

CITY OF CREOLA P O BOX 490 CREOLA, AL 36525 251-675-8142

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**Donald Nelson** Mayor

Lee Anne Greene Curtis Heathcoe James Ivy

Kenneth Moss Mark Howell

Councilmembers

Kim W. Pettway City Clerk

Linda Hoiles Court Clerk

Jerry Taylor Chief of Police

# AGENDA FOR THE CITY OF CREOLA COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT CREOLA CITY HALL ON July 11, 2013 @ 6:00PM

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order and gave invocation. Upon the call of roll, the following were found to be present:

Mayor Nelson Councilwoman Greene Councilman Heathcoe Councilman Ivy Councilwoman Moss Councilman Howell

Linda filled in for city clerk.

Minutes from the council meeting held on, June 27, 2013 were presented. Councilman Heathcoe made a motion to accept the minutes from the last meeting. Councilman Ivy seconded, all favored, none opposed, motion carried.

#### CITIZENS ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL

Ms. Reed asked how many register voters does the city have. Mayor and Councilwoman Moss states between 900-1000 people.

# RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES OTHER BUSINESS

Councilwoman Greene made a motion to rescind the motion to annex GA west property. Councilman Howell second, all favored, none opposed, motion carried.

Roll Call Vote: Rescind GA west property

Councilman Howell Councilwoman Moss Yes Yes

Councilman Ivy

Councilman Heathcoe

Yes

Councilwoman Greene

Yes Yes

Mayor Nelson Yes
Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mayor states that Guthrie, Crisswell and Quinnelly Rd are almost finished being paved. Mayor states that he has spoken to Mr. Kirby Latham about the CDGB stripping project. The streets that are up for striping are the remaining part of Old Hwy 43, Dead Lake Rd, I-65 service

Rd, Lister Dairy Rd, Hardy Dr.

Mayor states that the TIFF agreement with Georgia LLC (exit 19 owners) has been signed and mailed.

Mayor states that the 3.7 acre annexation with Virginia station needs to go to Probate to be complete.

Mayor states that the new fence around soccer field looks good.

Mayor states that the road bond financing for Holmes, Hall, Brown, Magnolia Court, Lister Lane is in the works.

Don Moss states that the pipe on Ellison Ave has been blown out and waiting for the rain to stop to go clean ditches.

Mayor states that Acting Attorney Mr. Zimmerman is asking the Mobile County court to dismiss lawsuit with Lemoyne Water .(Lemoyne Water had filed a suit about some lines being moved on Bell dr.)

Mayor states that the City has hired a new street department worker.

Mayor states they are still waiting on a consultant for Mobile County to have plans for a walking trail at Crenshaw Park.

Mayor states they are still talking to GA west about annexing some property into the city.

Mayor states that the 2012 audit should be complete in a month.

# PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councilwoman Green speaks about updating the zoning book. Councilwoman Green states that it would have to go through council before the committee can move forward with posting the update. The planning committee would like to make all home business go through the committee before they open businesses up in residential areas. Casie Bennet asked would home business that already have a license be grandfathered in. Councilwoman Green states this year yes, but next year you would have to apply.

Councilman Howell made a motion to give authority to the zoning board to update their books. Councilwoman Moss second, all favored, none opposed, motion carried

## ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS

No business

#### PARKS AND RECREATION

Councilman Howell states that the movie will be up there Sat night.

Councilwoman Green states that the movie starts at 7:30pm. The first movie will be <u>Ice Age</u> and the second movie will be <u>Mr. Poppers Penguin's</u>.

Councilwoman Green states that the group has purchased an umbrella license to show the movies in the park.

Councilwoman Green states that the Creola community group financial statement as of right knows is \$1522.64 in their account.

## UTILITIES AND SENIOR CITIZEN

Councilwoman Moss states she is still checking on a van for the senior building.

## **FINANCE**

Next meeting

### POLICE AND FIRE

Chief Jeff Reeves states the fire department needs permission to purchase a compressor for around \$800.00.

Councilman Ivy made a motion to buy a compressor for the fire truck.

Councilman Heathcoe second, all favored, none opposed, motion carried.

Councilman Howell states that people are asking how much is being donated to the fire department through the water bill. Chief Reeves states that it is public knowledge and you can go to Lemoyne water to get a balance. Councilman Howell asked could they buy this out of this fund. Chief Reeves states yes but they use this account to buy turn outs and rescue equipment for the firemen and the turn outs cost around \$2500.00 a person.

Chief Reeves states that the MDS boot drive will be this weekend.

Chief Reeves and council discuss putting the numbers back on the mail boxes.

Chief Taylor states that the police officer and dispatcher are interested in participating in an online program called Inline of Duty. The cost is broke down in 2 payments \$497.50. This training would go toward CEU credits.

Councilman Ivy made a motion to allow the police department to go through the online training. Councilman Howell second, all favored, none opposed, motion carried.

Councilwoman Green states that safety guidance building in Axis offers there classroom for free if the police and fire department wanted to hold classes they would be free.

#### **STREETS**

Councilman Heathcoe states that Bobby and crew are staying busy.

#### ADDITIONAL NOTES

Mayor states that he set up appointments for the council to meet with Dr. Rubinstein in Saraland. Councilman Howell has went and asked questions.

- \*Councilman Howell states he asked about representation. Dr. Rubinstein response was that across Radcliff Rd there would be representation.
- \*The next question was employees. Dr. Rubinstein answered that all employees would be retained and would receive raises. The Creola police department would receive almost \$8,000 -

\$9,000 in a year raise. This area would receive a new fire truck and hire 4-5 new firemen and they would be taken from the volunteers that we have now based on their training and qualifications.

\*Talked about homeowner's insurance would drop about 30 % due to fire department being manned full time.

Councilman Ivy asked if a volunteer fire department would still be here. Councilman Howell states that he would think not, but he is not sure.

Mayor states that this is just talk, nothing is written in stone. Mayor also states that at the right time Dr. Rubinstein will be invited to Creola to answer any questions from the citizens.

Councilman Howell states that it is not fair for one councilmember to go because each council person will ask different questions in his opinion.

Councilman Howell states that there are reasons that Saraland would want to annex Creola.

Councilwoman Moss states they want our property, our 2 interchanges from interstate, oil wells, you have to have an Attorney, and you can't do this on your own. Councilman Howell states he was not negotiating for the city. Councilwoman Green states that if he asked about the employees he was negotiating for the city.

Mayor states that if you started negotiation with a city you would need an Attorney, but right now we are asking questions.

Mr. Ryals states that the guys on the volunteer fire department would not be first on the list to get hired for full time because you go through personnel board and there are people ahead of them on the list for hiring full time.

Mayor states that the City hires who they want off the personal list.

Mrs. Casie Bennet asked if Saraland would leave police and fire where it is they already have 2 this would make 3. Casie Bennet states that the citizens elected the council to represent them and should go as a group to the meetings. She would love to see them put this much effort into growing our City instead of trying to get us in Saraland.

Mayor states that Casie Bennet attacked the council saying they have not put effort into the city, mayor states that she does not know how hard this council works and he defends the council saying this council has done everything it possible could do. Mayor states that the businesses asked for sewer, and water system, and then they needed a light, then they wanted a tiff agreement, the reason that business are not coming into this city is because we do not have the roof tops.

Councilman Howell states that at the last meeting the majority of the people wanted the council to go to Saraland with questions and come back with answers.

A citizen asked if they are interested in being annexed what the policy is as for as is it something that the council will vote on or will the people say with a majority vote.

Mayor states the process would be where the council would say to the mayor we want you to go down and negotiate with an Attorney and enter into negotiation with Saraland. (Negotiation is just seeing if you like what they have to offer, nothing binding) bring it back to the council. The next step would be for the people with informational meetings then the people would vote.

Mr. Lister would like to know why the council will not give a motion and a second so the people can vote on this, if the elected official does not want to talk to Saraland then why the people can't vote. Mayor states that if you take a petition down to Probate Court then you have taken the people negotiations right away and will have to take whatever.

A citizen asked what is the advantage of each councilmember going to speak with Dr. Rubinstein Mayor states that the sunshine law prevents all council going together.

Mr. Chambers states that dragging it out is worse on the citizens.

A citizen asked is the council in Saraland for the annexation. He was told that one councilman in Saraland is not for it and some citizens ate not for it.

Mrs. Loden states with all due respect why is some of the council not wanting to meet. Councilwoman Green states that she does not feel it is ethical, Councilman Heathcoe states he is not going either. Mrs. Loden states that they are representative of the community and four of ya'll are not representing the community because you will not take your time to go speak. Councilwoman Green states that he is welcome to come here in the public. The Mayor asked the Council to meet. Councilwoman Green states that Councilman Howell asked the questions she would ask. She was also told by a Saraland councilman that the fire and police would be attached to the building on Celeste not here in Creola. Mayor Nelson states that we can't talk about hear say you have to talk to Mayor Rubinstein. Mr. Fisher states he doesn't want to throw this City away. Mr. Fisher asked if the majority of this town asked for annexation.

Mrs. Joan Stringfellow asked if the council speaks with Saraland and does not like what they hear will it change their mind on annexation? Mayor states that he was giving a petition to pursue the talk with Saraland. Mayor states that he will go down and negotiate with Saraland and bring it back to the Creola council, if they do not like it then they can throw it out and say this is the end. Then the next stop will be that Mrs. Smith and her group of people can take the petition down to probate. Mrs. Stringfellow asked the council if they are for it. Councilwoman Green states that 85% of the people she has talked to state they are not for it. Councilman Heathcoe is not for it; Councilman Ivy state that the people will chose what they want.

Mayor states that the council needs to go into executive session. Councilman Howell made a motion to go into executive session. Councilman Ivy second, all favored, none opposed, motion carried.

Councilwoman Howell made a motion to come out of executive session. Councilwoman Green second, all favored, none opposed, motion carried.

Mayor asked the council if they wanted him to start looking for an attorney. Council states to go forward.

Councilman Howell states that trash pick-up is on Monday, you can't put out anything by the street until the Friday before. Councilman Howell states that if they do not pick your trash up on Monday to call him and he will contact the company. Councilman Howell states that they should be picking up every Monday for right know.

Councilwoman Green made a motion for everyone on the council to go meet with Dr. Rubinstein by the next meeting and then vote as a council for which direction they would like to go in.

Mayor states he will set up meetings with Dr. Rubinstein.

Councilman Heathcoe second, all favored, none opposed, motion carried.

# Adjournment

Councilman Heathcoe made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Green seconded, all favored, none opposed, motion carried.