Crossett city council met in special session January 14, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. in the lobby of the Crossett Administration Building.

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

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

Absent: None

Mayor McCormick announced that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss financial statement and the Quorum Court decision to cease funding assistant court clerk’s salary.

Mayor McCormick introduced Judge Billy Hubbell and asked him to update the council on the Quorum Court’s decision. Judge Hubbell stated that as of December 31, 2015 the quorum court has cut funding to the Ashley County District court - Crossett Division. They will no longer pay their part of the assistant court clerk’s salary and will not reimburse the city for their portion of the court bills. Judge Hubbell added that the present Assistant Clerk has worked in that position for over 15 years. If the QC does not fund part of the salary, the city can make up the difference, or it will become a part-time position. There is more work than a part-time position can cover. The Quorum Court will continue to fund their portion of the Court Clerk’s salary for the Crossett Division. The QC is also still funding the Court Clerk, Assistant Court Clerk and a part-time clerk for the Hamburg Division. Judge Hubbell is asking the council to consult with the Quorum Court and address this matter.

Councilwoman Rodgers asked job duties of the court clerk and the assistant clerk. Judge Hubbell explained that the clerks handle 100’s of criminal/traffic cases each month by organizing and filing dockets, issuing supenos, filing continuances, resetting cases, handling civil cases and complaints, issuing summons, returns, dockets, and collecting revenue for all cases.

Councilwoman Jeffress requested that the Crossett City Council meet with the Ashley County Quorum Court to see if the issue can be resolved. All council agrees. Mayor McCormick will request a meeting with the ACQC and County Judge and get back with the council on a time.

Judge Hubbell asked if the city would be willing to make up the difference in the salary for the position until this is resolved. The council does not feel that they can do that at this time, but will continue to pay insurance and benefits.

Mayor McCormick reminded the council that the agreement with CARD has been presented for consideration.

Mayor McCormick asked the council to consider allowing him a vehicle expense since he is using his personal truck to conduct city business. Motion by Jeffress, seconded by Foster to put $3,600 in the 2016 budget for Mayor Vehicle Expense. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor McCormick stated that the regular council meeting for this month will be held on Tuesday, January 19 due to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebrations.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned.

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