



**CITY OF CREOLA**  
**P. O. BOX 490**  
**CREOLA, AL 36525-0490**  
**Phone: 251-675-8142**  
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**William Criswell** Mayor  
**Lee Anne Greene**  
**Harold Martin**  
**Ralph Walker**  
**Tonya Moss**  
**Kendal Hadaway**  
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**  
**Thursday, August 10, 2017**  
**Creola City Hall**  
**9615 Old Hwy. 43, Creola, AL**

Mayor Criswell called the meeting to order, Chief Doug Kirkland asked everyone to turn off all cell phones.

Police Chaplain Don Turberville 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

**CITIZENS ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL**

Mayor Criswell asked for the list of citizens to address the Council.  
-NONE-

Mayor Criswell thanked everyone for attending the meeting and participating in our City government. This is our first meeting in our new facility. It is nice and so much better. The roof is not leaking.

Councilman Martin made a motion to accept the minutes of 7/27/17 as revised under "Parks and Recreation" reading "we have received L.I.P donation" but should read "we will receive L.I.P donation. Councilwoman Moss seconded, all favored, none opposed, motion carried.

Councilwoman Greene made a motion to accept the minutes of the Emergency meeting of June 28, 2017, seconded by Councilwoman Moss, all favored, none opposed, motion carried

## **BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS**

No report as the board hasn't met.

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

Councilwoman Greene made a motion to introduce Zoning Ordinance 17-002 for the Foster Property between the Baptist Church and the Senior Center, this ordinance as advertised. Councilwoman Greene made a motion to table this ordinance until the Aug. 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Seconded by Councilwoman Moss, all favored, none opposed, motion carried.

Mayor Criswell announced that we require a Board of Adjustments. Councilwoman Moss read the list recommended by Mayor Criswell and made a motion to accept: Carl Walker, Liz Lassister, Harold Martin, David Bouche and Jennifer White. Seconded by Councilwoman Greene. Roll call for vote:

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

Approved by roll call.

Mayor Criswell stated that our Student Intern from Citronelle HS, Sabrina Presley, did a tremendous job this summer on all the ordinances, resolutions and minutes. These documents are available for public viewing in the conference area at City Hall. Councilwoman Greene made a motion that Sabrina be allowed to work during the upcoming school year 2017-2018, as needed, 20 hours or less. Seconded by Councilwoman Moss, all favored, none opposed, motion carried. Mayor Criswell read a "Thank You" note from Amy Mills, Signature Academy Specialist, Citronelle HS saying this has great for the school and Sabrina. Ms. Mills sent Note pads from Citronelle HS to Mayor and Staff. Mayor Criswell commented that Sabrina Presley has been a big help and is a super student.

Councilwoman Greene made a motion to ask Attorney Daniel Mims to write a letter to the Attorney General for his opinion for using the 7-cent gas tax to start paying ALDOT. Seconded by Councilwoman Moss, all favored, none opposed, motion carried. ALDOT bills us for repairs on red lights, etc. on Hwy 43. The City of Creola currently has a balance of \$15,623.20 owed to ALDOT. This bill has not been paid in a long time, since 2011. We have worked out an agreement with ALDOT to pay them \$500. per month until paid in full. They are working with us and pleased with what we are doing. We are paying this bill on a regular basis like we should.

Roll call for vote:

Councilwoman Greene	YES
Councilman Martin	YES
Councilman Walker	NO
Councilwoman Moss	YES
Councilman Hadaway	YES
Mayor Criswell	YES

Approved by roll call.

Parks Project- To be completed with the \$5,000. donation coming from L.I.P. Councilwoman Moss and Councilman Hadaway are working on this project. Councilwoman Moss stated there is a problem with the water draining in the park and she has written a letter to Ms. Mahdi for a grant for drainage for a little league park. We need to get an engineer to look at the water problem. We also need cameras for the bathrooms in the park due to vandalism in the park. We will talk with Major Holt and see about bleachers for the soccer fields and other needed items. We will hold off until we hear from Ms. Mahdi with Mobile County Commission. Councilman Hadaway commented that this would certainly help with the drainage at Frenchmen's Bend, as well.

Councilman Martin stated that we have been talking with Norfolk Southern about the closing of the Lister Dairy Rd. RR grade crossing. There are no crossing arms on this RR crossing. This was the location of the recent tragedy. Norfolk Southern is encouraging us to eliminate the RR crossing. They will incur all expenses and will give a 30 -day notice to the residents. Councilman Martin made a motion to introduce a resolution to close this RR crossing. Councilwoman Greene seconded, all favored, none opposed, motion carried. Mayor Criswell received a phone call from Will Miller, Regulation Safety Director for Norfolk Southern expressing real concerns about this crossing. There is a sharp curve and the Engineer just cannot stop if there is a vehicle stuck on the track. Mayor Criswell stated that NS is very keen about safety issues at the crossing. Four years earlier, we had another incident at the same crossing. Councilman Martin made a second motion to table this until we can post for the citizens and vote at the next meeting on Aug. 24<sup>th</sup>. Councilwoman Moss seconded, all favored, none opposed, Motion carried.

A resolution was presented for immediate consideration to repeal Resolution No. 250 in its entirety. This resolution was passed by the previous Mayor and City Council on 12/3/2009 giving all powers to the Mayor and City Clerk to open bank accounts, loans, consolidate funds, etc. Councilwoman Greene made a motion to table until we can advertise to the citizens. We will vote at the Aug. 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Councilwoman Moss seconded, Mayor Criswell stated that he deemed this "a bad thing" for the Mayor and City Clerk to handle your finances. This is why we are repealing Resolution 250. We want it open for all citizens to see and we are putting everything back out on the table. Mayor Criswell stated that everything is transparent in this administration.

Councilwoman Moss stated that McAleer's will deliver the new chairs Monday and pick up the ones they had delivered earlier.

Mayor Criswell stated that all city hall employees that handle money should be bonded. Attorney Mims will get us a price for insuring Municipalities from AMIC. This is for the

protection of the individual employee and the City, as well. Will bring back to the council at next meeting. As of November 2016, when the new administration was sworn in, all checks issued must have two signatures before it leaves City Hall. City Attorney Daniel Mims explained in detail exactly what the bond covers.

Councilwoman Greene introduced the annexations and they touch other properties. They have been posted for 15 days. She made a motion to table until the August 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Councilwoman Moss seconded. We will post for citizens. A roll call for the vote:

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

Approved by roll call.

Mayor Criswell commented that Terry Foster will be teaching a hunting class on September 23, 2017 at the Creola Senior Center. We will post this notifications in three places for citizens. All individuals are required to attend a hunting class to receive a hunting license in Alabama. This is a good course r the young folks. It is open for ages 10 and up. The reason we are bringing this before the council is, there is No Charge to rent the building for this non-profit class since this is a community service.

Mayor Criswell stated that we have received two bids for signs for the front and rear of our new city hall. (1) Wrico – \$2250.00 (2) Explosive Signs - \$2040.00

Councilwoman Greene made a motion to go with the lowest bidder, Explosive Signs. Seconded by Councilwoman Moss. The sign in the back of the building will be lighted, making it visible from Hwy. 43. Roll call was taken for the vote.

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

Approved by roll call.

Mayor Criswell stated that we will be moving our sign from the old City Hall to our new location

**PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE**

Due to Mr. Chambers being absent, Councilwoman Greene stated there were no applications but at the August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting 6pm at City Hall, they will review the RV ordinance.

Amendments will be brought back to the board for approval.

Councilwoman Greene mentioned that Mrs. Jean Gunter called about the new subdivision ordinance. She will be deeding one of her lots to her granddaughter. Mrs. Gunter will not have to appear before the Board due to the fact that the property fronts the road and is not deemed a subdivision. Mr. Chambers will have to sign the final plat.

Mayor Criswell reported that we have a lot of house plans coming thru city hall lately. New Houses, Permits, etc. There have been about \$1,800. Worth of permits come thru this week. We are getting larger houses in our community.

## **PARKS AND RECREATION**

Councilwoman Moss stated that we are doing a video presentation. We need ideas about our City for the video. Councilman Hadaway is working with Councilwoman Moss on this project. Ms. Ladora Knight stated that in the July 13<sup>th</sup> council meeting, we mentioned that are are talking with several businesses about coming to our City. She asked, "Who are these businesses"? Mayor Criswell stated that we are seeking businesses. We have done a study with SARPC, and a grant, made large poster boards, made up a proposal to show someone interested in moving into our City. We are asking ALDOT for traffic studies on Hwy 43 and Exit 22. Mayor Criswell explained that we have some interests on fairly large pieces of property. We've received word that someone is going to purchase 50 acres at Exit 22. This will be a big boost for our City. "If you don't ask for business, you probably won't get it." So "Let's ask!".

Ms. Knight asked "Who are the businesses?" Mayor Criswell stated that he would rather not give names, since all this is still in the negotiation stage and we would not want to jeopardize the sales. Ms. Knight asked, "Are these businesses Industrial"? Mayor Criswell stated they are not industrial-all commercial, such as Food, grocery, activities, etc. No chemical plants. Not industrial, all commercial.

## **UTILITIES AND SENIOR CITIZENS**

Councilwoman Moss stated that everything was good. No report. Councilwoman Moss stated that she has talked with Ms. Ludgood about a grant for the bathrooms in the senior center. We only have 1 men's and 1 ladies bathroom and we need 2 of each. We will need to talk with Ms. Mahdi since the Senior Center was built with HUD money.

## **FINANCE**

Councilwoman Greene gave the financial report, giving a copy to the Council. (see details of report listed below). Also copies available to citizens attending the meeting wishing to have one. All revenues for the month totaled: \$ 144,765.92. Also, a Find Report for August 1-10, 2017 totaling \$42,931.69 was available(bills and payroll). A list of outstanding bills is available.

Court Bond Account	1834.66
Court Fund	32,417.90
Special Court Fund	8,334.52
Fire Department Received \$14,190. Grant 7/19	\$ 15,300.20
General Fund	124,556.79
Money Market	13,519.66
Police Department	7103.46
S.A.I.L. Center Account	674.27
7-cent Special Gas Tax Acct.	16,967.82
4-cent Gas Tax Acct. (including 5 cent)	<u>\$14,188.37</u>
Total: (in bank)	\$ 234,897.65

Outstanding bill list was distributed to all council and available to anyone present wanting a copy.

## **POLICE AND FIRE**

### **POLICE**

Councilman Martin gave a financial report for the PD. The PD Bank Statement July 1 thru July 31, 2017 had a beginning balance of \$7,410.46

Deposits	\$ 957.09
Withdrawals	\$ 689.95
Checks written	\$ <u>574.14</u>
Ending Balance:	\$7,103.46

Recap:	Check #	Amount	Vendor
7/18	#1109	\$115.00	A G's Service (3 vehicles)
	#1110	Void	-
7/5	#1111	\$148.00	Walker Lock & Key(deadbolts for PD).
7/3	#1112	36.14	LA Police Gear
7/13	#1113	145.00	D's Stitches
		\$689.95	Best Buy (Camera Security System for PD)

Councilman Martin made a motion that the report be accepted. Councilman Walker seconded, all favored, none opposed. Motion carried.

Councilman Martin stated that we are no longer at the bottom of the list for police salaries. With all the hard work from the Mayor, City Clerk and the entire staff, the official 15% raise with the Mobile County Personnel Board raised us up on the list. We are no longer at the bottom, we are growing our PD and getting better equipment. We are not where we want to be, but we are getting there, taking baby steps. The starting pay for a police officer is \$22,000. With MCPB. Now we are at \$26,270. Chief Kirkland stated we have hired a police officer with 10 years' experience, Bart Andrews, 34 years old, wife w/ 4 kids, A-Post certified from Citronelle; resigned in good standing.

He will start w/ us on August 16<sup>th</sup>. We are looking at 4 more certified applicants. Someone asked how many of our officers live in Creola. Chief Kirkland stated 2-Officer Turberville and Reserve Officer White. We need 6-8 officers. Mayor Criswell stated that we are looking for officers that treat folks like they should be treated and look after the older families.

Councilman Martin made a motion to send Mayor Criswell, Councilman Martin and Councilman Walker to the MCMA training in Loxley on September 27, 2017 with reimbursement from the City for the \$125. registration each + mileage . Seconded by Councilman Walker, all favored, none opposed. Motion carried.

### **FIRE:**

Councilman Hadaway gave a financial report for the VFD.

Beginning Balance \$	3,706.00
Deposit Grant	\$14,572.00(annual county funding)
Ending Bal	\$ 15,300.20

There were some fraudulent charges made on the Fire account. Domino' s Pizza in Illinois for \$382. and a Pay Pal account in CA. The bank will credit these charges when investigation is complete.

Councilman Hadaway made a motion to accept the report for the Fire Dept. Councilman Martin seconded, all favored, none opposed. Motion carried.

VF Chief Reeves gave a report on ISO. Should be getting the report back in 4-6 months. He will publish report in Call News. Homeowners will benefit from the good ratings from ISO. Chief Reeves stated that we had 12 calls this month; 25 calls last month. Councilman Hadaway stated that we had a lot of suicidal folks lately.

### **STREETS**

Mayor Criswell wants to extend a word of "appreciation" to Councilman Walker. He is up here every day working, cleaning out between Hwy. 43 and the railroad with his backhoe. People will be able to see our sign and City Hall, from Hwy. 43. We appreciate Councilman Walker and all his hard work. He will be getting the road grader soon on Ducey Rd. Hall and Hurst, as soon as it dries out some. Councilman Walker made a motion to pay Elijah Safford, the grader operator for 10 hours for \$250. this weekend, weather permitting. We will pay him when the work is complete. We can get the county equipment, road grader, dump truck, etc. The past administration did not pay the operator and this was brought to our attention. Now, we cut a check and pay the operator the day the work is complete. Councilwoman Greene will transfer the money from the 7- cent account to the general fund to cover the cost of the grader operator. Councilman Hadaway seconded, all favored, none opposed. Motion carried.

### **COMMUNITY GROUP**

None

## **ADDITIONAL NOTES**

None

## **MAYOR'S DISCUSSION**

Mayor Criswell reported that we are the only municipality in Mobile County without a Public Works Department. We are "floating" with all the rain we have had recently. We are going to establish by a motion (1) a Public Works Dept., (2) Put those people somewhere. We have Bobby Smith, Wayne Miller and a couple of inmates working diligently to get our streets up to par. Mayor Criswell stated that we are hurting for equipment. We have one tractor that is worn out; we have one tractor with front end loader and a zero-turn mower. Councilman Walker and May Criswell went to Beard Equipment, Thompson Equipment and Mobile County looking for equipment. We will make an offer on an experienced piece of equipment and should be able to get something at a reasonable price. We are not going to be able to get equipment from the county in the future, as they are putting theirs out for auction. Mayor Criswell stated, " If we fail to plan, then we plan to fail". We recently purchased a truck from Mobile County for \$500. We received the title yesterday. Will get the tag for it this week. We haven't raised the salaries for the PD. MCPB deleted the Subsistency Pay, now it is rolled into their salaries. Mayor Criswell reported that he and the City Clerk have met with MCPB on several occasions to rectify the payroll. A falsified payroll was being sent to MCPB for approval, when the city clerk got it back, she was creating another payroll with a higher rate of pay. The MCPB was not happy when this was discovered. They worked out two options for us. We are following their procedures and filling out evaluations for employees on the anniversary date of their employment. At one of our meetings, we were informed that last year, MCPB had a \$55,000. Judgement against the City of Creola. We were not aware of this. We are working to pay down this debt. With MCPB and they are working with us.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION BY: Councilwoman Moss

SECONDED BY: Councilman Hadaway seconded.

Meeting adjourned @ 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Sue Cain  
City Clerk

c.m. 8.10.2017