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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, January 22, 2026
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 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 January 8, 2026, meeting were reviewed. Mr. Brown made a motion to accept the minutes of January 8, 2026. 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. Mrs. Lynch made a motion to accept the financial and bank balances as presented for January 22, 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 22, 2026, as presented. Mr. Howell seconded the motion. All in favor, and the motion was carried.

Mr. Don Wallace will be here at the first February meeting to present the audit for the 2025 fiscal year. Mayor Nelson also asked the council to consider putting \$50,000 into a CD account. Rates will be gathered for the next meeting.

Item #7 - Departmental Reports –

Police Dept. – The council discussed the striping of police cars, with concerns that the current striping is not visible enough for public safety. Chief Stringer stated that the cost to stripe each car was approximately \$1,500 - \$2,000. There was a discussion about striping white cars with darker stripes to improve visibility. An idea was brought up to refurbish older vehicles with the money it took to outfit a new vehicle. The mayor wants to fill the lieutenant's position.

- The duties of the lieutenant would be to be the second in command, oversee operations, vehicle inspections, maintenance, schedules, and filling in shifts.
- The pay raise would be around 2.5% to 5% more.
- It was suggested to wait until June when raises are given to decide.
- It was decided to find out about the personnel board rules and discuss it at the next meeting.

Fire Department – Kendal Hadaway stated that an entry tool and Holmatro T1 and Holmatro V strut was needed for the fire department. NAFECO quoted them \$5,100.

Mr. Brown made a motion to authorize the expenditure for the fire department from the Fire Fund in the amount of \$5,100. Mrs. Lynch seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion was carried.

NAFEEO quoted \$3,019 for updating rope rescue equipment. Mr. Brown made a motion to purchase rescue ropes and equipment from NAFECO for \$3,019. Mrs. Lynch seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion was approved.

Mr. Hadaway said the quote for nozzles, gate valve, and forestry packs was \$5,835.30. Mr. Parmer made a motion to buy the fire equipment for \$5,835.30 with funds coming from the fire fund account. Motion was seconded by Mr. Brown. All in favor and the motion was carried.

Mr. Hadaway stated that they needed to use the city credit card to purchase an aerial pumping book from the Alabama Fire College for \$110. Mr. Brown made a motion to purchase the book from the Alabama Fire College for \$110. Mr. Howell seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion was carried.

Mr. Hadaway stated that the run sheets for November and December need approval.

- November: 54 calls
 - December: 64 calls
- Council is to get a copy of each month's run sheets.

Mr. Howell made a motion to pay the reimbursement on the fire calls for the months of November and December. Mr. Parmer seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion was carried.

Engine Two Air Leak Repair

At the last meeting, the council approved getting someone to look at Engine Two for an air leak in the air brakes. A quote was received for \$1,176.59 to replace the air dryer and air governor, including labor and travel for EEP. Engine Two was taken out of service, and Squad 10 (the Reserve Pumper) was moved to the front to be used in its place. The council will get quotes on servicing each truck individually for oil changes, air filters, and fuel filters.

Park Dept. – No Report given.

SAIL Center Dept – Quotes are being received to strip and wax the SAIL Center

Building Inspector – Benton Road Project Status

- Commercial developments are responsible for their stormwater runoff.
- The Benton Road project includes a pond for stormwater detention.
- Owen provided an update on the project, stating that the construction is following the engineer's design to direct water flow to the detention pond.

Concerns About Trees

- Concerns were raised about dirt being brought in and potentially harming trees.
- Safety protection trees are marked.
- There is a live oak in the center of the park that should be fine.

Tree Preservation Options

- An option was proposed to remove four Water Oaks and one live oak affected by the dirt and replace them with new oak trees.
- The zoning board would need to approve this option.
- The council wants the trees to be preserved.

Sewer Line

- A sewer line will be installed using directional boring under Bentley Road to connect to Dead Lake.
- A lift station will be installed on property that the city will retain ownership of.
- Aluminum power should be out there in the next couple of weeks to do the underground work to set up the new pad mount transformers in the park.
- The project is hoped to be completed by July.

Topsoil

- Topsoil was preserved during the grading process and has been screened and stockpiled on site.

Runoff Concerns

- Concerns were raised about potential runoff issues after the project is completed.
- The project is being done according to the site plan approved by the planning commission and signed off by Kirby Latham.
- The council may invite Wade to the next zoning board meeting to address concerns.
- Silt fences are in place, and Spectrum Environmental is monitoring and testing for environmental compliance.

Zoning Board – No report given.

Board of Adjustment – The Board of Adjustment consists of five members and two supernumerary members appointed by the city council. The board needs a supernumerary. Mr. Howell made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Parmer to nominate and appoint David Boucher for the supernumerary position. All in favor and the motion was carried/

Public Works Dept. –

Item #8-New Business-

a. Resolution 2026-002 Zoning Change – A resolution was presented to rezone property located at 1975A Dead Lake Marina Road, Creel, Alabama from B2 to R1. The planning and zoning board held a public hearing on said petition on January 8, 2026, after proper notice and posting thereof. The planning and zoning board forwarded its recommendations to the grill city council. The city council conducted a public hearing to consider the required zoning change on January 8, 2026.

A motion was made by Mr. Howell to approve the zoning change per Resolution 2026-002. Mr. Brown seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Council Members Diana Lambert – Yes; Mark Howell – Yes; Harold Parmer – Yes; James Brown – Yes; Wendy Lynch – Yes; Mayor Don Nelson – Yes.

b. Resolution 2026-003 GOMESA Wetlands Purchase – A resolution between the State of Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the city of Creola for the GOMESA agreement for acquisition of 30 acres of wetland located on Gunnison Creek at a cost of \$350,000. A motion was made by Mr. Howell to approve the GOMESA agreement for acquisition of 30 acres of wetland located on Gunnison Creek at a cost of \$350,000 per Resolution 2026-003. Mr. Parmer seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Council Members Diana Lambert – Yes; Mark Howell – Yes; Harold Parmer – Yes; James Brown – Yes; Wendy Lynch – Yes; Mayor Don Nelson – Yes.

Donald Nelson, mayor, is authorized to sign and execute by the GOAMESA grant agreement including all terms and conditions contained in this resolution.

c. Resolution 2026-001 GOMESA construction of a public safety building – A Resolution between the State of Alabama Department of Conservations and Natural Resources and the City of Creola for the GOMESA agreement for the construction of a public safety building in the amount of \$2,000,000. A motion was made by Mr. Parmer to approve the GOMESA agreement for construction of a public safety building in the amount of \$2,000,000 per Resolution 2026-003. Mrs. Lynch seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Council Members Diana Lambert – Yes; Mark Howell – Yes; Harold Parmer – Yes; James Brown – Yes; Wendy Lynch – Yes; Mayor Don Nelson – Yes.

Donald Nelson Mayor is authorized to sign and execute by the GOMESA grant agreement included all terms and conditions contained in this resolution.

d, Grant Fund Account - The mayor requested approval to open a grant account to keep funds separate from the general fund for easier tracking and auditing. Mr. Howell made a motion to open a Grant Fund Account with our current bank, TRUIST. Mrs. Lynch seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion carried.

e. Adam Stewart Architect Police Building Plans - Adam Stewart Architects manage several police stations and are doing the Semmes police station now. The company will manage complete bid advertising and construction administration. A bill will be sent, and then the city will go to the state conservation department and request the funds. Mr. Howell made a motion

to enter into an agreement with Adam Stewart Architect LLC for the design and construction of the public safety building. Mr. Parmer seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Council Members Diana Lambert – Yes; Mark Howell – Yes; Harold Parmer – Yes; James Brown – Yes; Wendy Lynch – Yes; Mayor Don Nelson – Yes.

f. Bridge Inspections by Safe Spann - Bridge inspections are needed, likely for two bridges on Radcliff. The inspections will cost around \$7,000-\$8,000. A motion was made by Mr. Howell and seconded by Mr. Parmer to have the bridges inspected, as required every three years. All in favor and the motion was carried.

g.

h. Chief Conference Meeting in Montgomery - A request was made for Officer McConico to attend a chief's meeting in Montgomery from February 15th-19th. This will cover his training for the year. A motion was made by Mr. Parmer and seconded by Mr. Brown to approve Officer McConico's attendance. All in favor and the motion was carried.

i.

j. Survey Sutton Property - A motion was made by Mr. Howell and seconded by Mr. Parmer to have Gerald Smith survey the old Sutton property. This is to determine the property lines. All in favor and the motion was carried.

k. Police Business Cards - A motion was made by Mr. Parmer and seconded by Mr. Howell to get business cards for the police officers. All in favor and the motion was carried.

l. Municipal Dinner - The council is hosting the dinner. A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mr. Brown to order food from Naaman's in the amount of \$3,485.25. All in favor and the motion was carried.

The council agreed to purchase honey from the honey company in Creola at \$6 per jar.

m. Fishers of Men use of SAIL Center – Mayor Nelson made a request to use the Senior Center for the men's Christian group called Fisher's of Men. The Fishermen, a Christian fishing club, requested to use the senior center on February 13th. A motion was made by Mr. Howell and seconded by Mrs. Lynch to allow the Fishermen to use the senior center on February 13, 2026. All in favor and the motion was carried.

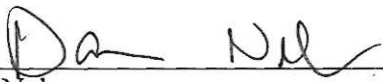
n. Ladder Purchase for Storage Room – Mr. Brown stated that a ladder is needed for the "dungeon" or evidence locker, where records are stored, to provide a safer way to reach boxes on high shelves. Three bids were obtained for a ladder, ranging from \$700 to a little over \$900, to be paid for out of court money. A motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Lynch to buy a safety ladder From Global Industries for the record storage area at a cost of \$709. All in favor and the motion was carried.

Item #9 Mayor Comments


The flashing light at Radcliffe was discussed. Mayor Nelson will call Vince and Herman Woods to discuss the flashing light. Mike Whittington is about 90% through on the disc golf. Oliver will have his plan ready for the bid process soon. Don Wallace will be at the meeting on the second Thursday in February. City attorney Danny Mims will be looking at the franchise agreement with Media Com and Direct TV.

Mayor Nelson stated that Creola was awarded the ATRIP grant for about \$780,000. This is in addition to \$1.5 million from Mr. Carl's grant and \$300,000 from the county. The project involves installing signal lights on the north side of the bridge and removing the median. Groundbreaking is anticipated in September.

Mr. Brown made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Howell seconded it. All in favor, and the motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.



Don Nelson
Mayor



Marcy Brown
City Clerk