Crossett City Council met in regular session August 19, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Crossett Library.

Roll call vote was taken as follows:

Present: Mayor Scott McCormick, City Attorney James Hamilton

Also Present: CPA Clark Terrell

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

Absent: Clerk/Treasurer Jesse Walthall

Mayor McCormick called the meeting to order with prayer and pledge allegiance to the flag.

Motion by Councilwoman Marshall, seconded by Councilman Carter to approve the minutes for special meetings of June 10, June 24 and July 10 and regular council meeting of June 17, 2019. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilman Foster to approve the financial statements for June, 2019. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor McCormick asked Councilwoman Marshall for an update on the city pool. Mrs. Marshall stated that several obstacles have risen delaying the opening of the pool, but feels like it is getting close. She projected with the remaining work to be done and state inspections it will most likely be August 1st. She added that Crossett Schools resume on August 13 and asked the council to consider allowing public swim to be at free until that time. Mrs. Marshall stated that citizens have been eager but very patient. She feels like this will be good for public relations and will also get citizens acquainted with the new features of the pool. Councilman Carter asked if this would overwhelm the lifeguards. Not knowing how many to expect may cause hardships. Councilwoman Marshall suggested that if so, a schedule can be worked out allowing different groups at different times. For instance, Crossett Middle School 8th grade class won the competition for fundraising. They could be given the first free day. Pool Manager Sarah Hollimon would be responsible for how that could be handled. Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilman Martinie to allow public swim for no charge until school starts. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Councilwoman Marshall reminded the council that at the May council meeting, permission to hire a maintenance person was given. Shortly after that, Georgia-Pacific announced the lay off of over 500 people. Mayor McCormick and the city council had decided to put that position on hold until we better know how this will affect our economy. Mrs. Marshall reiterated the importance of this position and how many structures are in need of repair. She added that the budget has been looked at closely and money has been found that can cover the expense without having to get into the windfall account. Mrs. Marshall proposed that we move forward with hiring this person. Councilman Martinie asked how this would work. It was explained that this employee will be under the direction of the Director of Public Works, Jeff Harrison and a work order system will be in place. Mr. Harrison will be responsible for prioritizing the work orders. Councilman Carter asked where the money will come from in future years. He added that we still don’t know what the future will hold for our economy and is afraid to make this commitment not knowing. Councilwoman Marshall reminded everyone that we are currently contracting out many of the jobs this employee will be able to do. She feels with that savings we should be able to assure this position. Motion by Councilwoman Marshall, seconded by Councilman Knight to proceed with the hiring. Roll call vote. Carter-abstained, Marshall – yes, Martinie – yes, Knight – yes, Foster – yes, Rodgers – yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Rodgers asked if there was ever a contract for mosquito spraying. Mayor McCormick stated that he has spoken with Dennis Terrell and they are in the process. Mayor added that with the death of Mr. Austin, things have been busy there.

Councilwoman Marshall asked for an update of property liens which were sent to City Attorney Hamilton in October 2018. Mr. Hamilton stated that he will look into this and get update to council at next meeting.

Councilman Martinie asked about the progress of razing the houses that are scheduled for demolishing. Mr. Harrison stated that several are waiting on approval from the state. He added that the drainage crew is who is used to do this task and spring and summer months are busy times for them.

Councilwoman Rodgers presented a letter of resignation effective immediately. She explained that she and her husband are moving their residency to Wilmot and will no longer be able to serve. She expressed gratitude to Mayor and other council members as well as department heads and city employees for allowing her to serve. Councilwoman Marshall had a prepared rebuttal statement expressing thankfulness for the job Councilwoman Rodgers has done during her tenure and remorse for her leaving. All present wished her well. Motion by Councilwoman Marshall, seconded by Councilman Knight to accept Mrs. Rodgers resignation. Roll call vote. All vote yes.

Councilwoman Marshall inquired about the process for replacing Councilwoman Rodgers. Mayor McCormick stated that in the past, interested parties submitted names to other councilmembers and the entire council voted on an interim council person. Councilwoman Marshall added that this should be done as soon as possible.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned.

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