Crossett city council met in special session April 28, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. in the lobby of Crossett Administration Building.

Present: Mayor Marshall McCormick

Clerk/Treasurer Jesse Walthall

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

Absent: City Attorney Hamilton and Councilman Freeman

Mayor McCormick called the meeting to order with a prayer.

Mayor McCormick stated that the purpose of this meeting is to make the council aware of a situation concerning the National Guard Armory. Mayor added that the local National Guard Chapter is closing and consolidating with El Dorado. Arkansas State National Guard is interested in donating the armory building to the city of Crossett. Mayor McCormick said that he would like to see this acquisition and would consider moving the Crossett Police Department to that facility. This would include the current armory and approximately 5 acres of land. Mayor McCormick informed the council that this building was built in 1964, condemned in the 1980’s, and renovated around 1990. He added that this opportunity is due to the fact that the budget for State National Guard Armories has been cut by $2 million and they are vacating and consolidating 12 armory chapters in the state of Arkansas.

Crossett Police Chief JW Cruce expressed that he would like to move the police department to that location and possibly construct a 50 bed jail facility. He added that AR Department of Corrections will lease out beds for state inmates and this would generate more than enough revenue to cover expenses. ADC is currently paying $40 per day per bed. Chief Cruce would like to reserve 25 beds for local inmates and lease out the remaining 25 beds to the state.

Mayor McCormick asked that the council give him permission to look into the possibility of extending the current bond issue to see if funds would be available for this addition and to include the renovations of the existing police department/jail. He added that he would like to see a juvenile facility in the current jail if renovations could be made. All council members expressed interest and reiterated the fact that the current building is in dire need of renovation.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned.

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