Crossett City Council met in regular session August 21, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Crossett Library.

Roll call vote was taken as follows:

Present: Mayor Scott McCormick, City Attorney James Hamilton, Clerk/Treasurer Jesse Walthall

Councilmember’s: Valarie Martin, Crystal Marshall, Eddie Rowe, James Knight, CT Foster, Lynn Rodgers

Absent: None

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

Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilman Knight to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 17, 2017 and the special financial meeting of August 14, 2017. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilman Foster to approve the July financial reports. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor McCormick updated council on the cleanup of the city park and Lucas Pond area. Mr. Gerald Kelley and Dan McGhee have been working at the park. Dead trees have been removed and most of the walkway around the pond has been cleaned. Councilwoman Martin asked if the city would consider seeking bids for a contractor to clean pond and park area to the point that the city crews can maintain. Motion by Councilwoman Martin, seconded by Councilwoman Rodgers to prepare a scope of work and present for bids. Councilwoman Marshall added that the city will be responsible for continued maintenance once the initial work is performed. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Jeff Harrison, Director of Public Works, added that an estimate of $880,000 was given to replace the 4-mile walking trail sidewalk around Lucas Pond. Councilwoman Rodgers asked if any natural substance could be used instead of concrete. This is something that can be looked into.

Mr. Harrison updated the council on the 2020 census. He and his administrative assistant, Kesha Campbell, will be doing online training in preparation for the 2020 census. Councilwoman Rodgers reminded that state funding is directly related to our census count. She asked that care be taken to make sure that maps and numbers are accurate.

Councilwoman Rodgers reminded the council that at a prior meeting it was mentioned that Heiffer International may be interested in the zoo area. Mrs. Rodgers inquired as to whether there was any correspondence concerning that proposal. Mayor McCormick stated that he has not spoken to anyone from Heiffer, but Mr. Sammy Cox, Crossett High School FFA sponsor, has expressed interest in using the petting zoo area for students to house pigs. Mayor McCormick gave permission for them to use the petting zoo area, and asked City Attorney Hamilton to work with Crossett School attorney to prepare a joint use agreement.

Councilwoman Marshall introduced Adam Sipes and asked him to give an update on the disk golf course at the Crossett Park. Mr. Sipes stated that the baskets have been ordered and should be arriving within the week. Sponsors are still being secured. Potential completion date and opening of the course is tentatively set for September 30. Mr. Sipes added that he would like to have a “grand opening” with lessons for anyone interested.

Mayor McCormick asked council to consider appointments of Dianna Martinie, Chase Carlson and Shelley Carter to the Crossett Recreation Commission to serve 5-year terms. Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilwoman Martin to approve the appointments. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed. Councilwoman Marshall added that any interested citizen is encouraged to participate in the commission.

Mayor McCormick stated that he has made attempts to contact a representative from Media 3 with no luck. He is awaiting a call back from a representative.

Councilwoman Rodgers updated the council on the Street and Sanitation Committee work. Mr. Harrison has been referred to a representative of Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality out of ElDorado. He is working diligently with the city to help find solutions for the problems with our limbs and mulch. Councilwoman Rodgers feels that will have more facts soon and will be ready to bring the plan to the citizens.

Councilwoman Rodgers stated that the Feasibility Study for the Ambulance proposal is still underway. Estimated completion date is September 1.

Councilwoman Rodgers reminded the council that at the regular July meeting, Mr. Hollimon had inquired as to removal of the 4-way stop sign at 3rd and Elm. Mayor McCormick added that the stop sign has significantly reduced the amount of accidents at that intersection and feels that it should remain.

Councilwoman Rodgers asked for lease or joint use agreements for use of the Crossett Senior Citizens Center, EC Crossett Youth Center and any other city property being leased or used by sources other than the city.

Ordinances were presented for the council’s consideration.

Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilwoman Martin to have City Attorney Hamilton read proposed Ordinance 2017-10, an ordinance to repeal Ordinance 2017-2. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Hamilton read proposed ordinance in its entirety. Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilwoman Martin to suspend the 3-day reading rule and read proposed ordinance for second reading by title only. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Hamilton read by title only. Motion by Councilwoman Martin, seconded by Councilwoman Marshall to further suspend the rule and read for 3rd and final time by title only. Roll call vote. Motion passed and Hamilton read by title only. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-10 by Councilwoman Martin, seconded by Councilwoman Rodgers. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Ordinance 2017-10 was adopted.

Motion by Councilwoman Martin, seconded by Councilman Foster to have City Attorney Hamilton read proposed Ordinance 2017-11, and ordinance to approve the final budget for the year 2016. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Hamilton read proposed ordinance. Motion by Councilwoman Martin, seconded by Councilwoman Marshall to suspend the 3-day reading rule and read the proposed ordinance for the second time by title only. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Hamilton read by title only. Motion by Councilwoman Martin, seconded by Councilwoman Marshall to further suspend the rule and read for 3rd and final time by title only. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Hamilton read by title only. Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilman Foster to adopt Ordinance 2017-11. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Ordinance 2017-11 was adopted.

Mayor McCormick presented a proposed resolution adopting the hazard mitigation plan for Ashley County Arkansas. Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilwoman Marshall to have City Attorney James Hamilton read the proposed resolution. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Hamilton read proposed resolution. Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilwoman Marshall to adopt resolution R-2017-7. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and R-2017-7 was adopted.

Mayor McCormick presented a proposed resolution authorizing the city of Crossett to apply for a matching grant from AR Department of Parks and Tourism’s Outdoor Recreational Grant Program. Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilman Knight to have city attorney read the proposed resolution. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Hamilton read the proposal. Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilwoman Martin to adopt Resolution R-2017-8. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and R-2017-8 was adopted.

Mayor McCormick presented a proposed resolution authorizing the city to provide matching funds or in-kind services in conjunction with the proposed grant for an amount up to $250.000. Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilwoman Martin to have Hamilton read the proposed resolution. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Hamilton read. Motion by Councilwoman Martin, seconded by Councilman Knight to adopt Resolution R-2017-9. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and resolution was adopted.

Mayor McCormick stated that he was not able to contact Mr. Wilburn Austin for an update on the mosquito abatement. Councilwoman Rodgers requested that the city prepare a contract for his service. All councilmembers agree that a contract should be prepared.

Councilwoman Martin asked that the city look at the code ordinances and see if there is a way to set steeper fines or more severe punishment for violations. She asked too that landlords be held accountable for properties not kept up by tenants. Councilwoman Rodgers requested that a special meeting be held to study the ordinances and what can be done to stiffen the punishment. She also requested that District Judge Reid Herrod be in attendance for his input into this situation. A meeting date was set for August 30 at 4:00 at the Crossett Economic Development Foundation.

Councilwoman Martin asked the council and Mayor McCormick to consider hiring a code enforcement officer. Fire Chief Bo Higginbotham asked that this code enforcer be used for fire code violations also. This will be discussed at the special meeting also.

Mayor McCormick asked for any other discussion from the council.

Councilwoman Martin expressed concern over the traffic light at Millyard Road. Mayor is looking into some options.

Mayor McCormick presented a letter from the prosecuting attorney regarding the theft of funds at the Crossett RV Park.

Mayor McCormick opened the floor for discussion from the audience.

Mr. Cary Carter commended the city on progress being made around town. He added that the Crossett Port and RV Park is improving and complimented the current ranger on a job well done.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned.

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