the black with adding the additional firemen positions.

Deputy City Clerk Francis Johnson stated it states if we keep having a surplus in the utility fund, we need to lower the rates.

Mayor Graves stated that makes sense.

Aldermen Dear stated I feel like Alderman Simpson stated, I don't know about adding the firemen positions in this budget.

Fire Chief Foresman stated we are behind. We've needed more staff for years. We won't have anyone to drive the new truck if we don't get additional staff. It's so bad, the guys we have now are willing to give up some raises in order to get addition help.

Alderman Simpson asked about volunteers.

Fire Chief Foresman stated we just don't have any. It's a nation-wide problem, a cultural change.

Mayor Graves stated it is a lot with the fire truck, and no financial help from the industry. It's a tough budget year to add 3 new positions.

Fire Chief Foresman stated I get it. We have a \$500,000 for a station renovation and not sure if it will be staffed.

Alderman Dear stated you said the current firemen would give up raises for more staff.

Fire Chief Foresman answered yes sir.

Alderman Moore stated if we did 3% raises for the current firemen, transfer more from the utility department, we can hire the 3 additional firemen.

Alderman Hale asked how many volunteers show up regularly if we have a fire.

Fire Chief Foresman answered maybe 4. It depends on what time of day it is.

Mayor Graves asked why the requirements were going up when the census says we only added about 150 people to the population.

Fire Chief Foresman stated the rating bureau doesn't go by people, it goes by the number of structures and how long it takes to respond to a call.

Alderman Hale stated my experience, in 2013 as a volunteer firefighter, if something happened, we were not only allowed to leave our paying jobs, but we were expected to leave. It's not the same cultural anymore. Some employers won't allow them to leave work. Some can't function working a fulltime job and getting up in the middle of the night to go on a fire call.

Alderman Simpson asked how many positions will have a lower salary than the fire life and safety position?

Fire Chief Foresman answered maybe 5 or 6 positions, the new ones. Some are Firefighter 2's but after training they will make more. They won't have a problem with that position making more. That employee is well worth it, had training, does firefighting, fire life and safety training and administration duties.

Alderman Tanksley stated if he is good with a 3% raise and 3 additional firemen positions, that's fine. It will still work in the budget.

Alderman Moore stated keep the same transfer amount as last year, reduce the animal shelter budget and increase the library budget by \$4,500.

Alderman Moore asked about the Parks budget. Was a lot moved to the Tourism budget.

Deputy City Clerk Francis Johnson answered yes, the mule, concession worker salary and expenses and the chemical budget increase.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Alderman Simpson, and seconded by Alderman Moore, to recess until Tuesday August 16, 2022 at 5pm. All voting yea, motion carried.

Greg Graves, Mayor

ATTEST:

Katie Harbin –City Clerk