Crossett City Council met in regular session May 15, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Crossett Public 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.

Minutes of the April 17, 2017 regular meeting and special meetings of April 18, April 20, May 8 and May 9 were discussed. Councilwoman Marshall stated that the estimate for repair to traffic light at the intersection of Fairview/Millyard Road was recorded at $36,000 and should have been $48,000 plus the cost of the electrical box. Motion by Councilwoman Martin, seconded by Councilwoman Marshall to accept the minutes as corrected. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilwoman Martin to approve the revised financial report for April 2017. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor McCormick stated that no action has been taken to appoint a committee to study the city’s personnel handbook. Councilwoman Rodgers asked Mayor if his secretary, Rebecca Ledbetter, could gather names for the committee to present to him for consideration. Mayor stated that he would ask her to do that.

Councilwoman Marshall questioned the status of opening the restrooms at the Crossett Park. Mayor McCormick stated that he is in the process of getting them open. Water leaks have been repaired and city crews are working on getting the area cleaned. No definite plans for who will open/close the restrooms on a regular basis, but Mayor is working on a plan. Councilwoman Marshall asked if service groups or CHS students would consider volunteering to make rounds and check the restrooms. Councilwoman Martin asked if this duty would fall under Parks and Recreation. Mayor McCormick stated that he will make sure they are open and operating before the next council meeting.

Councilwoman Rodgers informed the council that the Street and Sanitation Action Committee is working on a manpower analysis. More information should be available at the next meeting.

Police Chief JW Cruce updated the council on the Disaster Plan. He presented the Ashley County OEM plan. Intentions are to add the city of Crossett’s information to this plan and should have a finished plan ready for June’s council meeting.

Councilwoman Marshall stated that Crossett Parks & Recreation Commission Chairman Justin Reed has requested that the commission membership increase from 5 to 7 members. Motion by Councilwoman Marshall, seconded by Councilwoman Rodgers, provided that there is a legal means, increase the commission from 5 to 7 members. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor McCormick introduced Mike Hohnadel and Jennifer Sinnema from Georgia-Pacific to the council. Mr. Hohnadel presented a 2015 United States Geographical Society map of Coffee Creek. Coffee Creek is the means used to move wastewater from Georgia-Pacific to the settlement ponds. Originally, this creek ran from the mill site, through the Mill Pond. Recently the creek has been rerouted to run underground through enclosed pipes and levees have been built to keep the wastewater separate from the drainage water and clear of the Mill Pond. Mr. Hohnadel is asking council to approve a revised map showing the current route of the Creek. This will enable Georgia-Pacific to apply for environmental permits without issues. USGS has given a June 2 deadline for the city to reply to this request. It was noted that the mill wastewater is being treated before it goes into Coffee Creek. Currently, the creek generates behind the Crossett Post Office and runs parallel to the city’s wastewater lines. City Attorney Hamilton asked if this would have any impact on the city’s joint use permit and it will not. This will strictly update the map and bring it current. Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilman Foster to have Mayor McCormick fill out the form to have the maps updated as presented. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor McCormick introduced David Anderson from the Crossett Library. Mr. Anderson presented 2016 library report. He explained that the library services about 120-140 patrons per day. Total expenses for 2016 was around $404.165.00. Council commended Mr. Anderson on a job well done.

Councilwoman Valerie Martin expressed concern about dead trees on city property. She made special note of trees around the park. Feels that this could be a liability for the city. Mayor McCormick stated that he is aware of several trees around town and will look into the situation.

Mayor McCormick asked Mike Smith, Crossett Economic Development Foundation Director, for an update. Mr. Smith invited the council to an open house on May 23 at 11:30 for an important announcement.

Mayor McCormick called the meeting into executive session to discuss a situation with city employees.

Mayor McCormick called the meeting back to order and announced that no decision was made, but explained that the situation involves an accusation of theft.

Councilwoman Rodgers reminded the council of meeting on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at the Crossett Economic Development Foundation to discuss the sales tax campaign.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned.

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