

CITY HALL
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CITY OF CREOLA
Since 1978

MAYOR'S OFFICE
Phone 251-675-8142
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MAYOR
Donald Nelson

CITY CLERK
Marcy Brown

CITY COUNCIL
Kendal Hadaway
James Brown
Wendy Lynch
Harold Parmer
Mark Howell

MAGISTRATES
Linda Hoiles
Christie Bryant

Minutes of the City of Creola Council Meeting
Thursday, September 11, 2025
Creola City Hall
Meeting 6:00 P.M.

The regular council meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tempore Mark Howell at 6:00 p.m. We were led in prayer by Mr. Bill Chambers. Mayor Pro Tempore Mark Howell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken by Marcy Brown, City Clerk. Present at the meeting were Mark Howell, Harold Parmer, James Brown, Kendal Hadaway, and Wendy Lynch. Mayor Don Nelson was absent. City Attorney Danny Mimms was present.

Item #5 -Approval of the Minutes –

The minutes of the August 28, 2025, meeting were reviewed. Mr. Howell made a motion to accept the minutes of August 28, 2025. Mrs. Lynch seconded the motion. All in favor, and the motion was carried.

Item #6- Financials/Bill List -

The bills were discussed. Mr. Brown made a motion to accept the bill list for September 11, 2025, as presented. Mr. Hadaway seconded the motion. All in favor, and the motion was carried.

The financials were discussed. If anyone would like to see the reports, they are welcome to stop by the city hall. Bank balances were presented. Mr. Hadaway made a motion to accept the financials as presented for September 11, 2025. Mr. Parmer seconded the motion. All in favor, and the motion was carried.

Item #7 - Departmental Reports – No report given.

Police Dept. - Chief Stringer states that:

- A vehicle is losing power to the ignition switch and needs to go to the shop. One patrol unit is "mobile down" due to a recall. The Chief's truck is "starting to act up" and he is "babying it" using oil excessively. The 2008 vehicle is not really used due to the motor knocking. The 2013 vehicle from Orange Beach has had its motor replaced. The 2018 vehicle also had its motor replaced under warranty.
- The new recruit drives a vehicle with a warranty.
- The new vehicles are starting to show signs of issues, such as the check engine light coming on and oil consumption. It's important to add oil as needed, as long as the engine isn't knocking. Checking the oil regularly is crucial.
- The department has an account to save money on synthetic oil, reducing the price from \$123-\$130 to around \$80.
- The oil weight used must adhere to manufacturer specifications while under warranty. Once the warranty expires, the oil weight can be adjusted.
- Need to start looking for another vehicle. All vehicle brands have issues, whether electronic or engine related. Many departments are experiencing issues with Chevrolet vehicles. The Yukon is a popular police vehicle. Ford Explorers and trucks are potential options. A previous Ford truck used oil excessively, but the issue lessened when the fire department acquired it.
- Toyotas may not be suitable for police use due to the lack of cages and other necessary modifications. Trucks or SUVs are the best options. Most vehicles can be tuned for pursuit purposes.
- When considering vehicles from 2017-2018, mileage is a significant factor.
- A 2021 truck from Fort Payne had 38,000 miles and had already had warranty work done on the lifters/valves. GM can access computer data to determine how long vehicles are idling, which affects the warranty. There is a device that can be plugged into the diagnostic port to remove cylinder drop from the equation.
- There are currently eight officers, excluding two. It may be better to pay the recruit mileage for using their personal vehicle instead of assigning them a police vehicle.
- Two vehicles are currently out of service: 2008 with a knock and Pitts 2001. The 2001 has a new motor, fixed air conditioning, and a deleted cylinder drop. The 01 is being used as a spare but lacks a unit radio.
- Consider selling the 08 vehicle with the knock, it's old and may not be worth repairing. The vehicle has been inspected by a mechanic who recommended replacement.
- Chief suggests selling the truck, or if it needs a motor, considering it's over 10 years old.
- The truck could potentially be sold for around \$2,000 - \$3,000, even with a \$5,000 motor.
- The PD is not in a hurry to sell the truck and could use it as a backup. Suggestion to put thicker oil in the truck and let the crew drive it to school to assess its condition.
- Discussion was made about pickup trucks and their suitability for public service. Mentioned a need for a Turbo engine, possibly in a police car or V6 model. Interest in finding used trucks to buy.

Fire Dept. – Jacob Purl mentioned that the council asked about call numbers and who ran what. The data covers the last three months, including the number of responses.

- The first page is organized by individual.

- Mr. Purl stated that they can take print copies to study the data.

Park Dept. – No report given

SAIL Center Dept – The camera system at SAIL Center has been destroyed by lightning. Mr. Hadaway made a motion to install the cameras for the senior center for \$2,975 . Mrs. Lynch seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion carries.

Building Inspector – No report given.

Zoning Board – No report given.

Board of Adjustment – No report given.

Public Works Dept. - The current trailer has issues with its ramps, making it unsafe for loading lawnmowers. The suggestion was made about getting a new, heavy-duty trailer with better ramps. One of the trailers has been in two wrecks this summer and has bent axles and a bent tongue. After a discussion, it was suggested that researching the weight of the lawnmowers to determine the appropriate trailer size and axle configuration would be best. A single axle trailer is easier to maneuver, but a tandem axle trailer can hold more weight. The speaker suggests considering a car trailer or a lawn care trailer with weed eater racks and space for gas.

Item #8-New Business-

- Fire Reimbursement** - Mayor Nelson wants to get firefighters paid a little money to come to meetings and respond to calls. Question about reimbursing volunteer firefighters without jeopardizing their immunity was addressed and Atty Danny Mims will look into it further.
- Volunteer Fire Chief** - Discussion about putting out an ad for a volunteer fire chief for Creola. Suggestions were made to advertise on platforms like Voices of Mobile or Voices of Creola, etc. If the position is volunteer, they wouldn't have to worry about pay.
- GOMESA Funding** - Go Mesa Engineering check for \$110,000 was received.
- 2025 – 2026 Budget** - The budget needs to be passed by the next meeting.
- Waste Pro** - Waste Pro trucks are having difficulty turning around on Holmes Road, requiring them to back out. An incident occurred where a woman ran into the truck while it was backing up. The council wants to send a letter to property owners in the affected area.
- Mulching Disc Golf Bids** - Bids are being gathered for mulching the land for the new park additions. Mike Whittington provided a bid for clearing the land with a dozer, which would take 3-4 weeks.
- Community Day** – The annual Community Day has been changed to November 8, 2025.
- Quotes for Grass Cutting around City Hall** - There are concerns about the quality of grass cutting and overall city appearance. Highway 43 is now being cut from end to end, including Jenkins property. Weed eating is not being done after grass cutting, affecting appearance. The street department is short-staffed, with only four people. Adding at least one more person to the team is being considered. The possibility of dedicating someone

in the street department solely to lawn maintenance is being discussed. Quotes are also being gathered for cutting the grass at city hall, PD, SAIL Center, and Veterans Park.

- i. **Vaping Excise Tax** - The legislature has brought vaping products and certain flowers under the jurisdiction of the ABC board (ALEA). Municipalities have the right to impose their own tax on vapor products before October 1st. After October 1st, a 10 cent per milliliter state tax will preempt all local taxes on vapor products. There are a couple of shops in Creola that sell vapor products.

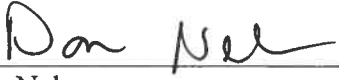
If the city doesn't pass a tax on vaping products, the state tax will be collected and prorated based on the population ratio of each county/municipality to the total population of the state. To pass a tax, the city needs to act by October 1st, which would require suspending the rules for immediate consideration at the next meeting. City Attorney Danny Mims stated that Dothan passed a license amendment to include a classification for vaping product businesses and then passed the tax on the sale of vaping products. There may be two ordinances needed: one for a license fee and another to impose the tax. A gross receipts tax can be implemented before October 1, 2025. Dothan used 10% state tax. The new state act may affect gas stations selling hemp products, potentially leading to more state control and revenue.

- j. **Cameras for SAIL Center** – Mr. Hadaway made a motion to purchase cameras for the senior center that had been destroyed by lightning for \$2,900. Mrs. Lynch seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion carried.
- k. **Cameras for City Hall** – Mr. Hadaway made a motion to finish installing the last four cameras at City Hall for \$2,875. R. Brown seconded the motion. All in favor and motion was carried.
- l. **SAIL Center Awning** - Discussion about the color of the awnings (navy or black considered) and cleaning/painting the aluminum frames. Mrs. Lynch made a motion to purchase three awnings for the sales center from Art Craft Awning Company Alabama for \$2,258, including installation. Mr. Parmer seconded the motion. All in favor and motion was carried.
- m. **Amend Minutes** – Mr. Brown made a motion to amend the minutes from the previous meeting to show that Danny Mims was not present and Teresa Williams was present as legal counsel for the city. Mr. Parmer seconded the motion. All in favor and motion was carried.

Item #9 Mayor Comments

The mayor pro tempore let the city building inspector speak regarding a lady that inquired about opening a novelty shop (adult store) in the city. Need to investigate city ordinances to determine if there are legal grounds to prevent it. Location being considered is near Toli's and the old flower shop, close to a Methodist church. Council prefers not to discuss the matter on the record; homework has to be done.

Mr. Brown made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Parmer seconded it. All in favor, and the motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.



Don Nelson
Mayor



Marcy Brown
City Clerk