Crossett city council met in special session September 9, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. at the Crossett Annex Building.

Present: Mayor McCormick

Council Members: Marshall, Martinie, Phillips, Foster and Carter

Absent: Councilman Knight

Clerk/Treasurer Walthall, City Attorney James Hamilton

Mayor McCormick called the meeting to order. He announced that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss financial statements of August, 2019 and re-appropriate funds for Crossett Youth Center.

Financial reports were presented to council.

Councilwoman Marshall stated that as of yet, the sales tax revenue hasn’t been affected negatively due to the Georgia-Pacific lay-off announcement. She added that she has spoken to Brian Sansousie with Arkansas Department of Finance Sales Tax Division to confirm that the warning of significant loss of sales tax revenue was due to the fact that the sales tax bond is no longer being collected. Sales tax revenue received in the month of August is mostly collected in June. Councilman Martinie added that he doesn’t feel that the city will see much loss of revenue in 2019, but expects significant changes in 2020.

Director of Public Works, Jeff Harrison, updated council on Main Street street light rehab. Entergy will change Main Street lights to LED. They will evaluate poles and change out damaged ones. Mr. Harrison asked about city painting poles and was told that because the poles belong to Entergy, the city can contract with them to paint but cannot do it ourselves. Changing fixtures to LED should improve lighting as well as save energy.

Councilwoman Marshall stated that our plans for the crosswalk lights for Crossett Schools was not approved by the Arkansas State Highway Department. Our proposed cost of plan was $8,000 and the state’s suggested adjustment will cost around $24,000. Marshall added that Crossett Schools will not be able to share in the expense of this as it is not school property. She suggested this be considered in next year’s budget preparations. Councilwoman Marshall also advised that there may be grants available through Arkansas Highway Department to help with this expense.

Councilwoman Marshall reminded the council that there is $25,000 in the budget for basketball court and repairs to the Crossett Youth Center. The repairs have been made, but because of the expense, the basketball court is not going to be considered this year. There is around $10,000 left in the budget for use at the center. The Crossett Youth Center Board has asked that the city consider re-appropriating that money for a pavilion to be built on the premises. There is also money budgeted in ADA which can be spent for sidewalk. The board and others are working on fund raisers to make up any difference in expense. Motion by Councilwoman Marshall, seconded by Councilman Martinie to re-appropriate the funds and allow for pavilion and sidewalk. Voice vote taken. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.

Mr. Jeff Harrison, DOPW, updated council on street overlay project. Pine Bluff Sand and Gravel was awarded the bid, but they bid on several jobs in the state bid project. They are currently working in other areas, but have our project scheduled for completion around the end of November or the first of October.

Councilman Carter asked about the hiring of a city maintenance person. Mr. Harrison stated he has received 5 applications and will begin the interview process within the next couple of weeks.

Councilman Martinie inquired as to the status of property liens. They have been given the 30-day demand notice and are on the council agenda for October 21. One property, located at 404 Oak Street, is scheduled to be on the agenda for the September 16 meeting.

With no further discussion or comments, the meeting was adjourned.

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