Crossett city council met in special session August 6, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. in the lobby of the Crossett Administration Building to discuss financial statement.

Present: Mayor McCormick, Clerk/Treasurer Walthall

 Council Members: Freeman, Rodgers, Rowe, Foster and Jeffress,

 Also present was CPA Clark Terrell

Absent: City Attorney Hamilton and Councilman Knight

Mayor McCormick called the meeting to order and announced that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss the July 2015 financial statements. Financial reports along with an ambulance revenue/expense breakdown was presented to the council.

Questions were asked concerning the proposal to expand Crossett Fire Department Ambulance Service into the county. Mayor McCormick said that the county needs to know the council’s desire. No contract will be signed and no financial obligation is needed from the city until funds are secured and a plan has been agreed upon. Councilmembers agreed that this proposal is most likely in the city’s best interest.

Councilwoman Rodgers expressed concerns over the city’s current financial state. She feels that drastic cuts and changes in procedures needs to be addressed. Mrs. Rodgers also stated that the city is very salary heavy with more employees and benefits than other cities of the same size. She suggested that this is looked into during budget preparation process. Rodgers added that the city completely funds the Crossland Zoo and this is one of only 5 comparable zoos in the United States. Others have closed due to lack of funding. Rodgers also suggested considering cutting back on garbage pickup and looking into ways to save money and fuel cost by GPS routing system.

Councilman Freeman added that for too long the city has given too much to non-essential services. He feels that it is time to take closer look at what is important. Freeman also asked council to look closer into the contract with the Crossett Economic Development Foundation. While he feels that this is a vital service, he thinks that the city council should have more input into the budgeting of the sales tax money.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned.

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