

CITY HALL
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MAYOR'S OFFICE
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CITY OF CREOLA
Since 1978

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, October 23, 2025

**Creola City Hall
Meeting 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.

Item #5 -Approval of the Minutes –

The minutes of the September 25, 2025, meeting were reviewed. Mr. Brown made a motion to accept the minutes of September 25, 2025. Mr. Parmer 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 October 23, 2025, as presented. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. All in favor, and the motion was carried.

Mayor Nelson informed the council that due to the embezzlement of a former city clerk, it left a balance with the Mobile County Health Department of \$23,000. An agreement has been reached with the Mobile County Health Department paying them an additional \$500 a month until the debt is paid.

Mr. Brown made a motion to pay Mobile County Health Department an additional payment each month of \$500 until the past due debt is paid in full. Mr. Howell 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 October 23, 2025. Mrs. Lynch seconded the motion. All in favor, and the motion was carried.

Mayor Nelson thanked Mr. Kendal Hadaway for his years of service to the City of Creola as a councilmember and presented him with a plaque.

Item #7 - Departmental Reports –

Police Dept. - Chief Stringer states that they had:

- Met with architects to get started on the grant for the police building and was going to look at Satsuma's police complex for ideas. Visited Semmes police department to gather information for the architects. Architects will provide a preliminary drawing soon. They estimate around 4,000 square feet should be achieved with the budget, leaving enough for new equipment. Trying to decide on the best location for the building, possibly across from the police station.
- Notification that the new police truck is at the dealership. They have packets with information on two different quotes on outfitting the new Tahoe. One option is cheaper but missing equipment that is needed. The Chief wants to ensure everything is correct to avoid future changes.
- Officer Esquibel is now finished with the police academy. Training is typically about two months. Officer Evans is back with us and doing well. Officer Ken Thomas and Officer McConico did an awesome job on the lawnmower incident. Chief Stringer wants to recognize them for their quick response.
- Chief Stringer stated that the Xerox machine is not making legible copies. Clerk, Marcy Brown, wants to move away from Xerox due to AI and poor service. Considering Dex, which already has a lease with the PD. Dex provides all maintenance, supplies, and repairs.

Mr. Hadaway made a motion to allow EEP to outfit the PD car not to exceed \$13,000. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion was carried.

Mr. Howell made a motion to lease a copier for 48 months contingent upon lease being reviewed by city attorney. Mr. Parmer seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion was carried.

Fire Department - The city has not been reimbursed with any money from the Town of Mount Vernon for the tire repair. City clerk said she would call about it the next day. There was a discussion on mutual aid with Mount Vernon. Mr. Parmer and Mr. Howell voiced their concerns, stating that we are giving all the mutual aid and that there is a need to have some boundaries.

Park Dept. – No report given

SAIL Center Dept – No report given.

Building Inspector – No report given.

Zoning Board – No report given.

Board of Adjustment – No report given.

Public Works Dept. – The guys need to use the tractors on the highway for safety. Quotes are being gathered for different size trailers and will be presented at the next meeting. Spraying of ants and insects is being arranged for Community Day.

Item #8-New Business-

a. Amended Fire Ordinance 2025-007 – Mr. Hadaway made a motion to accept the passing of Amended Fire Ordinance 2025-007 which is related to the fire department reimbursement. Mr. Brown 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.

b. Annexation Ordinance 2025-005 - Carl and Cheryl Walker - A motion was made by Mr. Howell to approve the annexation ordinance of Carol and Cheryl Walker. Mr. Parmer seconded it.

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

c. Annexation Ordinance 2025-006 Samuel Warren Lindsay Parker - A motion was made by Mr. Howell to approve the annexation ordinance of Samuel Warren Lindsay Parker. It was seconded by Mr. Parmer.

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

d. Community Day – The annual Community Day will be November 8, 2025. Comments at the lunch and acceptance of the check for \$5,000 will be at 12 o'clock. Spraying for ants and insects is being arranged. Two officers will be present. Giveaways from the city are expected. Mr. Hadaway requested that we purchase aluminum bleachers for the softball fields with the \$5,000 we will be receiving and place them on a concrete pad.

e. GOMESA – Oliver, with Neal Schaffer, has been on vacation but is returning at the end of week to get the bid proposals ready to be advertised within the next two weeks.

f. Christmas Community Event – The Christmas Event will be held December 5, 6:00 p.m. We will have the Grinch and Santa.

g. Fire Truck Repair - Quote for ladder truck repairs is between \$6,000 to \$10,000. Mr. Hadaway made a motion to approve \$13,750 for the ladder truck repairs. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion was carried.

Annual testing costs around \$1,200. Other Expenses Helmets will cost \$1,000. The brass for uniforms will cost \$519.70.

h. Sailor Road Paving – Mr. Hadaway made a motion to approve the \$28,665 cost allowing Overstreet Paving to pave Sailor Road. Mr. Howell seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion was carried.

i. Fence Estimate - A fence bid from Major League Fence for around \$20,000, with an additional \$6,030 for a privacy fence was received. The city is working on the veteran's park and talking to Jeff Smitz from the public affairs department for assistance. The North Mobile Soccer club received a grant from Gulf Coast R C & D in the amount of \$12,910 to purchase all new soccer goals.

j. Fire Chief Position Discussion - Mayor Nelson stated that there is no current contract with a fire chief. Mayor Nelson also emphasized that respect and democracy during the discussion is expected and that they represent Creola. The mayor feels the city has progressed since the days of volunteer firefighters and a single truck. Mayor Nelson acknowledges concerns about money but believes the city can afford a fire chief due to past financial struggles being resolved. He emphasized the importance of having a fire chief who can respond quickly, especially in life-threatening situations.

Mr. Howell expresses concern about voting for a fire chief position for someone not fully qualified and wants a contract to review before making a decision, emphasizing the need to understand the terms and potential costs. Mr. Parmer believes Creole is not in a position to spend almost \$100,000 a year on a fire chief. and wants a contract that can be reviewed thoroughly before making a decision. His main concern is ensuring that anyone hired is qualified and remains with the city, unlike police officers who may move on for higher pay. The entrance salary for a new fire chief is \$55,800 with the salary range being \$56,460 to \$90,288 annually.

Mrs. Lynch wants time to read the contract and its stipulations before making a decision. There is a desire for something in writing before making a decision about the position. Mr. Brown stated that every city employee has insurance and participates in RSA, except for one or two. The actual salary for the fire chief position is \$66,000 per year, which is comparable to other positions. The need for the position is emphasized for the city's insurance and the safety of its citizens.

Mr. Hadaway made a motion to appoint Mark Hall as the fire chief, but he declined.

After the discussion ended and no decision was made, Mayor Nelson asked city attorney, Danny Mims, to write a contract salary: \$67,000, 2 weeks paid vacation, 40 hours sick leave, Retirement system, 3-year contract, and 30-day termination clause. Mr. Mims will draft a contract for future discussion and work out all the details.

Mr. Hadaway made a motion to allow Mr. Mims to draft a contract for a future fire chief. Mr. Brown seconded the motion, All in favor and the motion was carried.

Item #9 Mayor Comments

The mayor stated that the new council will be sworn in by Judge Ross on November 3rd at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Brown made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Hadaway seconded it. All in favor, and the motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Don Nelson
Mayor

Marcy Brown
City Clerk