

# City of Crossville

392 N. Main  
Crossville, TN 38555



## Minutes

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

4:40 PM

Conference Room 317

## Call for Special Meeting

*Mayor R.J. Crawford*  
*Mayor Pro Tem Rob Harrison*  
*Council Member Art Gernt*  
*Council Member Scot Shanks*  
*Council Member Mike Turner*  
*City Manager Greg Wood*  
*City Clerk Valerie Hale*

## Call to Order

*The Crossville City Council met in special session on Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at Crossville City Hall. Mayor R.J. Crawford was present and presiding. He called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.*

## Roll Call

**Present** 4 - Council Member Art Gernt, Council Member Mike Turner, Mayor Pro-tem Rob Harrison, and Mayor R.J. Crawford

**Absent** 1 - Council Member Scot Shanks

*Others present were City Manager Greg Wood, City Attorney Randy York, City Clerk Valerie Hale, Fred Houston, Maggie Moss, Andy Moss, Jeremy Ricks, Chris South, Leah Crockett, Ethan Medley, Ethan Hadley, Brock Hill, John Nesbit, Billy Poore, Joe Kerley, Tim Begley, Kevin Music, Larry Kidwell, Malaysia Tolbert, Steve Threet, Levonn Hubbard, Dr. Robert Wood, Jessie Brooks, and Heather Mullinix.*

## Other Business

### 1. Discussion and action regarding Village Inn

*City Attorney Randy York presented a contract amendment regarding the purchase of the Village Inn. The amendment states that the seller has the responsibility to make sure all tenants have vacated the premises prior to closing on the sale of the property, the closing will occur no later than 15 days after the last tenant has moved, and the City will pay an additional \$15,000. He advised the process could be lengthy. February 15, 2023 is the date the building is supposed to be vacated, but there could still be tenants at that point and the owner will have to file suit.*

*Mayor Crawford reported that he asked Chief Jessie Brooks and E-911 Director, Eric Ritzman to provide information on the amount of calls made to the Village Inn. He received a large packet of information and stated that the number of calls from January 1, 2019 through February 1, 2023 was 1,047, which is significantly higher when compared to other high traffic areas such as Wal-Mart, Woodmere Mall, Executive Inn, and other apartment complexes. The cost of the calls to the Village Inn for this time period is estimated at \$112,000. Mayor Crawford emphasized the need to move forward with the purchase of the Village Inn. He also stressed that the conversations regarding housing have been productive, and opened the door for more cooperative efforts. He stated that multiple agencies have been assisting, as well as Latoya Hargis, Crossville Police Department, who was assigned as the case manager.*

*Mayor Crawford asked Vivian Walker, Homeless Advocacy of Rural Tennessee, to explain the efforts made by her organization and the City of Crossville to assist the current Village Inn tenants with relocating. Ms. Walker reported that last December she completed 25 initial on-site assessments to anyone interested in seeking assistance. She explained the process and the barriers revealed, such as rental arrearages and legal matters. She also stated that main stream benefits were reviewed.*

**A motion was made by Mayor R.J. Crawford, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Rob Harrison, to authorize the Mayor to sign the amended contract as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 4 - Council Member Art Gernt, Council Member Mike Turner, Mayor Pro-tem Rob Harrison and Mayor R.J. Crawford

**Absent:** 1 - Council Member Scot Shanks

*In an effort to be more transparent regarding the Village Inn, Mayor Crawford stated that he felt it was important to release the investigative report completed in August 2022 excluding any information related to any ongoing investigations and personal information. City Attorney York advised that the report was completed under attorney-client privilege and that as the owners of the report, it was their decision to release it or not.*

*Mayor Pro Tem Harrison and Council member Gernt requested more time for a final review of the report before releasing to the public.*

**A motion was made by Mayor R.J. Crawford, seconded by Council Member Mike Turner, to release the investigative report. The motion was withdrawn.**

### **Adjournment**

**A motion was made by Council Member Art Gernt, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Rob Harrison to adjourn at 4:59 p.m. The motion carried by an unanimous vote.**