Crossett city council met in joint working session with Crossett Sewer Committee and Community Sewer Committee on November 13, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. at the City Economic Development Foundation.

Present: Mayor Marshall McCormick and CPA Clark Terrell

Council Members: Martin, Rowe, Foster, Marshall and Rodgers

Absent: Councilman Knight, Clerk/Treasurer Walthall and City Attorney James Hamilton

Mayor McCormick called the meeting to order. He stated the purpose of this meeting is to discuss option for sewer expansion project.

Mayor McCormick opened the floor for discussion.

Community Committee member Howard Beatty informed the group of a loan from Arkansas Natural Resource Commission. The terms of the loan are 30 years at 3% interest. Mr. Beatty suggested that the council apply for this loan. If criteria is met, ANRC will inform Crossett Sewer Committee where the rates would need to be in order to secure adequate funds for repayment.

Mr. Claude Spainhour, Crossett Sewer Committee chairman, added that they are needing a rate increase of around 22.2% to maintain day to day operations and be able to obtain the surplus funds for pre-determined maintenance schedule. He also stated that the sewer inspection, which was to be performed by contractor, can be done in-house if two more employees are hired for the sewer department. When asked what percentage of the existing sewer system this upgrade would be, he answered approximately 5%.

Mr. Spainhour also explained that there are approximately 2,719 residential customers on Crossett sewer system. He feels that it would be unfair to put the full burden of the $7 million expense on the current customers. He reminded council that a sales tax issue will allow everyone that comes in from out of the area to shop in our retail establishments to help pay for the project.

Mike Smith, CEDF director and member of community committee, stated that there are several major projects that need to be taken care of in Crossett. He suggested this be researched and a bond project be discussed to cover repayment.

As no decision can be made in a working session, the council asked that the loan application be discussed in the finance meeting. All agree.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

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