



CITY OF CREOLA
9615 Old Hwy. 43
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William R. Criswell Mayor	Leanne Greene Place 1	Harold Martin Place 2	Ralph Walker Place 3	Tonya Moss Place 4	Kendal Hadaway Place 5
Carolyn Sue Cain City Clerk	Linda Hoiles Court Clerk	Doug Kirkland Chief of Police	Stephen Criswell Fire Chief		

Minutes of the City of Creola City Council Meeting
Thursday, FEBRUARY 27, 2020 6:00PM
Creola City Hall
9615 Old Hwy. 43, Creola, AL

Mayor Criswell called the meeting to order.

Carl Walker 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

Councilman Hadaway had questions about the minutes under the Fire Department and made a motion to table the minutes from the February 13, 2020. Councilman Hadaway asked that all comments under the Fire section on page 5 be listed verbatim & brought back to the next meeting; seconded by Councilman Martin, motion carried.

RESIDENTS ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL
NONE

RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES AND OTHER BUSINESS

Resolution No. 2020-002 to purchase the city hall building and adjunct property located @ 9615 Old Hwy. 43, was read by Councilwoman Greene. Councilwoman Greene made a motion to follow thru with the resolution to borrow money to purchase city hall building and adjacent property valued at \$530,260.00. The City of Creola will borrow \$375,000.00 @ 3.675% APR for 30 years w/ no money down. Our lease payment now is \$1,500.00. The new payment will be \$1,702.00, seconded by Councilwoman Moss, Roll call vote:

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

Approved by roll call vote.

Councilwoman Greene stated that AMIC covers all insurance on city property and assets.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Greene for the Court Magistrate and Assistant to attend the magistrate conference, May 7th and May 8th at the Marriott in Mobile - \$390.00; seconded by Councilman Martin, all favored, none opposed, motion carried.

Mayor Criswell stated that he had received a request from the fire department for a slide bed dumpster (approximately \$160.00) to do spring clean-up in March at the fire department, police building and public works. Motion made by Councilwoman Greene, stating that his cost will be paid from the general fund., seconded by Councilman Hadaway, all favored, none opposed. Motion carried.

Mayor Criswell reported that the city received a request from Dollar General Store for an off-site alcohol license. We have done the research and waiting for Dollar General to provide the documentation. Mayor Criswell stated that we have 4 other businesses in the city with the off-site liquor license- BP, Chevron, Mac's, and the liquor store by Chalkboard Restaurant.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Councilwoman Greene reported the meeting was held February 18th. A public hearing was held for Anne Henley to re-sub-divide the lots in Oaklawn Subdivision by Ski Chaise. The Board approved the Public Hearing. They will have a pdf rough draft of revised zoning book by March 31st. The city clerk will e-mail to the council when complete.

The next meeting will be March 17th. Workshop at 5pm; Meeting @ 6pm.

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS

No Report

PARKS AND RECREATION

Mayor Criswell reported that Major Holt is out of town @ a conference. Soccer starts this Saturday w/ approximately 360 kids.

SENIOR CITIZENS

Councilwoman Moss reported that the seniors will be taking their first field trip in the new senior van on Friday, March 20, 2020. They will leave the center at 9am; visit the Poarch Creek Indian Museum and have lunch at Stagecoach.

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 2/27/2020: \$35,552.66

General Fund	\$ 108,116.05
4-cent Gas Tax Acct. (including 5-cent)	54,313.97
7-cent Special Gas Tax Acct.	33,188.05
Special Court Fund	4,968.08
Court Fund	16,710.00
Court Bond Account	8,412.36
S.A.I.L. Center Account	7,484.02
Police Equipment Fund	2,291.93
Fire Fund	2,972.66
MIS (Municipal Intercept Services)	26.06
**Capital Improvement Fund	10,098.20

Rebuild Alabama Gas Tax	4,479.53
Rebuild Alabama Diesel Tax	1,315.31
City of Creola-July 4, 2020 donations	
Total: (in bank)	\$ 254,376.22

The paperwork has been signed to open a July 4th Fireworks Account. We have \$250.00 to deposit in the account.

**We will be receiving another check in April 2020 for Capital Improvements.

We used a portion of this money to pay on the sidewalks -Dewberry \$9,747.86. The new funds in April will be used to renovate the old city hall for the Public Works building.

Councilwoman Greene reported that the city has paid off the \$50,000.00 loan that was taken out in 2010. The last payment of \$1,474.00 was an auto draft this month. The only loans we have currently are the SAIL vehicle, The Police vehicles and now the new city hall building.

POLICE

Chief Kirkland reported that we have 2 officers in the police academy in Tuscaloosa and they will be graduating March 31, 2020. The officers are doing well on tests and getting good results.

FIRE

Chief Stephen Criswell reported: 26 medical calls, 7 vehicle wrecks, 3 brush fires & 2 general service fires. Assistant Chief Charlie Moyer is attending classes. We have 6 instructors Alabama certified will be teaching classes soon.

The negativity on Facebook is hurting the VFD donations thru LeMoyne Water Board. Lorraine Bryan, wife of water board member Buddy Bryan, explained how the money helps the fire department and the scholarship fund. She encourages all citizens to attend the water board meetings and ask questions.

Chief Stephen Criswell stated that the donation from LeMoyne are very helpful to the fire department. Last year the VFD was able to purchase \$14,000.00 worth of PPE equipment & hand tools with the donations. The donations are not handled by the city. The VFD takes all invoices to LeMoyne and they cut the checks. LeMoyne is accountable to the IRS for all donations. The negativity on Facebook has affected a lot of the donations. Councilwoman Greene stated that this misinformation has been reported to Facebook.

Councilwoman Greene stated that anyone wanting records of the VFD expenditures, can complete a Request for Public Records and turn in to Ms. Marcy Brown, the Administrative Assistant.

STREETS/PUBLIC WORKS

Mayor Criswell reported that Wayne Miller had knee surgery last Wednesday 2/5/2020 and is now in rehab. He had staples removed and is doing much better. He is in good spirits but just has cabin fever and ready to get back to work.

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Don Moss reported we have 6 houses in progress. Mr. Moss is at SSAG 3 days a week. The next phase will be a \$45M job. Permitting for this will be great for the city.

MAYOR'S DISCUSSION

Mayor Criswell reported that we paid off an old loan, paid off a fire truck. We gained \$1100.00 month and will be adding \$201.00 month to purchase city hall building. Mayor Criswell stated that he is working with the Justice Department, Attorney General and the State Auditor to recover some of our monies. We owed \$54,000.00 to Mobile County Personnel Board in unpaid bills prior to November 2016. That has been waived by CPB. We will have some recourse after the sentencing April 2020. We are working with the Justice Recovery Victims Unit. We had a horrible credit rating, but we have come a long way in 3 years. There will be several more indictments after the sentencing.

A resident of Creola, Wayne Fisher commended the Mayor and the city on a job well done. He commented that he attended the council meetings and it was stated that the city was always broke. But we have come a long way in 3 years.

Mayor Criswell stated that he is very proud of our city. We've come a long way, but we have a long way to go.

Mayor Criswell encouraged everyone to ride around and look at the lots for sale in Creola. We have lots of potential.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: Councilman Walker
SECONDED BY: Councilwoman Moss
Meeting adjourned @ 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Sue Cain
City Clerk

William R Criswell
Mayor

c.m 02.27.2020