

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

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 24, 2013 @ 6:00PM

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order.

Rev. Chambers gave invocation.

Upon the call of roll, the following were found to be present:

Mayor Nelson
Councilwoman Greene
Councilman Heathcoe
Councilman Ivy
Councilman Howell
Councilwoman Moss absent
City clerk was present

Minutes from the council meeting held on, July 11, 2013 were presented. Councilman Howell made a motion to accept the minutes from the last meeting. Councilman Ivy seconded, all favored, none opposed, motion carried.

CITIZENS ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL

Striping project on the way-paving 95% complete

RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor states he spoke to Alabama Forestry Commission, he submitted the tree up by tracks. They notified him that the tree has been recognized as possibly the oldest tree in area and there was a certificate awarded to the city and the owner of the property where the tree is located. The mayor suggested that the CCDG put something up to recognize this tree with Sandy Howard's permission.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Sandy Howard made application for his property to be rezoned from R-1 to M-1. Councilwoman Green made a motion to accept application for rezoning of property Councilman Howell seconded, all favored, none opposed, motion carried.

There will be a public hearing on August 8, 13 for the table of permitted uses and changes to the zoning board.

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS

No business

PARKS AND RECREATION

Councilwoman Green states that the Creola community group financial statement as of right knows is \$1934.64 in their account. The group made \$412.00 at the movie event.

UTILITIES AND SENIOR CITIZEN

Nothing

FINANCE

Councilwoman Greene presented finances.

Councilman Heathcoe made a motion to accept the financial report.

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

Councilman Ivy made a motion to pay bills as presented.

Councilman Howell seconded, all favored none opposed, motion carried.

POLICE AND FIRE

Police-Nothing

Fire-Chief Reeves announced that \$1,966 was raised in the MD boot drop.

STREETS

Contractors have been working to install new drain pipe on Dead Lake and Old 43.

Councilman Heathcoe states that Bobby is very busy.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Citizen asked what approach is necessary for council to fix his road- city needs to take care of it. Citizen stated that is his road and land. Mayor asked citizen for ROW deed.

Kenneth Walker states Brown has 15 feet ROW for city to work on, he says the state land book will give dimensions. Mayor asked for Christie Bland to look it up.

Citizen wants to know if update on property on I -65 to 43 month ago. Explained to citizens-plans changed states when ground is broken for development- ALDOT will put I light.

Councilwoman Green gave report on meeting with Mayor Rubinstein. (Saraland) Mayor states it's time to make a decision either ignore or address the situation.

Next step is to 1 authorize a committee to see what it is to offer, 2 allow people to decide, 3. 10% or a petition of voter taken to probate will force election.

Several citizen's and business owners address the council with positive and negative concerns:

Mr. Sandy Howard states he is for the annexation and he feels everyone should have an open mind and let the people vote.

Mr. Jeff Reeves asked to verify which election the voters list would come from to vote for the annexation. Kim states that it is going to be the primary election; the city did not have a run-off. Louis would like them to negotiate exactly what would be included in the annexation concerning hunting, land, and animals.

Bill bunch asked about what would be grandfathered in.

Mr. Fisher asks how many students are in the Creola area and should the city annex for less than 200 students when the population is around 2000. A citizen asked if council negotiate with the Saraland school board systems, council answered stating that no one has spoken with school system to state what would be offered.

Citizen asked who appoints the 3 people who talks to the council for negotiations, council stated the mayor would appoint.

Josh Skidmore states that property value would go up, other citizens stated that is not guaranteed. Casie Bennet states the mayor and council should work just as hard supporting a finding revenue for the city as they have to give it away to Saraland. Citizen stated that this should be about schools not just revenue and personal benefits.

Mr. Loden asked what the council needs in order to at least be allowed to talk to Saraland to see what there is to offer and then bring findings back to the people, he states that hear-say and assumptions are all we have right now. Council states that they would need to vote and if the majority are in favor, then Saraland will vote and if favorable the negotiation period will start.

Mrs. Spencer states that her house is on the market and won't sell because of the lack of schools and businesses. Casie Bennet asked if this situation was all about schools why does it seem the council is selling out, she stated that everything Councilman Howell guaranteed, Mayor Rubenstein denied. Councilman Howell stated that he did not state anything was guaranteed and citizens stated that according to the newspaper, he did guarantee and Josh Skidmore stated on several occasions that Councilman Howell was actively negotiating with Saraland. Citizens and Councilman Howell were called out of order.

Mr. Quinley stated that there was an offer of business turned down due to no businesses in the area and issues on sewer lines and access.

Frank Hammond states that the council needs to consider all of the grandfathering items and the period covered so that the citizens can make an educated vote on what is best for them and their property. Assumptions are not safe and it needs to be in writing. Council stated that negotiations has to be in writing and ratified by each council body.

Councilman Howell made a motion to go into negotiations with Saraland by resolution.

There was confusion and discussion, Councilman Ivy stated that he would rather wait until Councilwoman Moss has had the opportunity to meet with Mayor Rubenstein before we move in that direction. Mayor states she can still meet before any negotiations start. Councilwoman Greene asked would it be a conflict for the mayor to negotiate if his daughter and son-in-law are employees of Saraland.

Josh Skidmore stated that if the council does not make decision, he had a petition prepared to take to probate to force an election. Councilwoman Greene stated that the council should not be threatened into making a quick

decision; she stated she is willing to negotiate, she does not choose to rush into anything and does want to give Councilwoman Moss the opportunity to meet with Mayor Rubenstein when she is back in town as the council agreed to last meeting.

Mayor Nelson states that he will abstain from voting if there is a possible conflict; a citizen stated that there shouldn't be. Mayor states he doesn't want to be out of order or have to come back and re-vote.

A citizen asked if the city has an attorney. Council stated they do not have an attorney. Becky Smith asked if a committee needs to go speak to Saraland School Board to find out the options and if they have room for the students. There was no answer given. A citizen that is employed by the personnel board says Saraland is not obligated to give employees raises.

Councilman Ivy says the city will just have to negotiate when the time comes, right now there are to many "If's" and not enough answers.

Joan Stringfellow says council should make sure that Councilman Howell can go negotiate by him being the Mayor's brother since there may be a conflict with Mayor Nelson. Venus Davis asked if Saraland can be present when negotiations are returned for comment and council stated they would invite them to.

Councilman Howell made a motion to enter into negotiations with Saraland and bring back to citizens and council.

Councilman Heathcoe seconded,

Roll Call Vote:

Councilman Howell

Yes

Councilwoman Moss

Absent

Councilman Ivy

No

Councilman Heathcoe

Yes

Councilwoman Greene

No

Mayor abstained

Mayor entered tie breaking vote of yes.

Adjournment

Councilman Ivy made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Councilwoman Howell seconded, all favored, none opposed, motion carried.