

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

Diana Lambert

James Brown

Wendy Lynch

Harold Parmer

Mark Howell

MAGISTRATES

Linda Hoiles

Christie Bryant

**Minutes of the City of Creola Council Meeting
Thursday, March 12, 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. Carl Walker. 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, and Mayor Don Nelson. Council member Wendy Lynch was absent. City Attorney Danny Mimms was present.

Item #5 -Approval of the Minutes –

The minutes of the February 26, 2026, meeting were reviewed. Mr. Parmer made a motion to accept the minutes of February 26, 2026. Mr. Howell 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 view the reports, they are welcome to visit City Hall. Bank balances totaled \$1,104,004 across all accounts and the General Fund, with \$866,485. A \$50,000 CD was opened at United Bank. Mr. Brown made a motion to accept the financial and bank balances as presented for March 12, 2026. Mrs. Lambert 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 March 12, 2026, as presented. Mr. Howell seconded the motion. All in favor, and the motion was carried.

Condolences and Appreciation

The council and mayor acknowledged the passing of Mr. Bobby Huff. Appreciation by Mr. Howell was expressed to the mayor, council, and police chief for their service to the citizens. The police department was thanked for paying respect to Mr. Huffman's family.

Item #7 - Departmental Reports –

Police Dept. –Chief Stringer presented February stats, noting a lot of calls for service and traffic stops. The chief requested the purchase of portable breathalyzer devices to help with DUI cases. He suggested needing two or three, possibly one for each shift. He will research pricing and present the request at a later date.

Fire Department –

There were 46 total calls, 43 answered, with training hours documented. Call origins: 23 in city limits, 11 in jurisdiction, 9 mutual aids. Mutual aid was given to Turnerville, Mount Vernon, Calcedader, Citronelle, and Satsuma.

The city participated in "Project Freedom" through the University of Alabama, which supplies Narcan. The department received 24 vials of Narcan. Documentation is required after use, including contacting the University of Alabama. Narcan can be administered even if the person is not overdosing on opioids. Police officers are also in the process of getting Narcan, and the fire department can provide some until they do.

Jacob Purl had 36 calls and 50 hours of training, and he completed fire instructor two, a 40-hour class. Extrication training is being conducted at the police and fire station for the next two weeks. Two companies donated cars for the training and will pick them up afterward. A letter of thanks will be sent to the companies.

Park Dept. – No Report given.

SAIL Center Dept - No Report given.

Building Inspector – No report given –

Zoning Board –

Mr. Hill is likely going to apply to the board of adjustments. The planning board carefully scrutinizes applications and notifies nearby residents. A previous application to change the zoning from B1 to industrial was denied due to the need for more residential rooftops. The board is deciding between allowing storage facilities and prioritizing residential housing.

Board of Adjustment – No report given.

Public Works Dept. –

The street department painted the playground equipment. They fixed the light in the pavilion. They replaced the wood on the bleachers with treated wood. Two sets of 15-seat, three-row bleachers were found for about \$5,000, but safety features would need to be added.

Item #8-New Business-

- a. **Utility Trailer** - A 16- or 16.5-foot trailer is available for \$950. It needs some ramp work. It can likely fit two, possibly three mowers. The city received \$750 for the old trailer with a bent axle and tongue.
Mr. Parmer made a motion to purchase the trailer for \$950 and seconded by Mr. Brown. All in favor, and the motion was carried. favored.
- b. **City Trailer Bid** - A motion was made by Mr. Howell and seconded by Mr. Parmer to accept the current bid on the city's trailer on GovDeals and allow the customer to purchase it. All in favor, and the motion was carried.
- c. **Court Shed** - Recommendation was made to move the shed next to the senior building closer to the building to open up the roadway. Pickleball and disc golf courts are coming soon, hopefully by the 4th of July.
A motion was made by Mr. Parmer and seconded by M. Howell to keep the shed and pay the bidder the \$150 permit fee they already purchased to move it; all favored. All in favor and the motion was carried.
- d. **Gunnison Creek Property Appraisal** - Joe Courtney and Morris appraisers gave a price of \$3,700 to appraise the property on Gunnison Creek. This will be paid for with GoMesa funds. The appraisal is for the fair market value of the land. The seller will get a timber crew to evaluate the timber value. The grant pays \$50,000 for due diligence (surveys, appraisals) and up to \$300,000 for the property purchase if it appraises for that value. There may be additional properties added to the deal if the 30 acres does not appraise at \$300,000. Conversations about access points may be needed, potentially involving state property. The city doesn't pay any money until they get a check.
A motion was made by Mr. Howell and seconded by Mr. Parmer to use Courtney and Morris appraisers for the Gunnison Creek property. All in favor and the motion was carried.
- e. **Spending Authority for Mayor** - The mayor needs authorization to spend a certain amount of money in case of an emergency, such as a vehicle breakdown.
A motion was made by Mr. Howell and seconded by Mr. Brown to renew the authorization at the \$1,000 level for emergencies for Mayor Nelson. All in favor, and the motion was carried.
- f. **4th of July** – Mr. Howell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brown, to spend up to \$500 for the 4th of July Celebration. All in favor, and the motion was carried.
- g. **New Permit Forms** - There were forms for the city of Creola, specifically for electrical. The forms are being changed to specify that they are for commercial use only. The rates are not changing. The change is intended to provide guidance and consistency for David and Christy when issuing permits.
A motion was made by Mrs. Lambert and seconded by Mr. Howell to adopt the revised forms for mechanical, plumbing, and electrical permits, specifying whether the use is for commercial, industrial, or residential purposes. All in favor and the motion was carried.
- h. **Resolution 2026-004 Retirement Resolution** – Tabled until further review.

Item #9 Mayor Comments

There is a request to fix six lights that are out at the ball field. An estimate from H and H is \$5,600 to replace and change over to LED. Another estimate is being obtained from a different

gentleman who has done repairs in the past. They will ask again about converting to LED with the wooden poles.

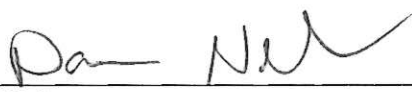
Fire Chief Position

The interview panel ranked candidates, and there's a desire to move forward based on those suggestions. There's a possibility of second interviews with the same people. There was a question of whether someone willing to do the administrative work would satisfy the need for a fire chief. The response was that a chief is still needed to hold the position, responsibility, and liability, and to run calls.


Mr. Parmer stated that if someone was on disability and could be cleared by a doctor, he wouldn't be against them being hired. Kendal Hadaway stated that it's not wise to hire someone who's on disability. There was a past issue of someone being hired who had filed suit against another city for workers' compensation benefits, claiming to be totally disabled. Mr. Howell stated, "To hire somebody who's retired on Disability, to me, it's a liability action. You're asking for problems." If a person retired on disability as a fireman, it would be a liability. If a person cannot get signed off by a doctor to go back to work as a fireman, they shouldn't be hired as a fireman. An interview will be set up next week.

Harold and Diana sat in the last session. Two other council members will sit on the session. The interview can be done with Wendy and James. Standardized questions will be asked to all three candidates.

Mr. Brown made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Lambert seconded it. All in favor, and the motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.



Don Nelson
Mayor



Marcy Brown
City Clerk