

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen met on November 16, 2021, at 5:00 P.M., this being the regular recessed meeting time. Mayor Graves called the meeting to order, and the following Aldermen were present: Dear, Hale, Moore, Simpson and Tanksley. Also present were: Katie Harbin, City Clerk; Ginger Miller, City Attorney; Richard Chandler, Police Chief; Matt DeFore, Assistant Police Chief; Chantay Rhone; Brevin Holden; Jeff Rich, Public Works Director; Brevin Holden, Code Compliance Officer/Fire Inspector; Jim Huestis, Building Official; Michelle Huestis; Public Works Administrative Assistant, Fran Johnson, Deputy City Clerk; Britt Herrin, Jeff Axthelm, Michael Cathey, Jamie Sowell, Thurman Caldwell, and Phynillia Brown

Alderman Moore gave the invocation.

Public Hearing on an application for Rezoning the property located at 516 Strayhorn Street from R-4 to R-1, Parcel ID 099F02 0001501, Section 30, Township 05, Range 07, requested by the City of Senatobia

Mayor Graves opened the public hearing up.

Mayor Graves stated that this is for the rezoning of the property located at 516 Strayhorn Street from R-4 to R-1, Parcel ID 099F02 0001501. The city is wanting to rezone this to R-1, we feel it will be a better fit for the surrounding community. Mayor Graves stated that the owner was not in agreeance at first and was going to be in attendance tonight, but then called and spoke to Jim Huestis to advise he is ok with the rezoning and will not be present tonight.

Alderman Tanksley asked Mr. Huestis if he had spoken to the owner regarding cutting the rest of the lot.

Jim Huestis answered yes, he has.

Motion was made by Alderman Simpson, seconded by Alderman Moore, to approve the application and authorize to rezone the property located at 516 Strayhorn Street from R-4 to R-1, Parcel ID 099F02 0001501, Section 30, Township 05, Range 07. All voting yea, motion carried

Carlisle Syntec – railroad issues, Jeff Axthelom

Mayor Graves advised the Board that Mr. Axthelom wanted to come to the Board to discuss some issues with drainage around the railroad.

Jeff Axthelom, Carlisle Syntec, stated that they have to have the railroad. There is a hill and not ditch, so over time that mud runs down to the railroad covering the ties and holding there. Mud is the enemy of the railroad. The mud will hold water around the ties causing them to expand, shrink, etc. After the switch it is the responsibility of the property owner. I haven't been sure who that is. Grenada Rail won't deliver if it is not fixed. We have repaired some, just to get us by. We've gotten L & T construction to quote to repair the problem. We have spent almost \$50,000 and only \$12,000 should be our portion. There is more work that needs to be done. We've just done what we could to get by. Everything won't be fixed until we pick the rails up, get the mud out, put rocks in and create a ditch. We need the hill moved back, 15 feet maybe, and dig a ditch there.

Mayor Graves asked Jeff Rich is this is something we can do in house.

Jeff Rich answered yes. It has just gotten pushed to the back burner with a lot of other things going on. Mr. Rich stated he would meet with Mr. Axthelom to go over a plan.

Authorize to accept the lowest and best bid for the ANODE Bed Installation Project

Mayor Graves stated that this is the only bid we received, and it appears it came in under budget.

Motion was made by Alderman Moore, seconded by Alderman Dear, to authorize to accept the lowest and best bid for the Anode Bed Installation Project from Corpro. All voting yea, motion carried

Discussion of Impound lot, Chief Chandler

Police Chief Chandler advised the Mayor and Board of Aldermen that the County is putting a fence up and laying a pad down to create an impound lot by the County building and Animal Shelter. We are planning to share the lot, with separate gates and locks. They want us to pay half of the expense. I think it will be better than what we have, where it currently sits. We will also put up a camera.

Alderman Dear stated he wants to know what half of the expense is.

Alderman Simpson stated it's probably a good deal.

Chief Chandler stated that they just want to know if we are interested in moving forward.

Discussion of Tate County 911, Chief Chandler

Police Chief Chandler advised the Mayor and Board of Aldermen that he spoke to Cole Massie with the County about the budget for the 911 Center, MOU's, etc. The County wants to know about financial responsibility. I thought we would do 75% County / 25% City. They are thinking 65% County, 35% City. We may be able to negotiate a little. I think a difference of 5% may be around \$45,000. It will still be under what we budgeted for.

Alderman Hale asked what is the 65% of.

Police Chief Chandler answered I'd have to look it up.

Alderman Hale stated I'm wondering if it is 65% of the total budget.

Police Chief Chandler Stated \$669,000 is the total budget. I don't like that citizens are being taxed twice for it and I don't like the quality of the calls. They hang up and we don't know all of the details, like what they look like, what they are wearing, etc. We could possibly negotiate the cost at a later date.

Alderman Hale asked do you think they would be ok with a 70/30 split?

Police Chief Chandler answered yes.

Mayor Graves asked, would you?

Police Chief Chandler answered I think so. It would be cheaper and better. It is probably the best we will get. It is worth it.

Alderman Moore asked what the total budget for Dispatch is.

Police Chief Chandler answered \$270,000. Chief Chandler stated if we do get this worked out, they have agreed to let our dispatchers work at their 911 while we renovate our building.

Discussion of Assessment for Misdemeanor Drug Related Charge, Chief Chandler

Police Chief Chandler advised the Mayor and Board of Aldermen that he would like to start charging a misdemeanor drug related charge, up to \$50.00. The money received would go into a drug seizure fund, used to purchase equipment.

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Simpson, to authorize to charge an assessment for Misdemeanor Drug Related Charge of up to \$50.00, as allowed by State law. All voting yea, motion carried.

Discussion of Chromcraft property

Mayor Graves advised the Board of Alderman that he had spoken to Cole Massie with Tate County, regarding the Chromcraft property. We have spoken to them about doing the utilities over there. We mentioned the possibility of “swapping” a parcel of land for us doing the utilities. There are certain ones that might be offered, lot 6, 7, 8 or 9, I think. Would y’all have any interest?

Alderman Simpson asked how much would we be charging for our services?

Mayor Graves stated I think around the \$50,000 range, but I need to check with Jeff Rich. I am not sure what we would do with the lot, if we got it.

Alderman Simpson stated I don’t know what we’d do with it.

Alderman Hale stated he doesn’t like the idea of being in the real estate business.

Mayor Graves stated they would have strict convenance’s, we could see about the possibility of putting a community center in there, if it would fit.

Alderman Tanksley stated if we knew the value of the land, it might be more valuable to have now and sell later.

Discussion of Comprehensive Plan, Rezoning and Redistricting Services

Mayor Graves asked the Board if they had a chance to look over the links that we sent out from Mrs. Ouzts with CMPDD. Mayor Graves stated that he thinks Mr. Barber’s services will be way over our budget.

Alderman Simpson asked if we would get quotes.

Mayor Graves stated that we did get some pricing. Mayor Graves stated that CMPDD had in their email the comprehensive plan will cost \$68,000, zoning will cost \$19,500, and redistricting will be \$10,000. Slaughter stated his comprehensive plan is between \$35,000 and \$45,000, rezoning is between \$8,000 and \$10,000 and redistricting is between \$8,000 and \$12,000. His prices do not include out of pocket expenses.

Alderman Hale stated that is a big difference in cost.

Alderman Simpson stated we can pick one company to do the redistricting and another company to do the comprehensive plan and rezoning. Mr. Simpson stated he would like a more exact price.

Alderman Tanksley stated they don’t want to do the work for no money.

Alderman Moore stated that CMPDD did also say they’d do the GIS. Slaughter said they could do it, but the price would be crazy. Mr. Moore stated so if CMPDD’s price includes the GIS as part of their services, it would be worth the extra money. It would be good to know for sure if the GIS link is included in their \$68,000 price. We need to ask Slaughter if they can do it and for how much.

Alderman Hale stated he would like to know the difference in the rezoning prices.

Alderman Moore stated maybe we can get a list to see what exactly is included and for exactly how much.

Alderman Simpson stated I'd like to get more information, to be fair to everyone.

Chantay Rhone stated that GIS is very valuable to technology, City Wide.

Alderman Moore stated I'm sure it would be helpful to dispatch also.

Chief Chandler stated it is. It is supposed to be included in the fee.

Alderman Hale stated for the general public, it would also be helpful.

Mayor Graves stated we will reach out to them to get more details on services and prices.

Discussion of Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant, Chantay Rhone

Chantay Rhone advised the Mayor and Board of Aldermen that the AFG is now open. It closes in December. The Board has already approved JMCM to do the grant work. If we are awarded this grant, we are thinking about replacing the Gatco pumper with a new one.

Alderman Moore asked if there is a match.

Chantay Rhone answered yes, 10%.

Authorize Mayor Graves to sign the Real Estate Contract to purchase Dee's Oil property, located in Section 29, Township 5, Range 7, Parcel number 099H01 0000200. for \$650,000 (using roundabout money), also authorize Mayor Graves to sign all necessary documents

Mayor Graves advised the Board that this would be using the roundabout funds.

Motion was made by Alderman Moore, seconded by Alderman Dear, to authorize Mayor Graves to sign the Real Estate Contract to purchase Dee's Oil property, located in Section 29, Township 5, Range 7, Parcel number 099H01 0000200, for \$650,000.00, also authorize Mayor Graves to sign all other necessary documents. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize Mayor Graves to sign an Agreement with Headwaters Inc. for the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment and UST Closure at 503 E Main Street (using roundabout money)

Mayor Graves advised the Board that this was for the work with the roundabout on Hwy 51 and on Main, using the roundabout funds.

Motion was made by Alderman Moore, seconded by Alderman Tanksley, to authorize Mayor Graves to sign an Agreement with Headwaters Inc., for the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment and UST Closure at 503 E Main Street. All voting yea, motion carried.

Britt Herrin – Economic Update

Mr. Herrin advised the Mayor and Board of Aldermen that there is a retail academy on the 14th and thanked them for Mayor Graves being about to attend. The Retail Strategies group is doing this. This will be very helpful in getting retail to our area.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Graves went over each consent agenda item, numbers 15 - 28, asked if anyone had any questions.

Approve Minutes from the Regular Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on November 2, 2021, and the Recessed Meeting on November 3, 2021

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Moore, to approve the minutes from the Regular Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting on November 2, 2021, and the Recessed Meeting on November 3, 2021. All voting yea, motion carried.

Approve Docket of Claims numbers: 22013 - 22148 for a total of \$265,339.06

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Moore, to approve the Docket of Claims Numbers 22013 - 22148 with a total of \$265,339.06. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to give Steven Mahan a step pay increase from P1 to a P2

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Moore, to authorize to give Steven Mahan a step increase from P1 to a P2. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to move Sgt. Andrew Hurst from Sergeant to continue as Officer/K9 Handler, per his request, at the rate of P4, \$18.25 per hour

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Moore, to authorize to move Sgt. Andrew Hurst from Sergeant to continue as Officer/K9 Handler, per his request, at the rate of P4, \$18.25 per hour. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to promote James Marshall to the position of Sergeant at a rate of \$20.00 per hour

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Moore, to authorize to promote James Marshall to the position of Sergeant at a rate of \$20.00 per hour. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to promote Justin Hoffman to the position of Sergeant at a rate of \$20.00 per hour

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Moore, to authorize to promote Justin Hoffman to the position of Sergeant at a rate of \$20.00 per hour. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to promote Cristian Subia to K9 Handler with a raise of \$0.25 per hour for on call status

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Moore, to authorize to promote Cristian Subia to K9 Handler with a raise of \$0.25 per hour for on call status. All voting yea, motion carried.

Accept the resignation from Michelle Huestis, Public Works Administrative Assistant

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Moore, to accept the resignation from Michelle Huestis, Public Works Administrative Assistant, effective December 3, 2021. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to hire Susan Cook as the Public Works Administrative Assistant at a rate of \$13.00 per hour

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Moore, to hire Susan Cook as the Public Works Administrative Assistant at a rate of \$13.00 per hour. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize Public Works Street employee Melvin Moore to use his accrued personal time that will be in excess of his annual accrual rate

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Moore, to authorize Public Works employee Melvin Moore to use his accrued personal time that will be in excess of his annual accrual rate. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize Brannon Rushing, Jacob Abel, and Taylor Elardo to attend the Basic Incident Response to Digital Evidence Class in Greenville, MS on December 7 – 9, 2021, also authorize to pay travel expenses

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Moore, to authorize Brannon Rushing, Jacob Abel, and Taylor Elardo to attend the Basic Incident Response to Digital Evidence Class in Greenville, MS on December 7 – 9, 2021, also authorize to pay travel expenses. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to temporarily close Ward Street north of Main to College Street on Saturday November 27, 2021, from 9 am to 2:30 pm for the Small Business Saturday event

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Moore, to authorize to temporarily close Ward Street north of Main Street to College Street on Sunday November 27, 2021, from 9 am to 2:30 pm for the Small Business Saturday event. All voting yea, motion carried

Authorize to temporarily close streets for the Christmas Parade on Monday December 6, 2021 (same route as previous years)

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Moore, to authorize to temporarily close streets for the Christmas Parade on Monday December 6, 2021. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to accept the best quote to finance a 2021 Dodge Durango, also authorize Mayor Graves to sign all necessary documents (Police Department)

Motion was made by Alderman Hale, seconded by Alderman Moore, to authorize to accept the best quote to finance a 2021 Dodge Durango, also authorize Mayor Graves to sign all necessary documents. All voting yea, motion carried

Mayor's Corner

Second Meeting in December

Mayor Graves advised the Board that he would not be in attendance for the December 21st Board meeting. Either Alderman at Large Moore could do the meeting, or we could reschedule it.

Update on Animal Shelter

Mayor Graves advised the Board that he and some county members have met with Kris Robinson, regarding volunteering and future employment services if needed. We are looking at ways to improve our relationship with volunteers and our relationship with the community, to get more help at the shelter. Ms. Robinson has some really great ideas and a very impressive background.

Rezoning Residential

Mayor Graves advised the Board that we are looking into ways to help with the number of rentals we have in the city. We really need to look into this before we have a lot more growth.

Senior Citizen Center

Mayor Graves advised the Board that we didn't fund the Senior Citizen Center this budget year. We started with them and then Covid hit. I'm getting calls about opening this up again. In January we can try to revisit this, on a part time basis.

Authorize to go into closed session to discuss going into executive session for Economic updates/negotiations

Motion was made by Alderman Tanksley, seconded by Alderman Dear, to go into closed session to discuss going into executive session for Economic updates / negotiations. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to go into executive session for Economic updates/negotiations

Motion was made by Alderman Tanksley, seconded by Alderman Moore, to go into executive session for Economic updates/negotiations. All voting yea, motion carried.

Authorize to come out of executive session

Motion was made by Alderman Moore, seconded by Alderman Tanksley, to come out of executive session. All voting yea, motion carried.

Adjourn

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

Greg Graves, Mayor

ATTEST:

Katie Harbin –City Clerk