

**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 25, 2025**  
**Creola City Hall**  
**Meeting 6:00 P.M.**

The Council of the City of Creola, Alabama, met in the Creola City Hall at 5:30 p.m. A workshop was held before the Council Meeting, at 5:30 p.m. Present at the meeting were Mark Howell, Harold Parmer, James Brown, Wendy Lynch, Kendal Hadaway, and Mayor Don Nelson. Items that were discussed were:

**a. GOMESA Grant and splash pad.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

The regular council meeting was called to order by Mayor Don Nelson at 6:00 p.m. We were led in prayer by Mayor Don Nelson. Mayor Don Nelson 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, and Mayor Don Nelson. City Attorney Danny Mimms was present.

Oliver from Neal Shaffer Engineering Firm continued speaking on the splashpad and GOMESA grant. He pointed out:

- Soil testing was not included in the figures and there would be an additional fee, taking 4-6 weeks for results.
- The mayor does not see the splash pad as a vital element at this time but is committed to soliciting other grants if it is not done and estimates a nice splash pad would cost around \$400,000-\$500,000 after everything is said and done.

- Option A includes the splash pad, retention/swale system, and drainage pipe, costing an additional \$80,000, not including soil testing, putting the project well above \$1 million.
- Option B removes the splash pad, retention, and drainage pipe to add alternates and moves walkways and the basketball court into the base bid, keeping the project under \$1 million, with add-on alternates costing just under \$500,000.
- Option C removes the splash pad and associated items completely, including the basketball court and concrete sidewalk in the base bid, keeping it under \$1 million, with add-on alternates for site furnishings and bleachers.
- The total construction cost for Option C is a little over \$1 million with add-on alternates and the base bid, removing the splash pad, detention basin, and drainage pipe with the intention of pursuing additional funding later.
- The goal is to have everything for review around the 15th of October, including drawings and specs.
- Removing the splash pad speeds things up significantly, as it eliminates a huge source of specifications and drawings.

Mr. Howell made a motion to accept Option C for proceeding on the GOMESA Grant. Mr. Parmer seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion was carried.

#### **Item #5 -Approval of the Minutes –**

The minutes of the September 11, 2025, meeting were reviewed. Mr. Brown made a motion to accept the minutes of September 11, 2025. Mr. Howell seconded the motion. All in favor, and the motion was carried.

#### **Item #6- Financials/Bill List -**

The bills were discussed. Mr. Howell made a motion to accept the bill list for September 25, 2025, as presented. Mr. Brown 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. Brown made a motion to accept the financials as presented for September 25, 2025. Mrs. Lynch seconded the motion. All in favor, and the motion was carried.

#### **Item #7 - Departmental Reports – No report given.**

**Police Dept. -** Chief Stringer states that:

- Greg Evans is returning to work as a Creola Officer in two weeks.
- Ty will be graduating from the academy on October 9th.
- Officer Pitts solved car burglaries overall for Rio Hondo.
- Jackson Police Department is getting new Tahoe's and may be getting rid of old ones.
- There are still complaints about speeders and reckless drivers on Hardy Drive.
- The mayor thought the speed limit on Hardy had been lowered.
- The police station is up and running, and the jail is open.

**Fire Dept.** – A dog costume has been ordered for the October 8<sup>th</sup> fire prevention event. There will be a city table and a fire department presence with equipment set up for community day. Training hours are typically on Tuesday nights. Training hours are important for maintaining state certifications and grant eligibility. The council has requested that the fire department manage its members, tracking who attends training and respond to calls. Reimbursement for training-related expenses or other extraordinary expenses would require receipts and approval from the mayor. The \$15 reimbursement is strictly for responding to calls, not for attending meetings or training.

Procedure for reimbursement: The fire department will provide a run report to Marcy, indicating who responded to each call. Each person listed will receive a \$15 reimbursement. A fire department officer will need to sign off on the report. Reimbursements are not subject to tax deductions because the firefighters are not employees. The reimbursement applies regardless of the chief's status. The reimbursement applies even if the call is outside of city limits. Mutual support agreements exist with other fire departments and local plants.

**Park Dept.** – No report given

**SAIL Center Dept** – The color for the SAIL center awnings and doors needs to be picked.

**Building Inspector** – No report given.

**Zoning Board** – No report given.

**Board of Adjustment** – No report given.

**Public Works Dept.** –

- Public Works have been weed eating, cleaning, and cutting grass.
- They will be picking up paper on Hwy 43.
- A public works department trailer was damaged, bending the axle.
- A replacement from Work and Play Trailers is estimated at \$2050.
- There was a discussion about whether to get a single or tandem axle trailer for hauling lawnmowers.
- The item was tabled until further information is gathered.

#### **Item #8-New Business-**

- a. **Holiday Schedule** – Mr. Howell made a motion to accept the holiday schedule for the 2025- 2026 year. Mrs. Lynch seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion was carried.
- b. **2025 – 2026 Budget** – Mr., Parmer made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 FY Budget. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion was carried.

- c. **Evape Ord. 2025-004 - Ordinance** 2025-004 was to be introduced by Mr. Parmer. Mrs. Lynch seconded the motion.

Mr. Howell made a motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration for the EVape Ordinance 2025-004. The ordinance concerns a tax on vape products.

Roll Call: Mr. Hadaway – Yes; Mr. Brown – Yes; Mrs. Lynch – Yes; Mr. Parmer – Yes; Mr. Howell – Yes; Mayor Nelson – Yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Parmer made a motion to pass Ordinance 2025-004. Mrs. Lynch seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mr. Hadaway – Yes; Mr. Brown – Yes; Mrs. Lynch – Yes; Mr. Parmer – Yes; Mr. Howell – Yes; Mayor Nelson – Yes. Motion Carried,

- d. **Business License Amendment Ord. 2025-003 - Ordinance** 2025-003 was introduced by Mr. Howell. Mr. Parmer seconded the motion.

Mr. Howell made a motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration for the Business License Amendment Ordinance 2025-003. The ordinance concerns the addition of the tax on vape products to the current business license.

Roll Call: Mr. Hadaway – Yes; Mr. Brown – Yes; Mrs. Lynch – Yes; Mr. Parmer – Yes; Mr. Howell – Yes; Mayor Nelson – Yes.

Mr. Parmer made a motion to pass Ordinance 2025-003. Mrs. Lynch seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mr. Hadaway – Yes; Mr. Brown – Yes; Mrs. Lynch – Yes; Mr. Parmer – Yes; Mr. Howell – Yes; Mayor Nelson – Yes. Motion Carried

- e. **Annexation Ordinance 2025-005 & 2025-006 - Two annexation requests** were introduced:

Ordinance 2025-006 for Samuel Warren Parker and Lindsay Parker.

A motion was made by Mr. Parmer to introduce the ordinance, and it was seconded by Mr. Howell.

Ordinance 2025-005 for Carl Walker and Cheryl Walker.

A motion was made by Mr. Parmer to introduce the ordinance, and it was seconded by Howell.

Both ordinances will be held until the next meeting.

- f. **Mulching Disc Golf Bids** – Two bids were received for work on the disc golf area:
- Coastal Mulching and Clearing: \$16,550 for mulching.
  - Mike Whittington: \$25,000 for grubbing and clearing.

Discussion ensued regarding whether to mulch or clear the property. Mulching would be cheaper initially but may require ongoing maintenance. Clearing would involve removing root systems and leveling the ground, providing better lines of sight for disc golf.

Mr. Howell made a motion to accept the quote from Mike Whittington in the amount of \$25,000 for the clearing of the disc golf property. Mr. Hadaway seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion was carried.

- g. **Community Day** – The annual Community Day has been changed to November 8, 2025. Parking is critical, and company people should be directed to park by the edge of the property line. Handicap stickers should be used to bring people closer to the tent. The mayor will be out of town, so Mr. Howell will be in charge.
- h. **Halloween** – Mrs. Lynch signed Mayor Nelson and Clerk Marcy Brown up to judge a Halloween night costume contest at a school on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Howell can do it if Mayor Nelson is unavailable.
- i. **Community Day** – Mr. Hadaway made a motion to spend \$500 for pass outs at the community day. Mrs. Lynch seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion was carried.
- j. **Fire Department Grant** - The fire department received a \$217,552.38 grant, with the city's share being around \$11,000. The grant has a two-year window for spending. This is for the purchase of air packs.
- k. **Fire Dept Ord 2025-007** - Ordinance 2025-007 which is related to the fire department reimbursement rates, was introduced by Mr. Hadaway and seconded by Mr. Brown, and will be carried over until the next meeting.

The council is discussing transferring a silver Ford F-150 from the fire department to the street department. There is also discussion about purchasing a new truck for the street department out of gas tax funds. A Chevrolet truck at the street department needs transmission. There is a possibility of getting it fixed for around \$2,000. The council is considering auctioning off the flatbed. The council will look at options for purchasing trucks from Jackson next week.

Mr. Hadaway sent an email regarding the fire chief position. There is support for hiring a full-time fire chief, but concerns about the cost. The council was under the impression that the position would be part-time. Mr. Howell stated that \$80,000-\$85,000 a year to run the fire department is too much money. M. Howell acknowledged the city had been able to buy police cars and lawnmowers, but this was done with COVID money. Mr. Howell also mentioned that someone on the personnel board couldn't understand the city hiring a full-time fire chief. Mr. Howell clarified that the total package for the fire chief position would cost the city around \$90,000, including family insurance and pension contributions.

Mayor Nelson stated that the proposed salary for the fire chief position is \$66,293, according to the personnel board number.

Sending Jacob to school would cost an additional \$2,000, plus room and board.

Mr. Jacob Purl clarified he is not applying for a part-time job. It would have to be a full-time position. A council member asked Jacob if he was interested in the full-time position. Jacob stated he was "bouncing back and forth" on the decision. Mr. Parmer raised concerns about how having a full-time fire chief would affect the volunteer fire department's insurance and liability. Mr. Parmer also stated that training is a key issue, and sending an untrained person on a truck could cause more trouble than anything else.

Mr. Brown stated that hiring a fire chief is a need, not a want, to ensure the department stays the way it has been. He also suggested negotiating the salary with the candidate of choice and then looking at other employees' salaries to bring them up to par. Mr. Brown stated that the money the city has is the people's money, and the council needs to act on the people's needs.

Mr. Hadaway expresses passion for the city and a desire to see it move in the right direction. Public safety (police and fire) is seen as a key factor in attracting and retaining residents. Mr. Hadaway acknowledges that the administrative staff salaries may be lower than desired, but they are probably close to other municipalities based on personnel board rates.

#### **Item #9 Mayor Comments**

The mayor suggested having a meeting with all firefighters to discuss the issues and find solutions. He encouraged the council to review applications from the personnel board and inquire about salary expectations. There is a potential candidate who calls weekly and is building a house in Axis. A meeting is scheduled for Tuesday night at 6:30 for further discussion at the fire department and all of the council is encouraged to attend.

Mr. Brown made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Parmer seconded it. All in favor, and the motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.



Don Nelson  
Mayor



Marcy Brown  
City Clerk