Crossett city council met in special session January 30, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. in the lobby of the City Hall Annex building.

Present: Mayor McCormick

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

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

Mayor McCormick announced that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss the 2018 budget proposal and overtime for fire department.

Fire Chief Leroy Higginbotham presented council with a packet of information explaining the shifts and the reason for the current overtime. Chief Higginbotham also stated that he feels like the fire department was unfairly represented in the Ashley News Observer article. Chief Higginbotham added that he has talked to fire departments in Arkansas which use comp time instead of overtime. He has been told that the employees must agree to do this. Chief Higginbotham added that there are some things that can be tightened up and he will make efforts to do so. He explained that he is currently working 7 per shift. If he considers cutting this back to 5 per shift, some services will be lost. Cutting transfers cuts revenue.

Councilwoman Rodgers stated that since Crossett’s population has decreased, maybe we are trying to offer too many services. Councilwoman Rodgers suggested that the city look into a private ambulance service.

Mayor McCormick asked that a committee be formed to discuss options. He asked that Councilwoman Marshall and Councilman Rowe be involved in this as well as Mr. Clark Terrell, Val McMillan and other concerned citizens.

Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilwoman Martin to approve the 2018 proposed budget and establish a committee for research concerning the city ambulance service. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

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