Crossett city council met in special session May 8, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. in the Crossett Economic Development Building.

Present: Mayor McCormick

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

 Assistant Clerk/Treasurer Lisa Gulledge

Absent: City Attorney James Hamilton, Clerk/Treasurer Walthall

Mayor McCormick announced that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss financial statements of April 2017.

Police Chief JW Cruce explained the discrepancies in vehicle expense line item. Councilwoman Rodgers asked that fuel expense and vehicle expense be separated on the financial statement.

Councilwoman Marshall asked for an update on the traffic light at Fairview and Millyard Road. Chief Cruce explained that he has received several complaints regarding the light. To repair the lights will cost around $36,000. Chief Cruce recommends that we consult Arkansas Hwy Department and ask them to remove the traffic light. Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilwoman Marshall to ask Arkansas State Highway Department to remove the light. Until the light is removed, East/West signal should flash red and North/South flash yellow. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Councilwoman Rodgers asked Fire Chief Bo Higginbotham to update the council on the ladder truck. Chief Higginbotham explained that the truck was refurbished in 2004 and will need to be replaced within the next year or so. He added that 2 pumper trucks will be needed along with the ladder truck. The estimated cost for all this equipment is around $2.5 million. Turnouts will need to be replaced within the next year or two also.

With no further questions regarding financial statements, Mayor McCormick introduced Mr. Charles Smith to the council. Mr. Smith has volunteered to work with the city to develop an “in-house” 10-year needs assessment plan. Mr. Smith presented an outline of a needs study plan. This can be presented to department heads and committee/commissions to get a general idea of the projected needs for the next 10 years. Once this is submitted, a concise plan can be developed and presented to the council for prioritizing and for study of legal and financial means of support. Mr. Smith and all council members agree that this can be a valuable tool for the city. Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilwoman Martin to have Mayor McCormick appoint a committee chaired by Mr. Smith to prepare an in-house 10-year needs assessment plan for the City of Crossett. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Councilwoman Marshall presented a flyer promoting the ½ cent sales tax issue for the council’s consideration. Input was given by councilmembers and Councilwoman Marshall noted the changes.

A meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 9 at 5:00 p.m. for further discussion.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned.

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