



CITY OF CREOLA
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William R. Criswell **Leanne Greene** **Harold Martin** **Ralph Walker** **Tonya Moss** **Kendal Hadaway**
Mayor **Place 1** **Place 2** **Place 3** **Place 4** **Place 5**

Carolyn Sue Cain **Linda Hoiles** **Doug Kirkland** **Jeff Reeves**
City Clerk **Court Clerk** **Chief of Police** **Fire Chief**

Minutes of the City of Creola City Council Meeting
Thursday, FEBRUARY 13, 2020 6:00PM
Creola City Hall
9615 Old Hwy. 43, Creola, AL

Officer Allo w/ Creola PD welcomed all attending the meeting. He asked that everyone silence their cellphones, and anyone wishing to speak, raise your hand and wait to be recognized by the council. No outbursts will be allowed. Officer Allo turned the meeting over to Mayor Criswell.

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

Councilwoman Moss made a motion to accept the minutes of 1/23/2020 and seconded by Councilman Walker, all favored, none opposed, motion carried.

RESIDENTS ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL

1. Joan Stringfellow – “Has the city received any permits on Hall Branch Rd?” Mayor Criswell stated that to date there have been no building permits on Halls Branch Rd, Jackson Rd. or James Rd.

RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES AND OTHER BUSINESS

Councilwoman Greene made a motion to amend the agenda adding Ordinance 2020-001 to establish the Parks & Recreation Board .and adding the court training for \$1,050.00 on March 20, 2020, for our court judges and prosecutors, seconded by Councilwoman Moss, all favored, none opposed, motion carried.

Councilwoman Greene made a motion opposing SB142 submitted by Senator Chris Elliott of Baldwin County. Councilwoman Greene stated that SB142 would take the police jurisdiction and zoning and development away from all municipalities in the state; seconded by Councilwoman Moss, all favored, none opposed, motion carried. The City of Creola will send a signed copy of the letter by Mayor Criswell to Alabama League of Municipalities to show our opposition to SB142.

Councilwoman Greene made a motion to open a separate account to deposit checks for sponsorships for the July 4, 2020 celebration since monies are coming in, Councilman Walker seconded, all favored, none opposed, motion carried. The bank statement for July 4th Fireworks account will be posted in city hall. Councilman Hadaway asked why the donations could not be put in the general fund instead of a separate account to save bank fees. Councilwoman Greene stated that it needs to be a separate account and would not affect the bank fees.

Councilwoman Moss made a motion to establish the Parks and Recreation Board for the City of Creola, seconded by Councilman Walker, all favored, none opposed, motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-001 was posted for 15 days

Councilman Martin made a motion to pay \$1,050.00 for the judges and prosecutors conference on March 20, 2020 in Hoover, AL, seconded by Councilman Hadaway, all favored, none opposed, motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Walker to purchase a small utility tractor, a front-end loaded & 5' grooming mower, for the Public Work Department, seconded by Councilwoman Moss. Councilman Martin asked for discussion on the tractor for the Public Works/Parks and Recreation Dept. Mr. Martin asked, “what is the relationship between the city and the soccer field”? Mr. Martin questioned who was on the soccer board and do they live in Creola? Major Holt gave all the names of board members and explained in detail how the soccer field works with the city. He also explained that our soccer players come from all areas. That is why it is called the North Mobile Soccer Association. Major Holt gave a detailed report to Councilman Martin on how all monies have been spent for the soccer program. Mayor Criswell stated that Major Holt is

responsible for all fields and Crenshaw Park, as well. Councilwoman Greene stated that we must have equipment that won't tear up the soccer field. Major Holt mentioned that he is working to get the softball field up to code, as well. A Creola citizen, Wayne Fisher, stated that this program gives our city a good name and we should be proud.

Roll call vote.

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

Approved by roll call vote.

Trey Thompson, the John Deere representative attended the meeting. Mr. Thompson confirmed that the John Deere Company gives us a 20% discount and there is a 2% handling fee. It will take 4-5 weeks to receive the piece of equipment. The total price for the equipment is \$22,288.17. The State of Alabama has a purchase order with the John Deere Company. Mayor Criswell stated that we are at the point, we can pay cash for this piece of equipment. Councilwoman Greene stated that we can pay for the equipment from the 7-cent gas tax fund

Mayor Criswell stated that the council gave him and the city administrator permission to seek financing on the old Naheola Credit Union Building, now the new city hall. Mayor Criswell reported that they will be getting quotes to purchase the city hall and adjacent properties. Naheola's asking price for the building and adjacent properties is:

\$375,000.00. Quotes from:

United Bank -USDA MONEY - -0- down 3.675% interest rate for 30 years

Regions – 20% down, 4.2% for 30 years

Naheola Credit Union - \$20,000.00 down @ 4% for 20 years

Mayor Criswell stated that we currently pay \$1,500.00 per month and if we go with the agreement with United Bank, our monthly payment will be \$1,702.00 {\$202.00 more a month}.

Mayor Criswell reported that we just paid off Engine 2 and a \$50,000.00 loan from 2010. We will gain \$1,100.00 a month in expenditures when that pays out. This would remove the old city hall from lien status, and we can begin repairing the old city hall building.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Greene, giving Mayor Criswell permission to work with United Bank, seconded by Councilwoman Moss. Roll call vote:

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

Approved by roll call vote.

Mayor Criswell stated that we will do normal closing on this property with appraisal of property and building.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Councilwoman Greene stated the next meeting will be Tuesday February 18, 2020 3:30 - 4:30 workshop; 4:30 -5:00 Public Hearing for Ann Henley R-1 subdivision; meeting 5:00 - 5:15pm. LCAP meeting starts at 5:30pm

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS

No Report

PARKS AND RECREATION

Major Holt reported two more weeks of soccer registration for 280-300 kids.

SENIOR CITIZENS

Councilwoman Moss reported that everything is good with the senior center. Councilwoman Moss has organized the first field trip for the seniors on Friday, February 28, 2020, 9am-2:30pm. They will tour the Poarch Creek Indian Museum and will have lunch at Stagecoach Restaurant. There are 19-20 seniors interested in going on the field trip. The driver will be James Brown, husband of Marcy Brown.

FINANCE

Councilwoman Greene gave the financial report, giving a copy to the Council. (see details of report listed below), making motion to accept, seconded by Councilwoman Moss, all favored, none opposed. Motion carried. Also copies available to citizens attending the meeting wishing to have one.

The bill list total as of 2/13/2020: \$34,010.45.

General Fund	\$ 139,390.57
4-cent Gas Tax Acct. (including 5-cent)	52,010.39
7-cent Special Gas Tax Acct.	30,521.00
Special Court Fund	3,968.99
Court Fund	36,718.69
Court Bond Account	9,712.36
S.A.I.L. Center Account	7,433.50
Police Equipment Fund	5,114.89
Fire Fund	2,972.66
MIS (Municipal Intercept Services)	26.06
Capital Improvement Fund	19371.84
*Rebuild Alabama Gas Tax	4,479.53

*Rebuild Alabama Diesel Tax		1,315.31
Total: (in bank)	\$	313,035.79

Councilwoman Greene reported that the following bills were paid with the Alabama Power check of approximately \$112,000.00 received 1/31/2020: AMIC (\$49,000.00), Workman’s Comp (\$38,000.00), Diamond Gas (\$15,000.00) and \$9,000.00 on the audit. We paid for the first-year audit; second year was \$18,000.00. We will make payments for the balance of \$9,000.00.

Councilwoman Greene made a motion to accept the bill list and financial report, seconded by Councilman Walker, all favored, none opposed, motion carried. The financial report for these two accounts will always be posted in City Hall.

Mayor Criswell reported that we have paid over a \$M in unpaid bills, loans and stolen money. The city has not borrowed a dime for bills and all bills have been paid. The credit rating for the City of Creola has changed significantly since we took office November 2016.

POLICE

Chief Kirkland reported that we have 2 officers in the police academy in Tuscaloosa and they will be graduating the end of March 2020.

FIRE

Chief Reeves addressed the Mayor and council with issues he has concerning the bank account for the fire dept. Chief Reeves informed Councilwoman Greene that he had turned over her name to the comptroller for the Fire Association. Councilwoman Greene responded, “That’s fine.” When she tried to explain that all bills paid with fire funds were strictly fire related, Chief Reeves abruptly got up and stormed out of the meeting. Councilman Hadaway continued to question monies spent from the fire fund. Mayor Criswell and Councilwoman Greene explained to Councilman Hadaway that an appointment could be made to go over the fire fund and all monies spent would be verified.

STREETS/PUBLIC WORKS

Wayne Miller had knee surgery last Wednesday 2/5/2020 and is now in rehab.

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Don Moss out of town, serving as pallbearer at a funeral in Hattiesburg. Mr. Moss had appointments with the VA hospital

MAYOR'S DISCUSSION

Mayor Criswell reported the PAY-AS-YOU-GO is 95% complete

Mayor Criswell reported that he is meeting with George Smith, new director, MCPB tomorrow morning @ 9:30am concerning several issues. One being the \$54,000.00 that was never paid and is still owed by the City of Creola. Mayor Criswell will be working with the new director on washing out the \$54,000.00. Also, working with Frank Sullivan, Chairman of the Board, MCPB, to see if we can resolve the \$54,000.00 debt.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: Councilwoman Moss

SECONDED BY: Councilman Walker

Meeting adjourned @ 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Sue Cain
City Clerk

William R Criswell
Mayor

c.m 02.13 .2020