Crossett City Council met in regular session February 25, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Crossett Library.

Roll call vote was taken as follows:

Present: Mayor Scott McCormick

Also Present: CPA Clark Terrell

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

Absent: Clerk/Treasurer Jesse Walthall

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

Minutes of the January 28, 2019 regular council meeting and February 11, 2019 special meeting were presented. Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilman Carter to approve both sets of minutes. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Financial reports for January 2019 were presented. Questions were addressed and corrections noted. Motion by Councilwoman Marshall, seconded by Councilman Knight to approve financial reports as amended. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

City Attorney James Hamilton presented a copy of a quick claim deed for property owned by Georgia-Pacific. Mr. Hamilton explained that when Georgia-Pacific was doing new construction, property was deeded to the city of Crossett so that the company didn’t have to pay sales tax and property tax on the new construction. The bonds have long since paid off and the land should be deeded back to the Georgia-Pacific Corporation. This will enable the city to begin collecting property taxes on the site. Motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilwoman Rodgers to have Mayor McCormick sign and execute the quick claim deed. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

City Attorney Hamilton, on behalf of William Spivey, invited the council to a Municipal Finance Seminar on March 8.

Councilwoman Rodgers presented a revised proposal for the leaf/limb/junk and garbage service for the city of Crossett. She asked the council to consider each proposal and make this effective March 1. Questions were asked concerning the definition of the size of a load as well as the recommended cost. Councilman Carter stated that he feels that the $50 charge is unreasonable. Councilwoman Rodgers explained that this cost covers labor charges only and doesn’t even take into consideration the price of fuel, tipping fees or maintenance on vehicles. Councilman Martinie stated that he thinks this could be a good business opportunity for someone willing to offer a service to citizens. Several members of the audience expressed concern over the charge for the service, charging individually rather than across the board rate increase for garbage, and defining what is considered a load. As far as sidewinder garbage pickup, concerns were voiced as to what the city could do if an elderly or handicapped residence was unable to roll the canister to the curb and if the city will allow money in the budget for maintenance on the canisters. Another citizen asked how the issue of vehicles parked on the side of the street would affect the sidewinder pickup. Mr. Harrison explained that all these things have been discussed in detail. He added that he realizes that there will be some issues that will have to be worked out, but feels certain that this can be done.

Councilwoman Rodgers reminded the council and the audience that the public meeting that was held earlier in the month was the time for residence to ask questions. At that public meeting, several citizens understood the dilemma the city is in with disposing of the debris and the cost associated with the leaf/limb service. She added that citizens implied that they would be willing to pay for the service. Councilwoman Rodgers stated that she feels that this proposal was a good compromise. She asked the council to consider having a working session to discuss further. Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilman Martinie to have a working session meeting on Monday, March 4 at 6:00 p.m. at the city annex building. Roll call vote. All vote yes.

City Attorney Hamilton stated that once the council has made a decision on the matter, an ordinance will be drafted and considered. When the ordinance is passed and published, there will be a 30-day referendum for citizens to appeal.

Councilwoman Crystal Marshall updated the council on the status of handbook update. A rough draft has been completed and several questions and concerns have been sent to Arkansas Municipal League for consideration. Once those answers are received, the draft will be sent to AML for review. Upon their approval or suggestions, the council will be presented a copy for review. Councilwoman Marshall asked that they meet in special session on April 1 for discussion. All agree to meet on April 1, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. for review.

Mayor McCormick asked council to approve the appointment of Curtis Boston to the Board of Adjustment Committee. Motion by Councilman Martinie, seconded by Councilman Carter to approve the appointment. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mr. Steve Johnson and Mr. Herb Hutchison addressed the council concerning alley in block 12 of the city of Crossett. This alley is located between property that the two of them own. Mr. Johnson has purchased the old Murphy’s Ford building and is bringing new business to town. They are asking the council to abandon the alley in order for Mr. Johnson to expand his property. The alley has not been used in several years. Although they do not believe it to be the case, Mr. Johnson agreed to ensure that there are no utility lines that will be affected by this. Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilman Martinie to begin the legal procedures to show the alley as abandoned by the city. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Councilwoman Marshall reminded the members that regular meeting for March will normally be March 18. This is Spring Break week for the school students and several members of the council will not be available for that meeting. She asked if the council would consider changing the date. The meeting date was changed to March 11 at 6:00 at the Crossett Library.

Assistant Clerk Treasurer Lisa Gulledge asked council for permission to publish for bins a request for qualifications for bond council in order to apply for the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission loan and grant for the Crossett Sewer project. Motion by Councilwoman Marshall, seconded by Councilman Carter to grant permission to publicize for qualifications for bond council. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mary Jo Jones, representing Crossett Water Commission, presented financial reports for June 2018. She added that by next month, she hopes to have reports through the 3rd quarter 2018.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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