

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
OF THE TOWN OF SHERMAN, MISSISSIPPI
May 6, 2025
6:00 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen met at the Municipal Building at 6:00 p.m. on the sixth day of May.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mike Swords, Mayor
Martha Swindle, Alderman
Randy Bolen, Alderman
Christie McDonald, Alderman
Keith Rogers, Alderman
Amanda Hodge, Town Clerk
Joel Spellins, Police Chief
Legal Counsel: Attorney Kirk Tharp

Absent: Wayne Bullock, Alderman

Also Present: Officer Tim Bell, Officer Chris Garrard, Will Tacker, Ryan Johnson, Dustin Dabbs, David and Maria Taylor, Adam Jolly, Sue Greer, and Jody Goodwin.

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Mike Swords called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION

Alderman Keith Rogers gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Alderman Christie McDonald led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC CONCERN – WILL TACKER

William Tacker informed the board that Red Panda would be a drop point for used tires.

IN THE MATTER OF PREMIER PRINT PERSONAL TAXES

Chris Curtis, General Manager of Premier Prints, met with Clerk Hodge earlier this month regarding a clerical error involving the 2024 tax assessment. Pontotoc County was mistakenly provided with an incorrect inventory true value of \$5,952,899, which resulted in Sherman personal property taxes totaling \$31,458.10. However, according to Premier Prints’ accountants and their federal tax returns, the correct inventory true value should have been \$2,327,325, resulting in taxes of \$12,298.74. Mr. Curtis requested that the Town accept the corrected amount. He stated that, if approved, Premier Prints would remit payment of the revised tax amount the following day. Alderman Martha Swindle made a motion to approve the corrected tax amount of \$12,298.74. The motion was seconded by Alderman Keith Rogers and passed with a vote of 4–0.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES OF APRIL 1, 2025

The April 1, 2025, meeting minutes were presented to the Mayor and Board for approval. Alderman Keith Rogers moved to approve the minutes, with Alderman Christie McDonald seconding the motion. The motion was unanimously approved with a 4–0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

Town Clerk Amanda Hodge delivered the monthly budget and bank balance reports to the Board.

IN THE MATTER OF BILL PAY

The invoices for payment from the General Account and the Water and Sewer Account were presented for approval. Alderman Randy Bolen made a motion to approve and pay the bills for both accounts, which was seconded by Alderman Martha Swindle. The motion passed with a 4–0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF INCOME

Clerk Hodge informed the Mayor and Board that the sales tax collected for March 2025 totaled \$67,103.33.

IN THE MATTER OF TOWN WEBSITE

Clerk Hodge presented a proposal for a new website design, noting that the current website cannot be updated and lacks important community information. The proposal, submitted by Active Data/Vitality South, includes a complete redesign of the website and provides the Town with access to make future updates as needed. The one-time setup fee is \$5,000. The Town is already paying the annual fee for hosting and email services.

Alderman Martha Swindle made a motion to approve the proposal and proceed with the website redesign. Alderman Randy Bolen seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously, 4–0.

IN THE MATTER OF INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

Clerk Hodge informed the Board that she had secured a band, as well as lighting and sound services, for the upcoming Independence Day celebration. The band will be The Eric Deaton Trio, and Rare Air Productions will provide lighting and sound. The total cost is \$5,000, which is already included in the current budget.

Alderman Martha Swindle made a motion to approve The Eric Deaton Trio and Rare Air Productions for the event. Alderman Keith Rogers seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4–0 vote.

DEPARTMENTS

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Director Clint Long requested that the red International tractor be declared surplus and sold. He noted that the tractor is non-functional and takes up space. Alderman Keith Rogers made a motion to surplus the tractor and take it to auction. Alderman Christie McDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4–0 vote.

Public Works Director Clint Long recommended hiring Jody Goodwin as part-time, as-needed help for the summer. Alderman Christie McDonald made a motion to hire Jody Goodwin at a rate of \$13.78 per hour. Alderman Martha Swindle seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4–0 vote.

Mayor Mike Swords expressed his gratitude to the Public Works Department and Pontotoc County Supervisor Moorman for their efforts in replacing the culvert at Cemetery Road and reopening the road within two days.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Joel Spellins informed the Board that Officer Gann’s 90-day probationary period had ended. He recommended increasing Officer Gann’s pay to \$18.00 per hour. Alderman Keith Rogers made a motion to raise Officer Gann’s pay to \$18.00 to match the rate of the other part-time officers. Alderman Martha Swindle seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4–0 vote.

Chief Joel Spellins recommended hiring Officer Matt Stringer as a part-time officer at a rate of \$16.05 per hour for a 90-day probationary period. Alderman Martha Swindle made a motion to hire Officer Stringer part-time at \$16.05 per hour. Alderman Christie McDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4–0 vote.

TOWN ENGINEER

Dustin Dabbs provided updates on Main Street, including paving bids for patchwork and the installation of inlets scheduled for later this month.

MAYOR

Clerk Amanda Hodge recommended hiring Anna McCoy as a part-time summer help at a rate of \$13.00. Alderman Christie McDonald made a motion to hire McCoy part-time at \$13.00 per hour. Alderman Randy Bolen seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chief Joel Spellins requested an executive session to discuss personnel issues. Alderman Martha Swindle made the motion to open the executive session. Alderman Keith Rogers seconded.

Alderman Randy Bolen made the motion to end the executive session. Alderman Martha Swindle seconded.

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS

Alderman Martha Swindle made a motion to adjourn the meeting until June 3, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. Alderman Keith Rogers seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

APPROVED, this the 3 day of June, 2025.


MAYOR MIKE SWORDS

ATTEST: Amanda Hodge
AMANDA HODGE, TOWN CLERK

