

City of Crossville

392 North Main Street
Crossville, Tennessee 38555



Minutes

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

5:00 PM

Council Chambers

Work Session

Mayor R.J. Crawford
Council Member Art Gernt
Council Member Mike Turner
Council Member Mark A. Fox
Council Member James Mayberry
City Manager Valerie Hale
City Clerk Baylee Rhea

Call to Order

The Crossville City Council met for its monthly work session on Tuesday, June 3rd, 2025 at Crossville City Hall. Mayor Crawford was present and presiding. He called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Roll Call

Present 5 - Mayor R.J. Crawford, Council Member Art Gernt, Council Member Mike Turner, Council Member James Mayberry, and Council Member Mark A. Fox

Others present were City Manager Valerie Hale, City Clerk Baylee Rhea, City Attorney Randy York, Lee Lawson, Nathan Clouse, Victor Torasso, Bob Ross, Chris South, Serena Vasudeva, Kevin Music, Chris Kemmer, Kelly Kemmer, Cody Kemmer, Shea James, Bryce McDonald, Cheryl Iorio, Terry Potter, Ethan Hadley, Rob Harrison, Tom Isham, Chris Miller, Jim Wojcik, Tim Begley, Leah Crockett, Tim Johnson, John Eldridge, Mickey Eldridge, Melinda Kelsey, Chris Kendrick, and Larry Kidwell,

Public Comment

Mickey Eldridge of Crossville spoke on the ambulance service item. She stated she is thankful our Council is open about the issue and willing to have discussions. She supports her tax dollars being used to fund both County and City services, and she is very interested in having a City ran EMS service with our Fire Department. Mrs. Eldridge stated she is grateful for the County ambulance service, but it is obvious that there is a crucial issue with availability, not issues with staff. She referenced several times her loved ones had waited on ambulances to transport them from Cumberland Medical Center to Knoxville or Cookeville, but the wait times were extremely long due to ambulance availability.

Mrs. Eldridge went on to say that Good Samaritans, an organization she helped start and runs, is in support of more ambulances. It is a big deal to the community. She asked Council why can't we be proud of a City and County ambulance service? She finished her statement informing Council of the need for more ambulances on the ground in Crossville and would be glad for the City to use her tax dollars for it.

1. Conventions and Visitors Bureau

Ethan Medley's and Asa Reese's terms expire in June 2025 on the Conventions and Visitors Bureau. Ethan Medley is willing to continue to serve on the board, but Asa Reese is not. Mayor Crawford asked Council members to find someone willing to serve on this board.

This item was recommended to be placed on the City Council agenda.

2. Tree Board

Clarence Coffey and Karl Kilmer both have terms expiring on the Crossville Tree Board. They are both willing to continue to serve for a 3-year appointment. This is a Mayoral appointment.

This item was recommended to be placed on the City Council agenda.

3. Approval of the temporary street closure for the Veterans' Day Parade

Terry Mitchell with the Crossville Veterans' Parade Committee is requesting a street closure on Saturday, November 8th at 9 a.m. until the end of the parade for the Veterans' Day Parade. The parade would follow the Parade Route starting at CCHS and ending at Main Street Church of Christ.

This item was recommended for approval.

4. Approval of annexation resolution and Plan of Service for 1357 Cook Road Annexation

A plan of services for the proposed annexation of 1357 Cook Road has been recommended by the Crossville Regional Planning Commission. This annexation was requested by the property owner.

This item was recommended for approval.

5. Approval of Old Kentucky Stock Road water line extension

The property owner at the end of Old Kentucky Stock Road has requested a water line extension. The property owner is planning on building two houses on the property. The existing water line is approximately 460 feet from their property line. A 2-inch water line is being proposed by the City and Catoosa Utility Department. An estimated cost for the extension is \$6,807.26. Since this is located outside the City of Crossville, our ordinance for Main Line Extensions (18-107) states the total cost of the extension would be the responsibility of the property owner requesting the extension. The requestor may pay the City to install the line, or a financial guarantee may be provided to install the line themselves or hire someone to do it to the City's specifications. If the latter is chosen, then the amount of the financial guarantee would be the cost estimate plus 10%, and it would expire in 12 months.

Since there is not a defined right of way for Old Kentucky Stock Road, easements will be required. If the property owner cannot obtain the easements, then the City will obtain them. If the City must obtain the easements, there will be a fee of \$4,000.00 to obtain the easements.

The Crossville Regional Planning Commission recommends approval of the water line extension.

This item was recommended for approval.

6. Approval of sewer line extension to 794 Genesis Road

The owner of the property located at 794 Genesis Road has requested a sewer line extension. There is a developer that is wishing to purchase the property for the purpose of constructing multifamily apartments. There is an existing gravity sewer line located approximately 300 feet to the south of the property along Genesis Road. City staff is proposing a low-pressure sewer line installation instead of continuing the gravity. The low-pressure line would need to cross the proposed multifamily development to allow any requests for connections to the property to the north of the proposed development. A 2-inch low pressure line would be sufficient for the proposed development as well as any development to the north. The total extension will be approximately 480 feet of

2-inch low pressure sewer line. Under the Main Line Extension ordinance (18-107) the property owner/developer of the multifamily development would be responsible for the total cost of the sewer line extension. The cost estimate for the extension is \$5,798.20. The developer may pay the City for the install, install the line themselves, or hire someone to install the line. A financial guarantee in the amount of the estimate plus 10% would need to be provided to the City if the work is not completed by the City. The financial guarantee would expire 12 months from the time it is accepted.

Easements may need to be acquired for the sewer line extension. If the developer cannot obtain them and the City must obtain them, then the developer must pay the city \$3,442.00 for the easements.

The Crossville Regional Planning Commission recommends approval of this extension.

This item was recommended for approval.

7. Discussion and action regarding spec building bid

Bids will be received on June 6th, 2025 for the Spec Building. Staff will have a recommendation at the Council meeting.

This item was recommended to be placed on the City Council agenda.

8. Approval of Crab Orchard Pump Station property acquisition

Approval for the Crab Orchard, now doing business as Cumberland Plateau Water Authority, Pump Station property acquisition is requested. This will be for real property and will not exceed the amount of the appraisal plus 10%. Approval for the City Attorney to negotiate terms is also requested.

This item was recommended for approval.

9. Award bid for Highway 70 North Master Meter

Bids were received for the Highway 70 North Master Meter installation on May 20, 2025.

The low bidder, Norris Brothers Excavation LLC, did not finish the last project that the City contracted with them. Eight months after the contract completion date, the City was verbally notified by Jacob Norris that Norris Brothers Excavating could not complete the project. The final project clean-up was completed by City Crews. All additional expenses paid or incurred by the City added up to be \$52,933.52 which did not include attorney expenses and in-house engineering administration.

TDOT will reimburse the City for the meter installation. TDOT has verbally informed the City that if we have a reason to not award the bid to the lowest bidder, they would reimburse for the amount of the second lowest bidder.

This item was recommended for approval.

10. Approval of transfer of property to the Sports Authority

Two tracts of property need to be transferred to the Sports Authority of the City of Crossville. Transferring these two tracts will transfer all of the property purchase for the recreation center in to their name.

This item was recommended for approval.

11. Approval of change order #2 - I&I Project

Approval of change order #2 with Portland Utilities Construction Company has been requested for the I&I Project. This change order decreases the price of the contract by \$4,900.28 and increase the length of the contract by 70 days due to high flows in the sewer lines. Staff recommends approval of this change order.

This item was recommended for approval.

12. Discussion and action regarding an ambulance service

Council member Fox stated Council has discussed this item a great deal and had received an action plan to review. He would like to move forward with a vote for the City of Crossville to establish an ambulance service on or about July 1, 2026.

Council member Turner stated Chief South and Council member Fox gave them a lot of good information. He asked how the City was going to pay for this service? He stated he could not think of anything the City had passed without knowing how they were going to pay for it. He asked if we needed to use our rainy day fund, raise property taxes, or finance it? He said he is very responsive to this, but he wants to know how we are going to pay for it. He thinks both services could compliment each other and save many lives.

Council member Mayberry requested to yield his time to the current medical director, Dr. Jim Wojcik. Dr. Wojcik discussed the quality of care patients received under Director Chris Miller. He mentioned many awards the department has received in the last several years. Dr. Wojcik provided Council with handouts detailing training dates and classes CCEMS personnel had attended last year and this year. Council member Mayberry asked who was invited to the training classes provided by CCEMS? Dr. Wojcik stated EMS and City Fire personnel are invited. He stated a list of the trainings is sent to the Fire Department and City Manager every month. Council member Mayberry asked if there is a lot of attendance from City Fire? Dr. Wojcik said no. Council member Turner stated City Fire gets their training and certifications even if they do not attend these particular trainings. Dr. Wojcik stated that was not what he was implying, but there are several educational opportunities provided, and only occasionally do one or two attend.

Council member Turner asked if this item was going on the agenda for Council to vote on. Mayor Crawford said yes. Council member Turner asked if by next week, the City will know how it will be paid for. Council member Fox stated the City could apply for grant money, use the rainy day fund, and/or raise taxes if needed. Council member Turner called on Finance Director Clouse to ask about tax revenues. Mayor Crawford stated it has been made clear that doing this could bankrupt the City if there is not additional revenue to help cover the costs. Council member Turner asked how much of an increase in property taxes could be expected. Mr. Clouse stated a minimum of 30 cents and Mr. Clouse explained an increase of this amount including salaries, training, start up costs, and more. Council member Turner asked if this 30 cent increase would only be this year. Mr. Clouse stated it would likely have to go up yearly because of the increasing costs, even though Medicare may not adjust their rate to cover an increase in costs.

Mayor Crawford stated it is important to stress the numbers not in our favor on this to be prepared for the worst case scenario. He stated the only way to increase revenues is to get more businesses here, cut expenses, or raise taxes. Mayor Crawford went on

to say that this is a losing proposition. He spoke with the County Mayor who informed him that if we add ambulances, they will pull back that same number of ambulances from the City limits. This won't be adding to the service but replacing. This adds more to the conversation about double taxation for City residents. Mayor Crawford stated he would like to look at this with a 5 year plan instead of passing it and figuring out how to pay for it later.

Council member Turner asked for Director Miller to come forward. Council member Turner asked Mr. Miller if we had an ambulance service, would CCEMS still keep the same equipment in the City or move those to the County. Mr. Miller stated there were several variables in that decision, but he didn't see the equipment staying in the City. Council member Turner asked if there may be layoffs in his department? Mr. Miller said he could see several losing their jobs because 40-50% of their call volume is in the City. Mr. Miller explained how CCEMS runs their trucks based on which trucks are on calls. He stated he believes response times would get worse for City residents because they would likely be coming from a station further away.

Mr. Miller discussed pay agreements and how insurances pays based on calls.

Mayor Crawford asked for this item to be on Other Business the following week.

This item was recommended to be placed on the City Council agenda.

13. Approval to apply for UCDD Arts grant

UCDD has a grant in the amount of up to \$5,000 for an Arts grant that could be used to help in Downtown revitalization. This grant does not require a match. Staff request approval to apply.

This item was recommended for approval.

14. Ratification of Charter changes

The City's Private Act Charter changes were filed with the State of Tennessee. The House and Senate approved all the changes. The City Council is now required to ratify those changes by two-thirds vote.

This item was recommended to be placed on the City Council agenda.

15. Approval of Water Treatment Chemical - Sodium Permanganate Bid

Water Resource Supervisor Joe Kerley requests the City Council's approval to award the bid for the 2025/2026 Sodium Permanganate to Dycho Company Inc. The bid was previously awarded to United Mineral and Chemical Corp. However, United Mineral and Chemical Corp. has formally withdrawn their bid. The previous bid award must be rescinded.

This item was recommended for approval.

16. Asphalt Delivered FY25-26

Street Supervisor Kevin Music reviewed the bids for Asphalt Delivered and recommends awarding the price contract to Rogers Group Inc.

This item was recommended for approval.

17. Asphalt Picked-up FY25-26

Street Supervisor Kevin Music reviewed the bids for Asphalt Picked-up and recommends awarding the price contract to Rogers Group Inc.

This item was recommended for approval.

18. Approval of Debt Policy

The City Debt Policy needs to be reviewed and accepted each year. A debt policy has been recommended by the Finance Director.

This item was recommended for approval.

19. Ordinance approving FY25-26 Budget (In Title Only)

Finance Director Nathan Clouse reviewed the few changes to the General Fund budget from the last presentation of the budget. Mr. Clouse also reviewed the water and sewer fund budget. He explained that due to depreciation from the ARPA projects that are expected to be completed, there may need to be a water rate increase. He suggested 10% and explained that while it sounded like a large increase, the average customer would experience \$2-\$5 increase in their monthly bill. Mayor Crawford asked for discussion regarding a water rate increase be placed under Other Business at the Council meeting.

Since all of Council was present, they decided to hold a Special Called meeting on June 24th at 12 p.m. to pass the final reading of the budget.

This item was recommended for approval.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.