Crossett City Council met in regular session January 28, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Crossett Library.

Roll call vote was taken as follows:

Present: Mayor Scott McCormick

Also Present: CPA Clark Terrell

Councilmember’s: Cary Carter, Crystal Marshall, Dale Martinie, James Knight, CT Foster, Lynn Rodgers

Absent: City Attorney James Hamilton, Clerk/Treasurer Jesse Walthall

Mayor McCormick called the meeting to order with prayer and Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilwoman Rodgers to approve the minutes of the regular November 19, 2018 meeting as well as the special meetings of December 10, December 28 morning, December 28 afternoon and January 14, 2019. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilman Carter to approve the financial statements for December 2018. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and financial statements are approved.

Councilwoman Crystal Marshall updated the council on the progress the committee is making with the personnel handbook. The team has had several meetings and feels certain the handbook will be revised by the deadline.

Mr. Claude Spainhour, chairman of the Crossett Sewer Committee, addressed the council with concerns regarding financing of the $7 million sewer rehab project. This has been discussed for several years, and no financing method has been secured yet. Grants and an ARNRC loan have been discussed, but no applications have been submitted. Mr. Spainhour added that he has spoken to officers with Crossett Economic Development Foundation and answered questions from EDA. Councilwoman Rodgers asked Mike Smith, director of CEDF, to give updates to Mr. Spainhour at least every two weeks.

Mayor McCormick reminded the council that several years ago, Thad Douglas with Crossett Service Company asked council for deed on a strip of property located around his business. The council agreed to the proposal if Mr. Douglas would have the land surveyed. Mr. Douglas met that obligation, but the process was slowed by the deed itself. Originally, the strip of land was deeded to the city of Crossett by Crossett Company with the stipulation that if the city ever quit using the property, ownership would revert to Crossett Company. Mr. Douglas has been in contact with City Attorney Hamilton as well as attorneys from Weyerhauser (the current owner of Crossett Company land holdings). He has been advised that if the city will abandon the property, it will revert to Weyerhauser and they can subsequently deed the property to Mr. Douglas and Crossett Service Company. Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilman Foster to officially declare the property as abandoned by the City of Crossett. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor McCormick introduced Mr. Mike Sinnema with American Legion. Mr. Sinnema asked the council to extend the lease of property located at 807 Main Street. Currently, the term of the lease is for 10 years. Motion by Councilwoman Marshall, seconded by Councilman Rodgers to extend the lease for 99 years. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passes.

Mayor McCormick stated that since some of the council has changed, now is the time for organizational meeting discussions. Councilwoman Rodgers asked that finance meetings, normally held on the 2nd Monday at 4:00, be changed to 2nd Monday at 4:30. Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilman Knight to make this change. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion carries

Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilwoman Marshall to continue with regular monthly meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Crossett Library, and to hold all special meetings on Monday’s unless emergency circumstances exist. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion carries.

Motion by Councilwoman Marshall, seconded by Councilman Knight to have Councilwoman Rodgers sit in as chairperson of the council when Mayor is not present. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passes.

Mayor McCormick presented a proposed resolution finalizing the 2018 budget. Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilman Carter to have Mayor McCormick read the proposed resolution. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passes and Mayor read resolution. Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilman Knight to adopt Resolution R-2019-1. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion carries and Resolution R-2019-1 is adopted.

Larry Cantley, Crossett Recreation Director, updated the council on projects with recreation department. He explained that both Crossett Babe Ruth and Crossett Softball Association are in transition periods with new officers and possible a change to baseball associations. Questions concerning contracts with associations and monetary agreements were addressed. He added that city park is much improved, but before drastic improvements can be made, new equipment will need to be purchased. Council commended Mr. Cantley on improvements.

Crossett Recreation Commission Chairperson Shelley Carter reported on pool project. She explained that with fund raisers by Crossett Swim Again and Blue and You donation, there is around $195,000 available to begin pool renovations. The city and local contractors will offer in-kind labor as match for a grant. The first phase of the project has been bid out and a contractor found. Work should begin in early spring and hopefully have this phase complete by mid to end of summer.

**STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS**

Mayor McCormick delivered his state of the city address. He mentioned that financial condition of the city has improved over the past few years thanks to diligence from the council and department heads. Mayor McCormick showed gratitude to Mr. Clark Terrell, for his assistance with financial matters with the city. Mayor spoke of changes to street and sanitation department, and pay increases for all city employees. He reminded council of equipment purchased and the uses of the equipment. Mayor McCormick informed the council that Arkansas State Aid Street Committee has approved a grant for resurfacing some city streets including 9th Avenue from Main to Cedar, Cedar Street from 9th to Hwy 82, and Beech Street from 6th to Hwy 82 at a cost of $241,500.00. This work should begin in spring of summer. Mayor McCormick stated the city has some big issues that need to be dealt with over the next few months. The funding of the sewer project, the pool renovations and the Municipal Building are a few of the issues that will need to be addressed. All in all, Mayor McCormick feels that the city is in good standings and looks forward to working with this council, department heads, city employees and citizens in the coming year.

Councilwoman Rodgers updated the council on the street and sanitation study. She stated that this study has been ongoing for over 2 years now, and doesn’t take this lightly. She explained issues with collection of leaves and limbs and the problems that the city is having. She informed the council of the cost impact and the environmental impact this is causing the city. Councilwoman Rodgers reminded the council of the options that have been discussed and the reasons they are not feasible. She asked Director of Public Works Jeff Harrison to share more information. Mr. Harrison gave reports of the equipment maintenance cost, labor cost and general the number of employees it takes to run the current services. Mr. Harrison gave options that could be discussed if the service is to continue. He also suggested that the city consider going to a one-arm garbage truck in order to utilize more city employees in places of need. There are many things that need to be addressed that currently are neglected simply because the city doesn’t have the manpower.

Councilwoman Rodgers reminded the council that it is the job of the council to manage and control the city’s finances and set policies. She feels that the city should operate at safely and efficiently and keep a cleaner town. Councilwoman Rodgers asked that the council approve a public hearing for February 11, 2019 at 5:15 at the Crossett Economic Development Foundation. Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilman Knight to hold the town hall meeting at the time and place mentioned. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned.

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