Crossett City Council met in regular session March 19, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Crossett Library.

Roll call vote was taken as follows:

Present: City Attorney James Hamilton

Councilmember’s: Crystal Marshall, Eddie Rowe, James Knight, CT Foster, Lynn Rodgers

Absent: Clerk/Treasurer Jesse Walthall, Mayor Scott McCormick

Councilwoman Valerie Martin

In the absence of Mayor McCormick, Councilwoman Rodgers conducted the meeting.

Councilwoman Rodgers called the meeting to order with prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the regular meeting of February 20, 2018 and the February 28, 2018 special meeting were presented. Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilman Knight to approve the minutes. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Financial reports for February were presented. Questions regarding several line items were addressed. Motion by Councilwoman Marshall, seconded by Councilman Knight to approve the financial report. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

At the council’s request, representatives from Media 3, Mr. Dan Olden and Mr. Kenneth Moss were present. Councilwoman Rodgers explained that they were asked to be present as the council receives many calls from citizens with complaints about the local service. She asked if there were any plans to upgrade the system. She also mentioned that the closing of the local office has caused an inconvenience for residence. Councilwoman Rodgers added that the lack of communication between the company and the city and the late payments on local franchise taxes are also major concerns.

Mr. Olden explained that there are some things in the works which will help with the local problems. He also stated that updates will enable live streaming and open lines, which is causing interference, for citizens are being address. The company is hoping to offer fiber optic lines to business customers soon. Mr. Olden was taking concerns over franchise fees back to business office to be resolved. He stated that he will personally keep the council updated and be accessible for all needs and concerns.

Councilwoman Rodgers asked for update on contracts.

City Attorney stated that he has looked at the contract between RAM software and Crossett Ambulance Service for 3rd party billing. He stated that this is a 2-year contract, but after the first 2 years, it will be renewed annually. He feels that the contract is adequate for the city’s needs. Motion by Councilwoman Marshall, seconded by Councilman Rowe to enter into the contract. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

City Attorney Hamilton stated that he has looked at the contract between the Volunteers of the Crossett Pound and the city and sees no issues. Council asked Police Chief JW Cruce to get the contract executed.

The contract with Crossett School FFA for use of the petting zoo at Crossland Park has not yet been secured.

Director of Public Works Jeff Harrison informed the council that signs have been placed at the north and south ends of Main Street showing no trucks allowed. These are universal picture signs.

Councilwoman Rodgers asked if anyone has been contacted concerning the city planner. No action has been taken.

Councilwoman Rodgers reminded City Attorney Hamilton that a resolution recognizing Mr. Jerry Brantley for his years of service as chairman of the board of the Crossett Library should be available for the April meeting.

An update of the telephone upgrades was asked. The drop lines have been installed at the 201 Main location. Projected date of completion for this building is end of March or first of April.

An ordinance for workplace drug testing was presented for council to consider at next month’s meeting.

Councilwoman Rodgers informed council that the qualifying bid for energy services was only met by Entegrity. She has been in touch with Mr. Sam Selig. A sample project development agreement was given to council for consideration. A special meeting with Mr. Selig is scheduled for April 3, 2018 at 4:00 at the Crossett City Hall.

Mr. Nathan Rutledge with Crews and Associates was present. He recognized the City of Crossett as honorable mention recipient of Arkansas Business Trendsetter City for Education/Workforce. Councilwoman Rodgers recognized Mike Smith with Crossett Economic Development and others who were detrimental in Crossett receiving this award.

Councilwoman Marshall asked for an update on the spillway. DOPW Jeff Harrison explained that due to excessive amounts of rain recently, parts of the spillway had washed out. Trees have been removed and the banks have been repaired. The road from 5-point area to the spillway has also been repaired and a locked gate has been installed.

Councilwoman Rodgers stated that she has spoken with Mr. Wilburn Austin with Austin and Sons Pest Control in regards to mosquito spraying. She is hoping to get this started earlier this year as mosquitos are already present. She asked that a contract be drawn up between the City of Crossett and Austin Pest Control for this service. Councilwoman Rodgers added that she will contact Mayor McCormick and ask him to proceed with this. Councilwoman Marshall stated in other towns this fee is charged back to citizens on their water bills. She asked if city had considered this. This has never been mentioned.

Councilwoman Rodgers opened the floor to the audience for questions or comments.

Mr. Claude Spainhour, Crossett Sewer Committee, asked if the city has received any word on any grants for sewer rehab. Mr. Smith, CEDF, stated that several grants are still in the works.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned.

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Jesse Walthall, Clerk/Treasurer Marshall S. McCormick, Mayor