Crossett City Council met in regular session July 16, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Crossett Library.

Roll call vote was taken as follows:

Present: Mayor Scott McCormick, City Attorney James Hamilton

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

Absent: Clerk/Treasurer Jesse Walthall

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

Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilman Rowe to approve the minutes of the regular council meeting of June 18 and special meeting of June 27. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Financial Reports were discussed. Motion by Councilwoman Martin, seconded by Councilman Knight to approve the June Financial report. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor McCormick asked Councilwoman Rodgers for an update on proposed ordinance for garbage rate adjustments. Councilwoman Rodgers reminded the council that when the study began there was an enormous pile of debris at the street and sanitation barn. Arrangements were made to have those piles removed, but now the stacks are reaccumulating. Councilwoman Rodgers has spoken to Ms. Martha Trace about creative ways to handle recycling and to Shane Knight the new solid waste director at SEADC. She feels that before the ordinance is discussed, the city should find alternate ways to remove debris. Councilwoman Rodgers hopes to bring back more information at next month’s meeting.

Councilwoman Rodgers also presented Mayor McCormick with information discussed at the June meeting concerning Emergency Disaster Recovery and FEMA paperwork. She suggested that Mayor McCormick contact Mr. Casey Williams to discuss setting this in motion.

Mayor McCormick asked Code Enforcer Tony Jones to update council on his progress. Mr. Jones stated that since the first of the year, 98 certified letters have been mailed, 14 houses have been demolished, 20 vehicles moved and several unsightly yards have been cleaned. He added that 9 more houses are scheduled for demolition this year. Mr. Jones also informed the council that he has been asked to serve on the State Code Enforcement Board. He is excited about making more contacts and comparing procedures with that of other cities.

Mayor McCormick introduced Tina Carter to the council. Mrs. Carter addressed council concerning properties within the city limits. She would like to form a committee interested in saving some of the local buildings, especially the city building located at 307 Main and the restaurant located on the corner of Main and 3rd Avenue. She would like to bring in citizens and businesses to work together for improvements. Mrs. Carter asked council to consider this proposal.

City Attorney Hamilton presented proposed resolutions to levy property taxes within the city of Crossett for the operation of Crossett Library. Hamilton reminded the council that this is standard procedure and not a new levy. This allows county to collect property taxes for the year. Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilwoman Martin to have City Attorney Hamilton read proposed Resolution R-2018-7. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Hamilton read proposal. Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilwoman Martin to adopt Resolution R-2018-7. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and resolution was adopted.

City Attorney Hamilton presented a proposed resolution to levy 5 mills property taxes within the city of Crossett. Motion by Councilwoman Martin, seconded by Councilman Knight to have City Attorney read proposed Resolution R-2018-8. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Hamilton read the proposal. Motion by Councilwoman Martin, seconded by Councilman Knight to adopt Resolution R-2018-8. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and resolution was adopted. Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilwoman Martin to adopt both emergency clauses attached to R-2018-7 and R-2018-8. Voice vote was taken. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carries.

Mayor McCormick stated that there was some confusion and controversy during the Christmas parade as to ATV’s being allowed to participate in the event. City ordinance states that no ATV’s will be allowed on city streets but have always been allowed to ride during local parades. Councilwoman Martin asked if it is necessary to make an exception in the ordinance to allow those vehicles to participate. Mr. Howard Beatty, a member of the Crossett Chamber of Commerce, asked that this be allowed with the stipulation that the vehicles be registered with the event sponsor.

Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilman Knight to make exception for golf carts, side by sides and 4-wheelers to participate in local parades provided participant has registered with the event sponsor and rides only on the parade route and through the duration of the parade. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Rodgers informed the council that she has spoken to Mr. Gary Williams, superintendent of Crossett Schools, concerning the Crossett Auditorium. The auditorium is owned by the city of Crossett but maintained and managed by the Crossett School District. With the construction of the new school facilities it is uncertain as to whether the school district will continue to operate and maintain the building. Councilwoman Rodgers wants council to keep this in mind during budget preparations.

Mayor McCormick asked Mr. Claude Spainhour, Chairman of the Crossett Sewer Committee, to update council on grant applications for East Crossett Sewer Rehab. Mr. Spainhour stated that one grant request has been submitted in the amount of $300,000. The estimated cost of the project is $7 million. Councilman Knight asked if this could be covered with a rate increase. Mr. Spainhour added again that he does not feel that is a fair way to handle to cost. He added that the committee appointed to study this is still active and awaiting answers concerning grants.

Mayor McCormick opened the floor to the audience. Mr. Derrick Evans thanked the administration for the help with playground at the Crossett Youth Center. He especially appreciated Mrs. Crystal Marshall, Mr. Eddie Cheatham and Mrs. Mary Lampkin for helping to secure funds for the project.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned.

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