



CITY OF CREOLA
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William Criswell Lee Anne Greene Harold Martin Avis Walker Tonya Moss Kendal Hadaway
Mayor Council members

Carolyn Cain
City Clerk

Linda Hoiles
Court Clerk

Rick Daves
Chief of Police

Jeff Reeves
Fire Chief

AGENDA FOR THE CITY OF CREOLA COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT CREOLA CITY HALL ON
February 23, 2017 @ 6:00pm

Mayor Criswell called the meeting to order
Bro. John White gave invocation.
Pledge of Allegiance
Upon the call of roll, the following were found to be present:

Mayor Criswell
Councilwoman Greene
Councilman Martin
Councilman Walker
Councilwoman Moss
Councilman Hadaway - *Absent*

Linda filled in for City clerk and City attorney were present.

Councilwoman Moss made a motion to accept the minutes from the meetings 2/9/17 with changes from Councilwoman Moss on page 2, states her name should be in the list of General city accounts, and also on page 2,3,5 add the first name to the Walkers that spoke. Councilman Martin states on page 7 that each day needs to be added to lodging \$85.00 and \$35.00 for food.

Councilman Walker seconded, all favored, none opposed, motion carried

CITIZENS ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL

Mr. Les Walker asked about attaining a budget and where it stands and also about Brown Rd, where does it begin and where does it end. Does it start at the end of Halls Branch Rd? Mayor states that Brown Road starts at the end of Tolbert Rd. Councilwoman Greene states that they are still working on a budget. They just hired a new city clerk and they are checking the bank accounts from January to see everything that came out. Mayor states that one of the things that are slowing them up is 2013 payroll taxes that were not paid. Mayor states that the city is solid at the moment with money in the accounts. All accounts are being monitored on day to day bases. Mr. Les Walker states that the city still needs a

budget. Councilwoman Greene states that they are trying to get these errors that they did not know about cleared up as well as getting a budget. Mayor states also they received a \$14,000 bill for an Alabama 941 where the 2nd and 3rd quarter of 2016 were not filed. Mr. Les Walker asked when the last audit was done for the city. Mayor states that he understands that Mr. Phillip Anthony is doing 2016 for the last administration. Mayor states that Mr. Bettencourt will be the new CPA and will be coming in every 4 months to review. And at the end of the year they will certify the audit for this year. Mr. Les Walker asked if the results will be available and Mayor and council states yes.

Mrs. Stringfellow states that she was under the impression that Mr. Philips just got done doing a budget. Mayor and council state that was for the year before and it is not completed yet. Mayor state that was for 2014-2015 year but 2015-2016 is not competed.

Mrs. Stringfellow states that there was a foot note in the 14-15 budgets that stated that the Mayor and council did very well with what they had to work with. Mayor states he did not read that. Mrs. Stringfellow states that anything public record she likes to see. Mrs. Stringfellow also requests a copy of last month's bills. Councilwoman Greene states that Mrs. Carolyn will have a list of bills tomorrow. Councilwoman Greene states that she can not get a copy of payroll but she can get a list of bills that are being paid. Mrs. Stringfellow would like a list of bills behind as well. Councilwoman Greene states that she is still working on the list. Mrs. Stringfellow and council discuss about the bank accounts being opened with one signature and also discussed the ordinance 213 that was put in place about 2 council people signing checks. Mayor states that they have 3 people per account that can sign but only require 2 signatures per check. Mrs. Stringfellow asked who was paying for the food at the axis day. Mayor states he is.

Mr. Mark Howell states that 18 accounts was a lot of checking accounts. He has asked for a copy of the accounts and it is his right to know about them. Mr. Howell states that it is right that one person cannot open a bank account for a municipal account and to say one persons name is on the account can not be true. Mr. Howell states that there was an implication of dishonesty and a lack of doing your job and he would like an answer for it. This is his reputation and he is part of that implication. He wants to see activity on the 18 bank accounts that has one signature. He said it matters to him if someone thinks he did something dishonest or did not do his responsibility as a councilman for this city. Mayor Criswell states that they do not know who opened all those accounts because PNC would not tell them who it was just that one signature was on the signature card. Mayor explains what they have been doing with the accounts to get them closed and consolidate them to Regions bank. Mayor states to get the activity on the bank accounts they will have get a subpoena. Mayor states that the implication was not that Mr. Howell did anything wrong on council, they wanted the people to understand why they needed to consolidate the accounts so they could save that money. Mr. Howell states that it cast a shadow on every Mayor and council that was in office since 95. Councilwoman Moss gave a list of all the accounts the city has open. Mr. Howell asked if they had purchases a new scanner for Councilman Martin to police the department. Mayor states no that they had an extra scanner that he uses sometimes.

Mr. Carl Walker states that he apologies to the Mayor, council and citizens about his being loud at the last council meeting.

Ms. Becky Smith asked about getting lights at the city hall.

RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES OTHER BUSINESS

Councilwoman Greene made a motion to change the March 9 council meeting from 6 pm to 4pm.

Councilwoman Moss second, all favored, none opposed, motion carried.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Rev. Chambers states that the booklet will be on display at the next meeting March 21, 2017. Mayor encouraged everyone to come so they can see what the city could like in 20 years.

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS

No business

PARKS AND RECREATION

Councilwoman Moss states that there is a new light at Crenshaw Park. Mayor states that bathroom is just about finished. Councilwoman Moss states that Commissioner Ludgood would like to have a ribbon cutting when it is done.

UTILITIES AND SENIOR CITIZEN

Councilwoman Moss states that there is a new light in front of the senior center

FINANCE

Councilwoman Greene states that they will have a total for the bills at the next meeting and the total for general fund at the closing of 2/22/17 is \$68,232.56.

POLICE AND FIRE

Councilman Martin states that a company in New York is interested in buying the old equipment and Chief Daves and his department is getting an inventor list together and possible to generate funds. After they get everything together they will bring the list before council to get it declared excess.

STREETS

Councilman Walker states that camp 3 will provide a motor grader and the operator will cost the city \$25.00 hour to grade Ducey Rd, Lyons Dr and Hurst. Rd in the next couple of weeks. Ms. Diane states that the last she heard they were going to work on some drainage issues.

Councilman Walker made a motion to pay \$25.00 an hour to a county grader with no charge for the equipment just pay the operator with payment on the day he works.

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

Mayor states that they have had some discussion about Ducey Rd and Brown Rd in the last meeting and he has had a meeting with Mr. Billy Mitchell and the assistant engineer. Ducey Rd is on a \$350,000.00 block grant from the federal government. The design engineer got about half thru and realized they had an issue with water. Because it is a fed block grant they have to submit

there drainage plans to ADEM. On Feb 10 they were told to stop until the drainage plans have been approved by ADEM. It could be 2018 until this is starts back up. Mayor states this is why he is trying to grade the road to help out. . Mayor states that Brown Rd is a 30 foot Rd and pay as you go requires 60 feet. Mayor explained the process of getting the right of way for Brown Rd and explains it is a team effort. Mr. Howell asked about the Radcliff Rd resurfacing that was on the pay as you go in 2015.

COMMUNITY GROUP

No business

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Mrs. Stringfellow asked who the city clerk is. Mayor states that Ms. Carolyn Cain is the new provisional city clerk. Mayor states that she is qualified thru the personal board and the city does not have to pay retirement or insurance.

Adjournment

Councilwoman Greene made a motion to adjourn.

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