



**CITY OF CREOLA**  
**P. O. BOX 490**  
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**William Criswell** Lee Anne Greene Harold Martin Avis Walker Tonya Moss Kendal Hadaway  
Mayor City Council

Carolyn Sue Cain  
City Clerk

Linda Hoiles  
Court Clerk

Doug Kirkland  
Chief of Police

Jeff Reeves  
Fire Chief

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Minutes of the City of Creola City Council Meeting  
Held at Creola City Hall on  
May 11, 2017 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Criswell called the meeting to order.

Rev. John White gave the Invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Councilwoman Greene

Councilman Martin

Councilman Walker

Councilwoman Moss

Councilman Hadaway

Mayor Criswell

City Attorney -Mr. Danny Mims

City Clerk-Carolyn Sue Cain

Motion made by Councilwoman Greene to accept minutes as written. Councilwoman Moss seconded, all favored, none opposed, motion carried.

#### **CITIZENS ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL**

Mayor Criswell asked for the list of citizens to address the Council.

1. Joan Stringfellow- Ms. Stringfellow stated that she did not see SARPC listed on the budget. Councilwoman Greene said she would check on it and report back at the next meeting.

Ms. Stringfellow asked why Mobile EMA is not listed on budget. Councilwoman Greene stated that we have a \$30,000. bill from Mobile EMA owed since 2010. They are working with us on this bill and we will pay them \$461.52 a month.

Ms. Stringfellow said she spoke with Mr. Vince Calametti with ADOT and we do not have to pay to have the bridge on Hwy. 43 inspected. She said, "Call him... you don't pay it."

Mayor Criswell stated that it was on the list for the State of Alabama to be inspected but we will check on it and hopefully we won't have to pay for that bridge.

Ms. Stringfellow asked, "What is this coffee on the budget?" Councilwoman Greene asked, "Leroy Hill?" She said, "Yes". Ms. Stringfellow informed us that we could not buy coffee, that's against the law. Several citizens in the audience commented "That was petty. Councilman Walker asked former councilman Heathcoe if they did not buy coffee from Leroy Hill during the last administration. He said" Yeah, I had a cup every morning." Mayor Criswell explained to Ms. Stringfellow that is a service. Leroy Hill furnishes the machine and we buy the coffee.

2. Rev. John White – The Ladies Ministry Leader of Creola Assembly have talked with the Middle School Principal and Guidance Counselor on Salco Rd. They found the biggest need for the school right now is school supplies. Bro. John wants to start a school supply drive and asked if the school supplies could be dropped off at City Hall. The council thought this was a great idea and all agreed to let City Hall be the drop off. Councilwoman Greene will get with Linda Walker from Gulf Coast Opry. She will help as the Opry made a lot of donations last year. City Hall will be the drop off during business hours and the Police Dept. will serve at the drop off after hours.

## **RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES AND OTHER BUSINESS**

Councilwoman Greene stated that the City has had Blue Cross/Blue Shield(BCBSAL) but the premiums and copays are way too high and unaffordable by employees. We are switching to BCBS-Government Plan and for family coverage we will save \$206.84 per month. For single coverage, it will be an \$11.98 savings per month. The coverage will be much better and this plan will be usable. Mayor Criswell explained...The City was under a Standard Plan, not Municipal Insurance, with a \$4400. Deductible for family coverage. With the new plan, the deductible is only \$200. The City was throwing away money on something that was not usable by employees. Court Magistrate Linda Hoiles made an in-depth investigation into a better plan and came up with a plan that was workable. Councilwoman Greene and Councilwoman Moss assisted. Councilwoman Greene stated that she had talked with several municipalities that had this BCBSAL -Government Plan and they were happy with it. Mayor Criswell stated that this will be a tremendous savings per year for both the City and the employees. Councilwoman Greene made a motion to go with BCBS-Government Plan effective July 1, 2017. Councilman Hadaway seconded, all favored, none opposed, motion carried.

Councilwoman Greene introduced the property of Mr. James Lambeth at last meeting. It was posted for 15 days. She made a motion to accept his property into the City. Councilwoman Moss seconded, all favored, none opposed, motion carried.

Councilwoman Greene introduced to amend the Agenda to add Ordinance #17-001.  
Councilwoman Moss seconded. The Mayor asked for a roll call for vote:

Mayor Criswell	YES
Councilwoman Greene	YES
Councilman Martin	YES
Councilman Walker	YES
Councilwoman Moss	YES

Councilman Hardaway YES

With the roll call being unanimous, Ordinance #17-001 carried.

Greene then moved to introduce Ordinance #17-001 delivery of gas effective 8-1-2017. The Mayor asked for a roll call for vote. Mayor Criswell YES

Councilwoman Greene YES

Councilman Martin YES

Councilman Walker YES

Councilwoman Moss YES

Councilman Hardaway YES

With the roll call being unanimous, motion carried.

This will be a distribution of fuel-extraction of fuel from ground in the gas field. This is from distributors not gas stations and we have not received any tax money from this. The City of Butler, AL has a field similar to ours. They received \$750,000.00. We lost all revenue from the oil field and this is our way to capture this money. Attorney Mims explained that some of the money would go in General Fund and some in a different account designated for acquisition of property, parks, street lights, etc. There is a 3-cent tax within the City limits and 1 ½ cent tax in the police jurisdiction. Councilman Walker seconded., all favored, none opposed, motion carried.

We will post this in three places and publish in the Call News.

Councilwoman Greene moved to suspension of rules for immediate consideration of Ordinance #17-001. Councilwoman Moss seconded. Mayor Criswell moved to question-called for vote on passage of Ordinance #17-001.

Mayor Criswell YES

Councilwoman Greene YES

Councilman Martin YES

Councilman Walker YES

Councilwoman Moss YES

Councilman Hardaway YES

With the roll call being unanimous, the passage of Ordinance #17-001 was approved.

Councilwoman Moss stated that she is working on a grant with SARPC for a van for the seniors. She read the Ordinance for the Grant Section 5310 and made a motion for the council's approval for this grant. Councilwoman Moss read the Resolution in its entirety for Section 5310 of the Federal Transit Act Amendments of 1996. the Councilman Walker seconded, all favored, none opposed, motion carried.

## **PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE**

In Rev. Chambers absence, Councilwoman Greene, secretary, gave a report. The Planning and Zoning Board will meet Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at the Creola SAIL Center. There will be a public workshop at 5PM and all are welcome. We don't have any applications but will meet anyway at 6pm to look at the final comprehensive plan. There were no changes and Nicole from SARPC will bring the new plan. This will be presented to the Council in June. This will be the last

meeting at the SAIL Center. Beginning June, 2017, the meetings will move back to Creola City Hall.

**ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS**

None

**PARKS AND RECREATION**

Councilwoman Moss stated that she had a price of \$596. + S/H to purchase chains for the swings at the park and Councilwoman Greene had a price of a little over \$500. With No S/H. We have a total of 8 swings. Councilwoman Greene’s quote is from Play Set Parts. She will get with Bobby Smith next week to make sure she is ordering what they need. School is almost out and we need these swings up and working by the time school is out. Councilwoman Moss made a motion to purchase from Play Set Parts, Councilman Walker seconded, all favored, none opposed, motion carried. Mayor Criswell mentioned about seeing on the news that a father returned home and found his daughter with one of those swing chains, that was improperly done, around her neck and we certainly don’t want something like this to happen.

**UTILITIES AND SENIOR CITIZENS**

Councilwoman Moss stated, “Everything is fine with the Seniors”. Councilwoman Moss reported that Dana’s car that she delivers the senior meals in, is in dire need of two front tires. They are bald. Chief Kirkland is getting prices for the tires. Councilwoman Greene made a motion to purchase two tires for Dana’s car, Councilwoman Moss seconded. all favored, none opposed, motion carried.

**FINANCE**

Councilwoman Greene gave the financial report, giving a copy to the Council. Also copies available to citizens attending the meeting wishing to have one. All revenues for January, February, March and April are listed. Will bring May revenues next month. Also, a Find Report for April and May were available.

Fire Department	\$	317.26
General Fund		114,454.27
Police Department		7,910.77
SAIL Center		1,608.15
7-cent Gas Tax Acct.		10,419.92
4-cent Gas Tax Acct.	\$	8,696.27
Money Market		<u>16,392.32</u>
Total:	\$	159,798.96

Councilwoman Greene made a motion to accept the financial report. Seconded by Councilman Walker, all favored, none opposed, motion carried.

## **POLICE AND FIRE**

Councilman Hadaway made a motion to purchase 2 tires, mount & balance, for the ladder truck for the Fire Dept. from GCR Tire Co. which is on the State Bid List for \$1,016.20. Councilwoman Greene seconded. The Mayor asked for a Roll call for vote:

Mayor Criswell	YES
Councilwoman Greene	YES
Councilman Martin	YES
Councilman Walker	YES
Councilwoman Moss	YES
Councilman Hardaway	YES

With the roll call being unanimous, the purchase of two tires for the ladder truck was approved.

Chief Kirkland and Councilman Martin are reviewing applications for police officers (F/T and P/T) and Jailer/Dispatcher (f/T and P/T), as well. Councilman Martin commended Chief Kirkland on a great job he is doing. He is fine tuning the police department. He is not sitting behind the desk, he is out working on police cars and working the street.

Chief Kirkland introduced the new Team Leader for the Reserve Program. He has appointed Rev. John White. Chief Kirkland stated "Bro White will be a great asset with no cost to the City."

Councilman Martin reported that he is pleased with the removal of shrubs around City Hall and Police Bldg. This was long overdue. The shrubs were home for wasp nests. Councilman Walker brought his backhoe and with Bobby, Wayne and Trustees help, everything is looking good. Melissa Bailey with North Mobile Garden Club will help with re-planting. We will be seeking volunteers to help spruce things up. Melissa will bring it up at their next meeting.

Mayor Criswell stated that Animal Control picked up 31 dogs and not one citizen came forward to ask, "What did you do with my dog?" Some were adopted out and some were in bad health. Councilman Martin and Councilman Walker helped Animal Control. We have a leash law in the City and we need to make sure every dog has a vaccination tag on.

## **STREETS**

Councilman Walker stated that we had a lot of limbs down on the streets after the storm we had Sunday night. Mayor Criswell commented that we had six trees on the streets., Dead Lake Rd., Radcliff Rd., Ellison Ave., Marina Rd., Old Hwy 43 and behind City Hall. The PD guys were out and the Fire Dept. guys, as well. We had one power line down. Everyone pitched in and helped cut the trees out of the right-of-way. Officer Turberville and Officer Byrd helped along with Jeff Reeves and his crew with Chief Kirkland and his crew. The guys work from 10pm -1am and all streets were re-opened by 1 am. Mayor Criswell stated that this brings to mind that we need a Hurricane Preparedness Program in place to clean streets, protect the people, give medical attention and Senior Citizens to get help if they need it. Chief Kirkland, Fire Chief Reeves, Councilman Martin, Councilman Hadaway, Councilman Walker along with Bobby and Wayne and Rev. John White w/ the Creola/Axis Ministerial Assn. Bro. John's church has capabilities for housing after the storm, for folks needing showers, food, etc. With this team, we will have a Hurricane Preparedness Program in place by June 15<sup>th</sup>.

We have hired Wayne Miller as a part-time employee to help Bobby Smith. Wayne will work Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week. Wayne is a really good worker, can run anything

and we appreciate him. One man cannot do what Bobby does, and with the help of Wayne and the trustee, we have accomplished a lot. They power-washed the buildings, as well. Chief Kirkland stated that he had appointed a team leader for the Reserve Team. He introduced Rev. John White and said he will be a big help to our City at no charge.

#### **COMMUNITY GROUP**

None

#### **ADDITIONAL NOTES**

Councilwoman Moss commented that this week is “Municipal Clerks’ Week” and that The Mayor and Council honored the City Hall Staff with lunch on Wednesday. She read a “Thank You Note from the City Hall Staff. Councilwoman Moss stated that the Mayor and Council paid for the lunches. It did not come out of City funds.

#### **MAYOR’S DISCUSSION**

Mayor Criswell stated that Ms. Cain has been schooling herself. All of us have been filling out the Ethics reports for the State of Alabama, including Ms. Cain. If you look at the end of the counter, there are two certificates on the wall (1) She completed the Ethics Law Training on line and received a certificate for it. (2) Ms. Cain attended a computer workshop, completed the work with the Mobile County Personnel Board. She received a certificate from MCPB. Our employees are continuing with in-house training and the Mobile County Personnel Board, as well.

Mayor Criswell commented that the Call News did a good report on our Meeting with the Axis residents last month. Councilwoman Greene stated that we made the front page. Mayor Criswell stated that we have residents of Axis calling wanting to be a part of Creola. Councilman Walker and Councilwoman Moss went to 180 houses knocking on doors before the meeting at Axis. Mayor Criswell said we are providing Police and Fire now but we need the **ad valorem tax** from them. Mayor Criswell also commented that this is a 9 month – 1 year type program. We want to do what they want. Mr. & Mrs. Reeves, on Wilson Blvd. signed last week Councilwoman Moss and Ms. Annette Walker went to get their signatures.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY:** Councilman Martin  
**SECONDED BY:** Councilman Walker  
Meeting adjourned @ 6:35p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolyn Sue Cain  
Interim City Clerk

c.m. 5.11.2017