

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen met on August 22, 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.

CITY OF SENATOBIA
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SENATOBIA, MS 38668
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NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Date: August 16, 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 22, 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 8/16/2022 at 6:10p.m.

Approve Agenda

CITY OF SENATOBIA
CITY HALL
August 22, 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 up for budget discussions. Mayor Graves stated if I have understood you correctly, you are good with most of the budget as it is. It is down to an item in the fire department.

Fire Chief Foresman handed out information he's collected regarding cities that are comparable in size with us and their fire departments. Chief Foresman stated Richland started their volunteer program around the same time we did, however they went to career firemen in 1976. I think Boonville is very comparable to us with the community college and their population. Chief Foresman stated we had a strong volunteer base for a while, but not now. Chief Foresman stated the rating bureau will do an update in 2024.

Alderman Moore asked where the \$89,000 came from, the last time we were in the hole.

Deputy City Clerk Francis Johnson stated we reduced the transfer amount and corrected a bond payment line item that was listed twice.

Alderman Simpson asked about the surplus numbers, at the end of option one and two.

Deputy City Clerk Francis Johnson stated those would be what is left for contingency.

Alderman Simpson asked if the firemen raises were at 3%.

Deputy City Clerk Francis Johnsons stated the option with additional firemen positions, the raises are at 3% and the option with out additional firemen positions, the raises are at 5%.

Alderman Moore asked about the insurance line items.

Deputy City Clerk Francis Johnson answered there were a few small changes. We received a renewal rate of a 6% increase for medical insurance, Kris Robinson is not taking insurance to save money for that department and had some corrections.

Alderman Tanksley asked do we have a rainy-day fund.

Deputy City Clerk Francis Johnson answered we should. Last year we had \$40,746.

Alderman Simpson stated I think what it comes down to, do we want to give the current staff a 5% raise and have a little contingency or give the current staff a 3% raise, hire 3 additional firemen and have no contingency.

Alderman Moore stated it looks like each department has a rainy-day fund, repairs and maintenance.

Deputy City Clerk Francis Johnson stated that is more for maintenance.

Mayor Graves stated I think I know how 2 feels.

Alderman Hale stated I'm for the additional firemen.

Alderman Moore stated I'm for the additional firemen.

Alderman Tanksley asked Fire Chief Foresman if he has to have 3.

Fire Chief Foresman answered I'd like to have 7, but I know I can't get that.

Alderman Tanksley asked would that be a 3% raise or 5%.

Fire Chief Foresman stated it looks like a 3% is in there. Fire Chief Foresman stated I don't love that, but my guys would take a 3% versus a 5% raise if they can get the additional staff.

Mayor Graves stated if this is approved when do you think you would be looking for them to start.

Fire Chief Foresman stated if approved, I won't have them to start right away. Just like other times, it takes time to find applicants. We know of a couple interested applicants right now, one is an EMT and that is a plus.

Alderman Moore stated I'm still hung on this transfer amount. Our rates are still low compared to others around. I really feel the AG statement to mean if we are being careless with the money we transfer or frivolous, then we should lower rates. We aren't. It is justified.

Alderman Hale stated we approved the \$579,000 and raised rates last year.

Alderman Simpson stated the biggest complaint I get is from the gas rates.

Alderman Moore read State Code 21-27-61, stated a transfer of funds from the utility fund to the general fund may be used for any lawful purpose.

Mayor Graves stated at a certain point it just seems like you are going to fund the general fund with the utility fund.

Alderman Simpson stated that he doesn't agree with that large of a transfer. I don't think we have the money for additional firemen this budget year. I want them, I know we need them, but we don't have the funds. We should have a contingency fund.

Alderman Hale stated next year why don't we do the Police and Fire departments first. Here we are down to the end discussing if we should hire 3 additional firemen that we needed 10 years ago.

Alderman Simpson stated I said the first night, we should take care of the people we have first.

Fire Chief Foresman started there is a 1 million dollar difference between the Police and Fire department budgets.

Adjourn

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

Greg Graves, Mayor

ATTEST:

Katie Harbin –City Clerk