Crossett City Council met in regular session September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Crossett Library.

Roll call vote was taken as follows:

Present: City Attorney James Hamilton

Councilmember’s: Valerie Martin, Crystal Marshall, CT Foster, James Knight and Lynn Rodgers

Absent: Mayor Scott McCormick, Councilman Eddie Rowe

In the absence of Mayor McCormick, Councilwoman Lynn Rodgers served as acting mayor.

Acting Mayor Rodgers opened the meeting with prayer and pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Minutes of the regular meeting from August 27 were discussed. Motion by Councilwoman Martin, seconded by Councilwoman Marshall to approve the minutes. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Motion by Councilwoman Marshall, seconded by Councilwoman Martin to approve the August 2018 financial statements. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Acting Mayor Rodgers asked Councilwoman Marshall to update the council on Halloween festivity plans. Councilwoman Marshall stated that the group appointed by Mayor McCormick have met and discussed many issues. The proposal has been well received by the residents in the community as well. School groups have volunteered to set up booths and school property can be used for parking. Local businesses will also be invited to participate. Councilwoman Marshall added that it is important to keep a safe environment for the participants. Motion by Councilwoman Martin, seconded by Councilman Knight to endorse the Halloween carnival proposal. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Acting Mayor Rodgers asked for an update on Media 3. Assistant Clerk/Treasurer Lisa Gulledge informed the council that after many phone calls and several threatening messages, the city did receive a check in the amount of $10,684 for payment of 2nd, 3rd, 4th quarter of 2017 and 1st quarter 2018. They now owe for 2nd and 3rd quarter 2018.

Acting Mayor Rodgers updated the council on the street and sanitation situation. She added that from January – August the city crews have picked up 2,006 loads of tree debris. So far in September, 992 loads have been collected. Director of Public Works Jeff Harrison stated that ADEQ has granted the City of Crossett a temporary burn permit. This is a 120-day permit. Mr. Harrison added that at the end of the 120 days, an extension may be granted. He feels that the extension is inevitable. The site chosen will be south end of the sports complex. A gate and a temporary fence will have to be placed and locked. The permit is for city burning only. Residents will not be allowed to burn at this site. Mr. Harrison is placing an ad in the Ashley News Observer explaining the situation to the citizens of Crossett.

Acting Mayor Rodgers reiterated the need for a permanent solution for this matter. Engineering Firms are being contacted to see if they are familiar with the steps to setting up a compost factory

Acting Mayor Rodgers informed council that Mr. Sam Selig with Entegrity is ready to present the energy audit. The council planned the meeting for Wednesday, September 26 at 4:00 at the Crossett Economic Development Foundation.

Mrs. Beverly Gammel, Albert Mills and Mary Jo Jones were present to give an update on Crossett Water Commission. Mr. Mills stated that they have received word that they were approved for the entire $1.5 million loan. This will let them change and upgrade all meters. Official notification should be received by end of the week.

Acting Mayor Rodgers asked for update of FEMA package. Police Chief JW Cruce stated that Mayor McCormick gave him the presentation and he has looked at it. He will pass it on to the next department. Chief Cruce added that most of the procedure they recommend is currently in place in the city. He did suggest that a central location such as the Crossett Sports Complex would be an excellent headquarters and where tasks can be assigned and an accurate record of volunteers can be kept.

Mr. Claude Spainhour, chairman of the Crossett Sewer Committee, was asked to update the council on proposed rate increase to cover East Crossett Expansion. Mr. Spainhour presented a proposal based on the total amount of $7 million loan at 4/5% interest rate for a 20-year term. The monthly payment would be around $47,344. The current sewer rate brings in about $41,104 per month. With this additional payment, rates would increase over 120%. Currently the minimum usage charge is $15.38/month and would increase to $33.88/month if this is the way the council chooses to fund the expansion. Mr. Spainhour added that the committee will be asking for a rate increase to fund daily operations soon. Acting Mayor Rodgers asked that a working session be scheduled one grant information is received to further discuss options for payment.

Fire Chief Leroy Higginbotham presented information regarding the “No Rider” policy he has in place for the ambulance service. The only exception for this policy is if there is a communication issue or if the patient is a minor. Chief Higginbotham explained that this protects both the city and the citizen should there be an accident or critical care is needed for the patient. Chief Higginbotham was asked to meet with City Attorney Hamilton and compose a formal policy that can be backed by administration. Acting Mayor Rodgers added that a waiver agreement may need to be drafted for those extreme cases where it is necessary to allow passenger.

City Attorney Hamilton presented a proposed ordinance granting Mayor McCormick authority to purchase a new truck for Crossett Drainage Department. Acting Mayor Rodgers explained this truck is to replace a truck that was totaled in the drainage department. Insurance settlement has been received for the wrecked truck in the amount of $6,500.

Motion by Councilwoman Martin, seconded by Councilman Knight to have City Attorney Hamilton read proposed Ordinance 2018-4 for the first reading in its entirety. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Hamilton read.

Motion by Councilwoman Martin, seconded by Councilman Knight to suspend the 3-day reading rule and read proposed ordinance for second reading by title only. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Hamilton read by title only.

Motion by Councilwoman Martin, seconded by Councilman Knight to further suspend the rule and read for 3rd and final reading by title only. Roll call vote. Motion passed and Hamilton read for 3rd reading by title only.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-4 by Councilwoman Martin, seconded by Councilman Foster. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Ordinance 2018-4 is adopted.

Motion by Councilwoman Martin, seconded by Councilman Knight to adopt the emergency clause attached to the ordinance. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and emergency clause is adopted.

Acting Mayor Rodgers opened the floor to the audience and asked for any other business that needs to be brought before the council. Mr. Roy Langstaff asked council to recognize the 90th birthday of Mr. Fredrick T. Evans. Council congratulated Mr. Evans on his birthday.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned.

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