

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
OF THE TOWN OF SHERMAN, MISSISSIPPI**

**June 3, 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 third day of June.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mike Swords, Mayor
Martha Swindle, Alderman
Christie McDonald, Alderman
Keith Rogers, Alderman
Amanda Hodge, Town Clerk
Joel Spellins, Police Chief
Brad McMurry, Fire Chief
Clint Long, Public Works Director
Legal Counsel: Attorney Kirk Tharp

Absent: Wayne Bullock, Alderman
Randy Bolen, Alderman

Also Present: Ryan Johnson, Adam Jolly, Dustin Dabbs, Jody Goodwin, Hazel Berryman, Millie Smith, Robin and Caroline Lowe, Carolyn and Earnest Bigham, Jay Scruggs, Sue Greer, and Billy Kidd.

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Mike Swords called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION

Alderman Martha Swindle gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Alderman Keith Rogers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES OF MAY 6, 2025

The meeting minutes from May 6, 2025, were presented to the Mayor and Board for approval. Alderman Martha Swindle moved to approve the minutes, with Alderman Christie McDonald seconding the motion. The motion was unanimously approved with a 3–0 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 Martha Swindle made a motion to approve and pay the bills for both accounts, which was seconded by Alderman Christie McDonald. The motion passed with a 3–0 vote.

Earlier this month, the sewer pump failed, prompting Clint Long to obtain two replacement quotes—one from Tencarva for \$9,577.00 and another from Delta Process Equipment for \$10,319.00. The Mayor directed Clint to proceed with the lowest and best quote as an emergency purchase. Alderman Martha Swindle made a motion to approve the emergency purchase, which was seconded by Alderman Keith Rogers. The motion passed with a 3–0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF INCOME

Clerk Hodge informed the Mayor and Board that the sales tax collected for April 2025 totaled \$69,776.18.

IN THE MATTER OF BBI COURT

Clerk Hodge presented a quote for the BBI court program, noting that the one-time cost would be \$7,560.00. Alderman Keith Rogers made a motion to proceed with the purchase of the new program. The motion was seconded by Alderman Christie McDonald and approved with a unanimous 3–0 vote.

DEPARTMENTS

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Kirk Tharp informed the Board that the court has granted Sherman’s Motion for Summary Judgment in the *Sheffield v. Sherman* case. The court found that the Town of Sherman bore no liability, and the case is now officially closed.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Joel Spellins requested per diem for attending the Chief’s Conference scheduled for June 16–21. Alderman Martha Swindle made a motion to approve the prepayment of per diem for the conference, which was seconded by Alderman Keith Rogers. The motion passed with a 3–0 vote.

TOWN ENGINEER

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

PUBLIC HEARING – ROBIN LOWE

The Mayor opened the public hearing regarding three variance requests for Robin Lowe’s fence at 3B Autumn Ridge Lane. Shane Davis informed the Board that the requested variances include reducing the required setback of the fence from the street pavement from 15 feet to 10 feet; increasing the allowable fence height in the front yard from 4 feet to 6 feet; and increasing the maximum permitted opacity of the front yard fence from 50% to 100%.

The Mayor then invited public comments. Those who spoke on the matter included Robin Lowe, Millie Smith, Hazel Barryman, and Jay Scruggs.

Clint Long advised the Board that a water line runs through Ms. Lowe’s backyard and would be located within the proposed fenced area. The Mayor informed Ms. Lowe that if the Town needs to access the water line for repairs or maintenance, it will not be responsible for repairing or replacing any portion of the fence or patio that may need to be removed.

Following some discussion, Alderman Martha Swindle made a motion to approve all three variance requests. The motion was seconded by Alderman Christie McDonald and passed unanimously with a 3–0 vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Alderman Christie McDonald made the motion to end the executive session. Alderman Keith Rogers seconded.

IN THE MATTER OF NEW HIRE

Chief Joel Spellins recommended hiring Officer Chad Jarvis 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 Jarvis part-time at \$16.05 per hour. Alderman Keith Rogers seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 3–0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS

Alderman Martha Swindle made a motion to adjourn the meeting until July 1, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.
Alderman Keith Rogers seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 3-0 vote.

APPROVED, this the 1 day of July, 2025.

ATTEST Amanda Hodge
AMANDA HODGE, TOWN CLERK

Mike Swords
MAYOR MIKE SWORDS

