

CITY HALL
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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, January 8, 2026
Creola City Hall
Meeting 6:00 P.M.**

A public hearing for the purpose of reviewing the Rezoning from B2 to R1 located at 1975A Dead Lake Marina Road was held at 5:30 p.m. There was no one present to comment and meeting closed at 5:45 p.m.

A public hearing for the purpose of Amendments of the Zoning Ordinance of 2023 was held. There was no opposition to the changes and meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m. Both public hearings will be presented to the mayor and council at the regular scheduled meeting beginning 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 Mr. James Brown. 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, Diana Lambert, Wendy Lynch, and Mayor Don Nelson. City Attorney Danny Mimms was present.

Item #5 -Approval of the Minutes –

The minutes of December 14, 2025, meeting were reviewed. Mr. Howell made a motion to accept the minutes of December 14, 2025. Mrs. Lynch seconded the motion. All in favor, and the motion was carried.

Item #6- Financials/Bill List -

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 financial and bank balances as presented for January 8, 2026. Mr. Parmer seconded the motion. All in favor, and the motion was carried.

The bills were discussed. Mr. Brown made a motion to accept the bill list for January 8, 2026, as presented. Mr. Parmer seconded the motion. All in favor, and the motion was carried.

Discussion was made on installing a turn and flash signal at the Dead Lake Road signal. Mr. Howell made a motion to check on the price for the installation of a turn and flash signal on Dead Lake Road and Highway 43 intersection. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion was carried.

Kinetic Site Plan & Flood Ordinance

- Kinetic submitted a site plan in October, but the property is in a floodway.
- Hydrologic and hydraulic testing is required per flood ordinance.
- The head of FEMA in Montgomery) gave similar feedback as Wade Burtram did.
- If the city cuts corners, FEMA could "actually pull our flood," and residents may lose flood insurance eligibility.

Item #7 - Departmental Reports –

Police Dept. – An incident occurred on Christmas night where someone was shooting into a car in a store. The suspect was located, identified through videos and pictures, and is in jail. The white Tahoe had about \$1,300 worth of work done. A request has been made for a speed limit change near Ward Lane, reducing it from 25 to 20 due to speeding issues. The sheriff's department's speed sign is not functional at this time. The possibility of putting up flashing lights to indicate a speed decrease on the off-ramp coming into Creola is being explored.

Chief Stringer stated that a sketch for the police building has been created. The sketch includes all the rooms and equipment needed. The building is around 4,000 square feet. The budget is around \$1.7 million, with \$300,000 for engineering.

Internet Sales Taxes

Chief Stringer also stated that he is going to a meeting to fight for the small cities, so the big cities in the state won't take their internet sales taxes. Mobile, Prichard, Montgomery, and Birmingham want it. Chief Stringer said, "This is going to have to be a fight where we just talk to our state reps and staff and senators."

Chief Stringer stated that a chair was needed for the dispatch office. Mr. Howell made a motion that we purchase a chair up to \$200 for the dispatch office. M. Parmer seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion was carried.

Fire Department – Kendal Hadaway requested \$619.70 to purchase the insignia for their uniforms. Mr. Howell made a motion that we purchase the fire insignia for uniforms out of the fire funds. Mrs. Lynch seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion was carried.

Call volumes for November and December were distributed for review and reimbursement purposes. They plan is to provide these reports monthly. Concerns were raised about lack of notification from Saraland regarding controlled burns. Trucks are being dispatched unnecessarily.

Mr. Parmer made a motion to approve the application for new member, Robert "Rob" Junkins. MR. Brown seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion was carried.

This brought the total to 20 members (though 2 are police department employees).

Two fire trucks need repairs: engine one needs brake adjustment, and engine two has an intermittent air leak. Approval is requested to have someone inspect and repair the trucks. A motion was made by Mr. Parmer and seconded by Mr. Brown to allow the fire department to diagnose and repair the vehicles, with a price limit of \$2,000. All in favor and the motion was carried.

Park Dept. – No Report given.

SAIL Center Dept – A motion was made by Mr. Howell to purchase a TV and bracket, if needed, for the senior citizens building. Parmer seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion was carried.

Games were ordered through the city account on Amazon such as bingo, corn hole toss, connect 4, etc.

Building Inspector – Annual winter building inspector conference is from January 21st to the 23rd. Mr. Howell made a motion to allow the building inspector to attend the winter conference January 21-23, 2026. Mr. Parmer seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion was carried.

Zoning Board – No report given.

Board of Adjustment – Need a super numerary to go on that board since there is a slot open.

Public Works Dept. – Mr. Parmer stated that he needed to order parts from Amazon for some parts to mower 31. Mr. Parmer made a motion to order parts from Amazon for mower #1. Mr. Howell seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion was carried.

Item #8-New Business-

- a. **Wade Burcham Engineer - City Engineer** - Kirby left Neil Schafer and recommended Wade Burcham as a replacement. Kirby said, "As requested, I have given it some thought regards to a licensed civil engineer that can help the city in the future. My recommendation is to reach out and talk to Wade Burcham." Wade Burcham is a professional engineer out of Daphne and his rate is \$150 per hour. David Moss, Building Inspector, is pleased with Wade's response time and expertise. Mr. Brown made a motion to approve Wade Brcham as the new city engineer and use him for at least a year to see how he operates for the city. Mr. Parmer seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion was carried.
- b. **SARPC** – Mayor Nelson informed the council that the annual dues (\$4076) for SARPC would be due soon.

- c. **Land Acquisition on Gunnison Creek** - Initial contract on the acquisition of land on Gunnison Creek is being sent. Four things need to be done: appraisal, survey, environmental study, and title search. The cost is about \$13,000. The goal is wetland preservation. Mr. Parmer made a motion to get started on the appraisal, survey, environmental study, and title search. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion was carried.
- d. **Workman's Comp & Insurance** - Workman's comp is \$48,223 and the general liability insurance has 2 options: One year renewal: \$137,415. Three-year renewal with 2% discount: \$134,982. Line of credit interest rates are 6.75 % whereas financing through the insurance company is 15.99%. Mr. Parmer made a motion to lock in insurance rates for three years and pay monthly payments using the line of credit with United Bank for both workman's comp and general liability insurance. Mr. Howell seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion was carried.
- e. **Zoning Ordinance Changes** – Mr. Howell made a motion to adoption the changes made to the Zoning Ordinance 2023. Mr. Parmer seconded the motion.
Roll Call: Mrs. Lambert – Yes; Mr. Brown – Yes; Mrs. Lynch – Yes; Mr. Parmer – Yes; Mr. Howell – Yes; Mayor Nelson – Yes. Motion was carried.
- f. **Wrecker Ordinance** - Kenny Kennedy asked about a wrecker ordinance. If you don't have a drop yard in Saraland, they won't let you be on their rotation. Pitts doesn't have a drop yard but hauls a lot of big equipment. In the past, the police department had a rotation list for wreckers that bought a license. Suggestion: If an ordinance is developed, require a business within 10-15 miles and be there within 15 minutes. This will be discussed at a later date.
- g. **Lieutenant Position** - A recommendation was made to table the lieutenant position until the next meeting.
- h. **Fire Chief** - There was a discussion about filling the Fire Chief position.
A recommendation was made by Mr. Parmer for Mr. Randy Osborne, who has 25 years of experience. He currently works at Saraland Fire Department. He has good credentials and a positive attitude. Interviews were conducted with three candidates, all of whom were considered good. There was some confusion about whether Randy Osborne worked for the Police Department or Fire Department.
Mr. Brown states that he was not involved in the interviews and doesn't personally know the candidates but trust the judgment of those who interviewed them. Years of experience are considered important, but personality is also a significant factor in hiring.
- There is a suggestion that council members should speak with the recommended candidate before a final decision is made.
 - Mrs. Lambert points out that Jonathan also had significant experience, including volunteer work with the Creole Fire Department. Three previous fire chiefs interviewed the candidates extensively and ranked them: Jonathan first, Jacob second, and Randy third. The ranking was primarily based on life experience.
 - Kendall repeats what Chief Stringer said a few weeks ago: "quantity is not quality and if you've been somewhere 25 years and you haven't moved up, that should be a sign for you to consider."

Mayor Nelson asked the council to study and think about the candidates and be ready to vote at the next meeting.

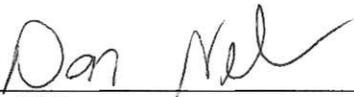
Item #9 Mayor Comments

Mayor Nelson stated that we need to know who will attend the ALM convention in Montgomery from April 28th through May 1st so that we can book rooms.

The Municipal dinner will be held on February 19th at the SAIL Center. Letters have been sent out to request gifts for door prizes. Namans quoted \$3,927.45 for 95 people.

- Alabama Power Company housing franchise is anticipated to give about \$150,000 at the end of the month.
- Mediacom revenue has decreased from over \$3,000 to around \$1,100-\$1,200 per year.
- Satsuma was getting 3%, while we are getting 5%.
- AT&T is coming through the neighborhood.

Mr. Brown made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Parmer seconded it. All in favor, and the motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.



Don Nelson
Mayor



Marcy Brown
City Clerk