Crossett City Council met in regular session August 15, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Crossett Public Library.

Roll call vote was taken as follows:

Present: Mayor Scott McCormick, City Attorney James Hamilton,

Councilmembers: Robert Freeman, James Knight, C.T. Foster, Lynn Rodgers

Absent: Clerk/Treasurer Jesse Walthall

 Councilmembers Jeffress, Rowe

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

Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilman Foster to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2016 council meeting. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Financial reports for July, 2016 were presented. Councilwoman Rodgers noted that revenues are down and expenses have not decreased. Motion by Councilman Freeman, seconded by Councilman Knight to approve the financial statements. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor McCormick asked Justin Reed for an update on the Crossett Pool. Mr. Reed explained that the committee for renovations is in the process of getting bids from architects and contractors. They are working on a short-term, mid-term and long-term plan for the pool and possible additional developments. Grants and donations have been explored. Mr. Reed asked when the skatepark fencing will be moved as it is hampering planned fund-raising events. Mayor McCormick stated that he will make sure they have it moved by the end of the month.

In old business, Councilman Robert Freeman inquired as to who will own the animals at the zoo if CARD ever ceases to exist. According to statements made at last month’s meeting, the city was to purchase animals back from the animal broker for $1.00. Freeman asked if this means that the city will once again own the animals. All council members are in agreement that the city should not own animals. This needs to be stated clearly within the contract between the city and CARD. Mayor McCormick asked that this discussion be held when a member of CARD is present to answer questions. All councilmembers agree.

Councilwoman Rodgers asked about council appointments to CARD and Friends of the Crossland Zoo. Mayor McCormick stated that no decisions have been made so far.

Councilwoman Rodgers requested an update on the Crossett Water Commission. Mayor McCormick explained that the issues discussed in the prior month meeting have been resolved.

Rodgers inquired as to a report on mosquito control. Mayor explained that Rusty McCaughan has been out of town due to family emergency and he will work on a report for next meeting.

Mrs. Rodgers asked if the disaster recovery plan had been discussed. Mayor will set up a meeting for the following week.

In new business, Mayor McCormick introduced Roger Williams. Mr. Williams asked that the city council consider renaming a portion of Petersburg Trail (from Main Street to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive) to Coach Ed Johnson Drive. This is in memory and honor of Coach Ed Johnson who passed away recently. Coach Johnson was a well-loved teacher, coach and principal in the Crossett School District for many years. He impacted many lives in the area. Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilman Freeman to rename the road to Coach Ed Johnson Drive. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor McCormick presented a proposed resolution seeking grant assistance for Crossett Municipal Airport. Motion by Councilman Freeman, seconded by Councilman Knight to have city attorney read resolution. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion carried and Hamilton read resolution. Motion to adopt Resolution R-2016-4 by Councilman Freeman, seconded by Councilman Foster. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Resolution R-2016-4 is adopted.

Mayor McCormick asked council to approve the appointment of Glenda Gresham to the Crossett Water Commission for an 8 year term. Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilman Knight to approve the appointment. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor McCormick asked council to approve the appointment of Powell Millard to the Crossett Recreation Commission. Motion by Councilwoman Rodgers, seconded by Councilman Knight to approve the appointment. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Councilwoman Rodgers asked that each city committee/commission consider scheduling the time of their meetings. Many citizens would be willing to serve on commissions if meetings were held at more convenient times.

Jeff Harrison, Director of Public Works, updated council on Jack Reynolds property on West 12th Avenue. Mr. Harrison explained that the procedure for property clean-up had been followed, and Mr. Reynolds signed the certified letter on June 1, 2016. The property was scheduled for clean-up by city crews. Now a tractor and other equipment belonging to Mr. Reynolds has been placed in the middle of the property. Mr. Harrison is asking for direction from council as to course of action. City Attorney Hamilton suggested that an affidavit be submitted and Reynolds be charged criminal charges of obstruction of governmental operations. A civil lawsuit can also be filed if that’s the council’s pleasure. The criminal charges will be tried in court and could take up to 45 days. Motion by Councilman Freeman, seconded by Councilwoman Rodgers to have Mr. Harrison submit an affidavit for criminal charges against Mr. Reynolds. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor McCormick asked if council had any other business.

Councilman Knight asked about the “Welcome to Crossett” signs on each end of town. He added that the lots need mowed and lights are not working on some of the signs. Mayor McCormick stated that city crews clean up around the signs and are behind due to recent rains and being understaffed, but will take care of this soon. Councilman Knight also inquired about the cables from Media3 that are lying on top of the ground around town. Media3 is in the process of burying these cables.

Councilwoman Rodgers asked about private properties being mowed by city crews. She asked if hiring a 3rd party contractor for this would better benefit the city. She added that this is time consuming for city crew and their time could be better spent taking care of city properties.

Councilwoman Rodgers inquired as to when weather warning sirens are tested for the city. Mayor McCormick stated that this testing is performed every Wednesday at noon unless the weather is threatening. Testing is not performed if the weather is questionable as to not to falsely alert citizens.

Councilwoman Rodgers stated that while the city is enforcing clean-up on other properties, she is concerned about the state of city property – in particular the city barn. She asked that the mounds of concrete chunks, chip piles, dilapidated equipment and other things be removed from the yard. Mrs. Rodgers mentioned that with the leaf machine, chip truck, street sweeper, mowing crew, garbage pick-up and other obligations of our street and sanitation department, that the department should be reorganized to better serve the public. A time-study should be performed and once per week garbage pick-up should be considered.

Councilwoman Rodgers asked that at next month’s meeting the following things be discussed:

1. Building at 307 Main Street
2. Sewer System
3. Centennial Park

With no other business, the meeting adjourned.

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