

**Minutes of the City of Creola City Council Meeting
Held at Creola City Hall on
June 22, 2017 6:00 p.m.**

Mayor Criswell called the meeting to order.

Bro. 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

Chief Harold Kirkland announced that no cellphones are to be used during meeting.

CITIZENS ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL

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

NONE

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending the meeting tonight in the bad weather. The special meeting for the zoning change has been postponed due to the bad weather. It will be posted and held next month. We will follow the regular agenda tonight.

Councilwoman Greene made a motion to accept the minutes of 6/8/17; Councilwoman Moss seconded, all favored, none opposed, motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES AND OTHER BUSINESS

Councilwoman Greene introduced five properties that have been posted for 15 days and made a motion to accept these properties into Creola. Evans, Smith, Forest(2), and Crueda.

Councilwoman Moss seconded. Roll call for the vote:

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

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Mr. Chambers stated that the committee is in the process of upgrading an amendment for the RV's. The Public Hearing for the re-zoning was well attended. Since we don't have any new business, that was the only item on the agenda.

Councilwoman Greene also stated that Nicole with SARPC asked that we "Save the Date". August 29, 2017 - 9:30-1:30 \$25. Per person. Lunch will be provided. Each employee will pay the fee, bring receipt and the City will reimburse you. This will be a very informative workshop and all that can attend are encouraged to do so.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Councilwoman Greene stated that we need cameras for the park due to recent vandalism at the park. Mayor Criswell will investigate and look into this. The grass has been cut at Crenshaw Park and cleaned up.

UTILITIES AND SENIOR CITIZENS

Councilwoman Moss stated that the Senior/Veterans Breakfast sponsored by Arkema is scheduled for tomorrow 10am at the S.A.I.L. Center. All Seniors & Veterans are encouraged to attend.

Councilwoman Moss stated that we applied for the Van for Seniors but was turned down due to the fact that we did not have a Title VI grant in place prior to applying for the van. We now have the Title IV in place and can re-apply for the Senior Van in September 2017.

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 the month totaled: \$57,044.11. Also, a Find Report for June was available.

The current bills totaled: \$197,944.90. Councilwoman Greene made a motion to pay our bills. All bills are our standard monthly bills. We will pay Mr. Brown the \$300.00 rental fee for six months. Councilwoman Moss seconded, all favored, none opposed, motion carried.

Court Bond Account	\$	4,5334.66
Court Fund		30,795.90
Special Court Fund		8,966.52
Fire Department	\$	192.24
General Fund		107,277.61
Money Market		13,325.38
Police Department		7,120.46
S.A.I.L. Center Account		721.63

7-cent Special Gas Tax Acct.	13,625.07
4-cent Gas Tax Acct. (incl 5 cent)\$	<u>11,385.41</u>
Total: (in bank)	\$ 197,944.90

POLICE AND FIRE

Police:

Councilman Martin stated that the PD is working great on limited funds. County Commissioner Ludgood has been great helping us with funding. We have made a request to Commissioner Ludgood for officer bullet resistant vests.

Councilman Martin made a motion to pay two bills for a total of \$429.39 repairs & tires for the Fire engine and one of the police cruisers. Councilman Walker seconded, all favored, none opposed, motion carried. Councilman Martin made a motion to purchase uniforms for the new officers from L.A. Police Gear to be paid from the Police Fund Account for \$216.84. Councilman Walker seconded, all favored, none opposed, motion carried.

Councilman Martin suggested that we replace the security system, cameras, etc. for the police building for liability and safety purposes. Chief Kirkland did research and Councilman Martin made a motion to the council to purchase the new cameras and new DVR for \$1200.00. Councilman Walker seconded, all favored, none opposed, motion carried

Councilman Martin encouraged everyone to come out and support the PD fundraiser on June 24th. We have had a tremendous response and received lots of donations. The Summer Fest will be from 10am until. We have orders for 140 Boston Butts, to date.

FIRE:

Councilman Hadaway stated that we recently received a used fire truck from the Forestry Commission and made a motion to pay the \$688. Due for insurance for the truck. Councilwoman Greene seconded, all favored, none opposed, motion carried.

Mayor Criswell stated that we need a Burn Ordinance in place. Councilman Hadaway made a motion for the Burn Ordinance, Councilwoman Greene seconded, all favored, none opposed, motion carried. Attorney Mims will look into it. Mayor Criswell stated that everyone in the City needs garbage service. This goes along with our Health & Safety Initiative that we have in place.

STREETS

Councilman Walker stated we need some rocks up by the railroad. We can't patch until it dries out. We have contacted Southern Railway. They will fix the apron to join railroad. They will strip and re-pave the apron at the end of Dead Lake Rd. @ Hwy 43 at the traffic light. We have a great street crew, Bobby Smith, Wayne Miller and John Files.

COMMUNITY GROUP

None

ADDITIONAL NOTES

None

MAYOR'S DISCUSSION

Mayor Criswell is happy to announce that Reed Trailer Park has been sold. Mr. Kirby Horton, from Nashville, bought two trailer parks here in Creola and has placed a big "X" on the trailers that are condemned. Mr. Horton has given permission to the Creola Volunteer Fire Dept. to use these trailers as training tools and burn them. The new owner welcomes the dog catcher to the parks, as well. He has someone that will fix up the trailers; remodel them, do landscaping and will have a picnic area. Opal is the new Manager for the parks.

Mayor Criswell stated the Bro. John White is working on a Hurricane Preparedness Plan. We have no generator backup in case of a hurricane. Mayor Criswell has been in touch with Mitch Sutherland with TRW Generators, a Kohler distributor. Our name has been placed on a list to get a generator.

Mayor Criswell stated that he and the City Clerk, Ms. Cain, will meet again with the MCPB, to resolve the Payroll issues. MCPB will vote to approve a 15% across the board raise, then roll the Subsistency pay for the police officers into their salary. The City Clerk, Ms. Cain, will write a letter, requesting that we be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. Mayor Criswell stated that at the last meeting with MCPB, their attorney said that in May 2016 there was a judgment against the City of Creola for \$55,000.00. We will pay \$400.-\$500. Month to try to wipe out some of this indebtedness. We have been working with Liana Barnett, Gloria Reed, Brenda Gordon and Mr. Sullivan with the Personnel, The MCPB protects the employee, the city municipality and your money. On the anniversary date, all employees are reviewed. One of our employees has not been reviewed in 8 years. After these reviews, merit raises may be granted.

Mayor Criswell gave a report on the bridge inspection by Safe Span. The bridges have been reviewed by ALDOT & the Federal Government. They are removing the liability from us for the 2 bridges on Gunnison Creek and will build a 3rd bridge and placing a red light there. We are relieved to have this liability removed from us. Under a mandate from ALDOT, Safe Span will handle the audits for us.

Mayor Criswell stated that we have applied for the BP money. We are listed for Bucket 3 for the BP grant. It can be used for Infrastructure and our goal is to purchase the former Naheola Credit Union Bldg. on Old Hwy. 43 next to Creola Post office, with the BP Grant. The former administration did not apply for the BP grant in 2014, 2015 or 2016. We were informed

recently that we were the only municipality that did not apply for the BP grant. We have applied and moving forward.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: Councilwoman Moss
SECONDED BY: Councilman Hadaway seconded.
Meeting adjourned @ 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Sue Cain
City Clerk

c.m. 6.22.2017