Crossett City Council met in regular session December 18, 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

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

Absent: Clerk/Treasurer Jesse Walthall

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

Motion by Councilwoman Martin, seconded by Councilwoman Marshall to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 20, 2017 and special meetings of December 5 and December 11, 2017. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilman Foster to approve the financial report for November 2017. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor McCormick asked for permission to bring airport commission to top of the agenda. All agree.

Rusty Atchison, Crossett Municipal Airport manager, has announced that he is retiring on December 31, 2017. Hiring a full-time manager for the airport has been discussed. Mr. Atchison introduced Mr. Jerry Chisom, director of the Arkansas Aeronautics Department. Mr. Chisom stated that the airport has nearly $1.3 million impact on this region. He reaffirmed the need to keep the airport open with a manager. Downey Robinson and Herb Hutchison, both members of the Crossett Airport Commission, were present to answer questions concerning the airport and the need for a full-time manager. Councilwoman Rodgers expressed concern for budget in making this a full-time position. This will be discussed further in budget talks.

Mayor McCormick asked council to approve Joe Cedatol and Keith Long to the Crossett Sewer Committee. Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilman Knight to approve the appointment. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion is approved.

Mayor McCormick opened the floor to the council for discussion of the proposed 2018 budget. Councilwoman Marshall stated that the Crossett Airport Commission is vital to the city of Crossett and feels that we should work diligently with the Crossett Economic Development Foundation and Crossett Airport Commission to find a way to add the airport expense back to the city’s budget. Councilwoman Rodgers stated that she feels that this should be resolved before approving the 2018 budget. Mayor McCormick asked that Mrs. Marshall meet with the commission and CEDF and see if a plan can be resolved.

Mayor McCormick asked council to vote to adopt the 2017 budget until 2018 can be finalized. Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilman Foster to do so. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor McCormick updated the council on the contract between the City of Crossett and Crossett High School FFA for use of the petting zoo. The school’s attorney is looking at the contract presented. Councilwoman Marshall asked that quarterly reports be given as to activity of the club.

Councilwoman Rodgers updated the council on the progress of street and sanitation rules. She stated that after working on the plan for 8 months and having full council approval, she feels that some issues have gone unmentioned to the council and street and sanitation committee. She asked for explanation as to why the leaf machines are not following the schedule set. Mayor McCormick explained that the new leaf machine is too forceful for the dump truck. When purchased the sales representative said that the dump truck with additional bedding would be sufficient for the discharge. However, after having the cover built for the truck, the vacuum is still too strong to catch the debris. Mayor McCormick added that he is looking into trading the machine for something that will work properly or purchasing additional equipment. He also added that the old leaf vacuum is down due to a faulty belt breaking the fan and putting a hole in the radiator. Councilwoman Rodgers stated that she feels that the council should be made aware of these things since it is them that citizens are calling. Councilwoman Marshall asked if the equipment is being properly maintained.

Councilwoman Martin asked for a report from the code enforcement officer, Tony Jones. Mr. Jones stated that he is currently in the process of letting residents know what the violations on their property is. He is educating the citizens as to the process that will be taking and giving them an opportunity to correct the violations. Councilwoman Martin asked for a monthly report and Mr. Jones said that he will provide one.

Councilwoman Rodgers asked Mayor McCormick to appoint a committee to study funding of major sewer project. Mayor McCormick asked Councilman Foster, EDF director Mike Smith, Dale Martinie, Charlotte Holliman, Claude Spainhour and Councilwoman Martin to meet on this matter.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned.

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