CITY HALL
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Creola, AL 36525-0490

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
Diana Lambet
James Brown
Wendy Lynch
Harold Parmer
Mark Howell

MAGISTRATES
Linda Hoiles
Christie Bryant

Minutes of the City of Creola Council Meeting
Thursday, April 9, 2026
Creola City Hall
Meeting 6:00 P.M.

At 5:45 p.m., a public hearing was held regarding the rezoning of property belonging to Willim Howard Hill. Lisa R., a resident living behind the proposed property, is opposed to rezoning to industrial/manufacturing. She would accept no less than a 100-foot uncut wooded buffer from the back of the property. She is concerned about property value and peace of mind. Another resident with buildings at 9475 and 9535, and six lots across the street, is also opposed. He believes changing zoning laws could lead to uncontrolled industrial manufacturing in the future. He mentions the Planning and Zoning board has tried to prevent industrial manufacturing near churches and houses.

Planning and Zoning Concerns
- The Planning and Zoning board has been working for 3-4 years to redo the planning and zoning book. The concern is changing the zoning from business to industrial manufacturing. There is concern about setting a precedent for waiving fees and rezoning requests.
- To rezone, one must visit the zoning board, which meets on the third Tuesday of each month. The board can approve or deny the request. If denied, the applicant can appeal to the council. If denied by the council, the applicant can appeal to the circuit court in Mobile.

B2 vs. Industrial/Manufacturing (IM) Zoning
- The initial planning committee considered rezoning from B1 to B2, but the current letter is strictly for IM. IM zoning involves heavier equipment and industry compared to B2. B2 is more like office space.

Other Business Concerns

Board of Adjustment and Appeal Process
- The applicant has not been to the Board of Adjustment.
- He went to the Planning Commission, which said no.
- The applicant may need to apply for a variance with the Board of Adjustment or appeal the Planning Commission's decision.

Planning Commission Vote

- The Planning Commission voted against approving the zoning change.
- There is a question of whether a negative vote by the Planning Commission requires a vote of the council.
- There is an assumption that the council needs to approve the no vote from the planning board.
- A zoning board recommendation is needed for a certain plan.
- If the zoning board says no, the next step would be to attempt to have it free zone through litigation.

A motion was made by Mr. Parmer and seconded by Mr. Howell to carry this over to the next council meeting. All in favor and the motion carried.

The regular council meeting was called to order by Mayor Don Nelson at 6:11 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, Wendy Lynch, James Brown, Diana Lambert, and Mayor Don Nelson. City Attorney Danny Mimms was present.

Item #5 -Approval of the Minutes –

The minutes of the March 26, 2026, meeting were reviewed. Mr. Howell made a motion to accept the minutes of March 26, 2026. Mr. Parmer seconded the motion. All in favor, and the motion was carried.

The minutes of April 2, 2026, special called meeting were reviewed. Mr. Howell made a motion to accept the minutes of April 2, 2026. Mr. Brown 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. Total amount of funds: $1,080,615.51 General fund: $829,799 and there is a United Bank CD for $50,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Parmer to approve the bank balances dated April 9, 2026. All in favor and the motion was carried.

The bills were discussed. Mr. Brown made a motion to accept the bill list for April 9, 2026, as presented. Mrs. Lynch seconded the motion. All in favor, and the motion was carried.

Item #7 - Departmental Reports –

Police Dept. –Chief Stringer stated that his department had two vehicle accidents and are under investigation by Chief and Lt. McConico. One involved a Corvette, and the other involved a

Tahoe. One of the Tahoe's is likely totaled. They are considering swapping the engine and transmission of one of the vehicles. The 2023 Tahoe is under warranty and in the shop for repairs.

Fire Department – Mr. Jacob Purl request to purchase two fire helmets for a total of $1164. He requested medical supplies from Port City Medical for $3,526.05. These supplies include items like pulse oximeters, C collars, bandages, splints, burn sheets, and medical gloves. The AED battery pads and batteries for 15 AEDs throughout the city, costing $3,720 are also needed.

A motion was made by Mr. Howell and seconded by Mr. Parmer to purchase two fire helmets for a total of $1164. All in favor and the motion was carried.

Mr. Brown made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Howell to purchase medical supplies from Port City Medical for $3,526.05. All in favor and the motion was carried.

Mr. Howell made a motion and seconded by Mr. Brown to purchase the AED battery pads and batteries for 15 AEDs throughout the city, costing $3,720. All in favor and the motion was carried.

Mr. Purl stated that ALDOT Inspection of the fire trucks are now required and they are $437.50 [er truck.

Mr. Howell made a motion and seconded by Mr. Parmer to approve the fire truck annual ALDOT inspection of $437.50 each for a total of $1750 for a total of $1750 with the funds coming out of federal funds. All in favor and the motion was carried.

Quotes are being obtained for annual maintenance on the four fire trucks. One estimate is $2,712.50 per truck, totaling $10,850.00. Ms. Ludgood is going to help out with the bill.

There was a total of 64 calls in March, 62 of which were answered by the department staff. The breakdown of the calls is on the second page of the document.

Park Dept. – No Report given.

SAIL Center Dept - No Report given.

Building Inspector – Next Zoning Board meeting will be April 21, 2026.

Zoning Board – No report given.

Board of Adjustment – No report given.

Public Works Dept. – Mayor Nelson stated that the council may have an option for resurfacing. The street department replaced the channel beam that someone plowed through by Ms. Lewis's house. David and Mayor Nelson rode to Marina Road to look at it and get an estimate. The estimate to get that done was about $110,000. Mayor Nelson called Ms. Lovegood to see if she had some discretionary money. The mayor needs to have the pay as you go information back in by May 8.

Item #8-New Business-

a. **4th of July Banners -** There was a misunderstanding on the pricing of banners. A motion by Mrs. Lambert was made to rescind the previous motion to authorize the purchase of banners and to purchase the banners from explosives for $1,260, since they are doing the installation. Mrs. Lynch seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion was carried.
b. **Trust Mark Bank -** Trust Mark is proposing a one-year contract with 3% interest. The issue of a short-term promissory note for less than one year payable within one year is off the table. The proposal is strictly for the banking accounts. The bank will honor the rates. The fees are negotiable.
   A motion was made by Mrs. Lambert and seconded by Mr. Brown to accept the proposal submitted by Trust Mark for changing over the bank account, including all accounts at the 3% fixed interest for one year. All in favor and the motion was carried.

   Roll Call: Council member Lambert: Yes; Council member Brown: Yes; Council member Lynch: Yes; Council member Palmer: Yes; Council member Howell: Yes; Mayor Nelson: Yes; Motion was passed.

c. The disc golf course looks good but needs some kind of ground cover. Options include rye grass or Centipede. Centipede is more expensive but may be a better long-term solution.
d. **4th of July** – Discussion on ordering coins to commemorate the 250th anniversary. - Considering ordering 100 coins at $3.95 each. Ideas for distribution include giving them out through police officers or park staff. Discussed the possibility of having food vendors at the event instead of preparing the food themselves. Mrs. Lambert has been talking about some games and different things to make it a commemorative event. Mrs. Lambert requested a free Freedom Mobile museum unit, an 18-wheeler mobile museum, but it hasn't hit Alabama yet. Discussion was made regarding a 250 commemorative coin.
   Mrs. Lambert made a motion, and it was seconded by Mr. Parmer to order 100 coins at the cost of the coins ($3.95 each) plus shipping. All in favor, and the motion was carried.
e. **Farmers Market Event** – A resident wants to organize a quarterly farmers' market at the park. The idea includes vendors selling food, arts, crafts, and vegetables. A vendor fee of $30 was mentioned, but it was clarified that any fees would need to go to the city. Concerns were raised about liability and health department regulations for vendors selling prepared foods. More information will be gathered and presented at the next meeting.
   Mr. Howell made a motion to allow farmer's market in the park with a $30 vendor charge to the city. Need a single point of contact to sign a contract, be responsible for the operation, have insurance, and indemnify the city. Mark and another person will discuss and come up with a plan for the next meeting.

f. **Resolution 2026-005 J. Hunt Enterprise Contract** – Mr. Howell made a motion and seconded by Mr. Brown to accept the bid of J. Hunt Enterprises for the park improvement project and approve Resolution 2026-005.ded.
Roll Call: Council member Lambert: Yes; Council member Brown: Yes; Council member Lynch: Yes; Council member Palmer: Yes; Council member Howell: Yes; Mayor Nelson: Yes; Motion was passed.

g. **Flag Purchase** – Mrs. Lynch made a motion to purchase five flags for $1200 with installation from Explosive Signs. An alternative price was given for five flags with hardware and shipping for $596. Concern was raised about the street department's ability to install the flags. The flags are vinyl, double-sided, and for one-time use for the 250th anniversary. - The street department will install the flags below the existing ones. A cheaper option for the flags is around $500-$600 for five with hardware. - The commemorative flags are to celebrate the 250th anniversary.
A motion to buy the 250 celebration flags for $600, including freight, was made by Mrs. Lambert and seconded by Mr. Parmer. All in favor, and the motion was carried.

Item #9 Mayor Comments

Mayor Nelson stated that the Notice of award received April 9th. And went to J. Hunt Enterprises. J. Hunt Enterprises to work on the park for $512,000. Danny and Jeremiah to look at the contract to see about a change order.
Mayor Nelson said they would decide whether to put out rye grass or let nature take over at the next meeting. Letting nature takeover means 13 more acres to cut.
Still waiting on a check from LCAP. Three things to consider: lights on the baseball field, playground equipment, and bleachers. Quotes for repairing existing lights versus replacing with LED are $5600 and $8400, respectively. Public Safety plat review on the April23rd at the police building.
Disabled vets visited the park and are excited about doing hot dogs and chips. Grant opportunity for a sign for the veteran's park. Grant is for $2500 and needs specifics and a budget.
Grant Opportunities:
Opportunity for a Lucas CPR grant, possibly $23,500.
Ideas for GOMISA projects should be submitted to Marcy or the mayor.

Attorney Danny Mims read the following excerpt from Alabama Code §36-25A-7(a)(1) regarding Executive sessions stating that they may be held by a governmental body only for the following purposes:
(1) To discuss the general reputation and character, physical condition, professional competence, or mental health of individuals, or, subject to the limitations set out herein, to discuss the job performance of certain public employees. However, except as provided elsewhere in this section, discussions of the job performance of specific public officials or specific public employees may not be discussed in executive session if the person is an elected or appointed public official, an appointed member of a state or local board or commission, or a public employee who is one of the classification of public employees required to file a statement of economic interests with the Alabama Ethics Commission pursuant to Section §36-25-14 . Except as provided elsewhere in this section, the salary, compensation, and job benefits of specific public officials or specific public employees may not be discussed in executive session.

Mr. Howell made a motion to leave the regular session and enter Executive session for purpose of discussion of items falling under §36-25A-7 (a)(1) and then to adjourn after the executive session is over. Mr. Parmer seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Council member Lambert: Yes; Council member Brown: Yes; Council member Lynch: Yes; Council member Palmer: Yes; Council member Howell: Yes; Mayor Nelson: Yes; Motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Don Nelson
Mayor

Marcy Brown
City Clerk