

# City of Crossville

392 North Main Street  
Crossville, Tennessee 38555



## Minutes

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

## City Council

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

**AUDIT COMMITTEE - 5:15 p.m.****PUBLIC HEARING - 5:50 p.m.**

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

**1. Public Hearing - LPRF Grant**

*A Public Hearing was held for the LPRF Grant. Mayor Crawford called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m.*

*City Clerk Baylee Rhea reviewed the purpose of the grant and information about the grant with those in attendance. City Clerk Baylee Rhea asked those in attendance if there were any comments.*

**Seeing none, Mayor Crawford adjourned the Public Hearing.**

**REGULAR MEETING - 6:00 p.m.****Call to Order**

*The Crossville City Council met for its monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 11 at Crossville City Hall. Mayor Crawford was present and presiding. He called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Chris Palmer, Cumberland Worship Center, provided the invocation and the Young Marines presented the Colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance.*

**Roll Call**

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

*Others present were City Manager Valerie Hale, City Clerk Baylee Rhea, City Attorney Randy York, Lee Lawson, Nathan Clouse, Jessie Brooks, Tim Begley, Chris Kendrick, Leah Crockett, Burt Allaire, Kerri Bullock, Chris South, Terry Potter, Ethan Medley, Alisha Ashburn, Dominique Smith, Khloe Stover, Amanda Page, Ethan Hadley, Ivy Mayberry, Bob Ross, Allison Crawford, Joe Kerley, Serena Vasudeva, Shea James, Rob Harrison, Steve Amos and family, Jeff Dyer, John Werner, Chris Palmer, Claire Duker, Carrie Duker, Nick Neal, Shea Neal, Jonathan O'neal, Kinley O'neal, Jen Houston, Donetta Freeman, Melinda Kelsey, Larry Kidwell, staff from the Military Museum, and the friends and family of the Young Marines.*

**1. Proclamations/Presentations**

March Proclamations and Presentations

*Ariah Smith was recognized as Student of the Month.*

*Mayor Crawford gave recognition for Stone Memorial Middle School Girls' Basketball Team for the state championship win.*

*Mayor Crawford proclaimed April 2nd as Autism Awareness Day.*

## 2. Public Comment

*Kerri Bullock spoke before Council to inform them of her position with UCHRA. She is the Cumberland County Coordinator working with the opioid abatement grant money to provide services to those struggling with addiction and substance abuse.*

## 3. Appointments

### a. Crossville Regional Planning Commission

*Jerry Wood's term for the Crossville Regional Planning Commission will expire in March 2025. He is willing to continue to serve as a commissioner for another 5-year term. This term will end March 2030.*

**Mayor R.J. Crawford re-appointed Jerry Wood to a 5-year term on the Crossville Regional Planning Commission.**

**Aye:** 5 - Mayor R.J. Crawford, Mayor Pro-tem Art Gernt, Council Member Mike Turner, Council Member Mark A. Fox and Council Member James Mayberry

### b. Stormwater Board of Appeals

*One re-appointment needs to be made to the Stormwater Board of Appeals.  
1. The term of Don Cole expires on 3/10/25. He represents the Professional Civil Engineer segment on the Board.*

**A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem Art Gernt, seconded by Council Member Mark A. Fox, to re-appoint Don Cole to the Stormwater Board of Appeals. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 5 - Mayor R.J. Crawford, Mayor Pro-tem Art Gernt, Council Member Mike Turner, Council Member Mark A. Fox and Council Member James Mayberry

## 4. Chamber of Commerce Report

## 5. Consent Agenda

### Approval of the Consent Agenda

*Mayor Pro-tem Art Gernt stated all the items on the Consent Agenda had been discussed the week prior at the monthly Work Session and were recommended by Staff. The public was invited to attend the Work Sessions.*

*Council member Turner requested to pull item M for discussion.*

**A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem Art Gernt, seconded by Council Member James Mayberry, to approve items 5 A-L on the Consent Agenda. The motion**

carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 5 - Mayor R.J. Crawford, Mayor Pro-tem Art Gernt, Council Member Mike Turner, Council Member Mark A. Fox and Council Member James Mayberry

### **Ordinances on Third Reading**

- a. Ordinance amending FY 24-25 - Capital Projects

*A budget amendment is necessary for FY24-25's capital projects.*

**This Ordinance was adopted on third reading**

### **Ordinances on Second Reading**

- b. Ordinance amending Title 10 Chapter 1 - Animal Control

*An updated version of the current animal ordinance has been submitted by Staff. The suggested update is based on current practices of staff, a suggestion from a member within the community, and MTAS's sample ordinance.*

**This Ordinance was approved on second reading**

### **Ordinances on First Reading**

- c. Ordinance amending Title 5 Chapter 6 Municipal Purchasing Procedures

*City Council members have requested an amendment to the current purchasing ordinance. This amendment would allow for budgeted items over \$25,000 to be approved for purchase by the City Manager instead of going to Council. If the item is not budgeted or exceeds the budgeted amount, the City Council would vote for approval of the purchase. The City Clerk has also submitted a change to amend the section regarding bidding. This would allow for electronic bid submissions.*

**This Ordinance was approved on first reading**

- d. Ordinance amending FY 24/25 Budget - Leasing and Military Museum

*A budget amendment is necessary per the Comptroller's Office to move our leased vehicles in to a debt payment item. A budget amendment is also necessary for a donation to the Military Museum.*

**This Ordinance was approved on first reading**

### **Additional Consent Items**

- e. Approval of minutes (2/11, 3/4)

**This Minutes was approved as recommended.**

- f. Approval of a variance for sidewalks on Sparta Highway

*The owners/developers of Tax Map 099 017.00, located on Sparta Highway across from the entrance of Holiday Drive, are proposing a new apartment housing development. There will be approximately 40 housing units.*

*Since this multifamily development is proposed along an Arterial Road, per the multifamily ordinance, sidewalk construction is required. However, since the City and State do not have sidewalks planned for Sparta Highway, the developers have requested a variance to the requirement of sidewalk construction, and the requirement of any additional right-of-way dedication for sidewalks. The existing right-of-way along Sparta Highway is approximately 120 feet in width. The existing right-of-way would allow for road widening and sidewalk construction in the future, should one ever be planned.*

*This variance has been recommended by the Planning Commission at their February 20th meeting.*

**This Resolution was approved as recommended.**

**g.** Approval of resolution for Parks and Recreation Grant Cycle

*A resolution is required to be passed by Council for the 2025 Parks and Recreation Grant Cycle. This is for the LPRF grant that will be used to fund an inclusive playground at Centennial Park if the City of Crossville is selected for the grant.*

**This Resolution was approved as recommended.**

**h.** Approval to submit a Letter of Intent for Healthy Built Environment Grant

*Approval to submit a letter of intent to the Tennessee Department of Health to apply for the Healthy Built Environments Grant. This is a grant up to \$80,000 for the "design and construction of structures to increase access to safe opportunities for physical activity, increase access to healthy foods, or build community resilience."*

*This grant will be used for improvements at the pickleball courts.*

**This Resolution was approved as recommended.**

**i.** Approval of donation request for the Military Museum

*A donation request has been submitted by the Military Museum in the amount of \$22,000. They have requested this money to move furnaces, and an in-kind donation to paint the 1st floor.*

*They have raised \$804,150 for the restoration of the facility. This donation would help complete this portion of the project.*

**This Resolution was approved as recommended.**

**j.** Approval to write off outstanding balances

*The City Clerk's Office recently reviewed cemetery records including the sale of plots and burials at City Cemetery. Upon this review, outstanding invoices were found. After consulting with the City Attorney and Finance Director, it was decided that some of these plots need to be written off. The City Clerk and Finance Director recommend writing off any balances on plots that were purchased more than 10 years ago, currently have someone buried in them, and a payment has not been made since the*

*burial. There are currently 15 plots that meet these criteria, and the total amount owed is \$7,185.20. The auditors have recommended receiving Council approval prior to Staff taking any action.*

**This Resolution was approved as recommended.**

**k. Approval of temporary street closings for Taste of Crossville**

*DCI is planning the annual Taste of Crossville for Thursday, September 11. They request street closings as follows from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.:*

*Main Street from Neecham to 4th*

*Taylor Avenue from Thurman Street to Main Street*

**This Permit was approved as recommended.**

### **Bids/Purchases**

**l. Approval of Concessions Bid at Centennial Park**

*The Leisure Services Department requests to accept the Bid from Cindi Joe's BBQ to lease and operate the concession stands at Centennial Park. Their submission did not include operating at Duer Complex or Garrison Park.*

**This Bids/Purchases was approved as recommended.**

**m. Approval of purchase of New Fire Pumper Truck**

*Crossville Fire Rescue has requested approval to order a new fire engine to replace the 2005 KME Predator Rescue Engine. Engine 18 is experiencing multiple mechanical issues and has become a burden for maintenance to keep the apparatus in service. The Maintenance Department states the apparatus will need a complete overhaul of the engine and components. The cost is projected to be approximately \$150,000. In addition, the consistent issues plague the fire apparatus taking it out of service regularly. The apparatus is in the 20th year of frontline service. Chief South recommends replacing the apparatus instead of repairing the truck. Chief South contacted Siddons-Martin and asked to be placed on the fast track for a replacement Fire Engine. Siddons-Martin has a "Spec" truck that will be built and delivered in 32-33 months. It can be fully customized during the building process to meet the needs of the Fire Department. The fire engine will be a new version of the 2018 Engine 10. By staying consistent in truck design, all of the fire apparatuses will pump and drive the same. This will make training and operations more efficient.*

*The cost of the fire engine is \$1,308,467.00. Payment will not have to be made until delivery. Finance Director Clouse feels the City can place money in to the sinking fund in the same manner as we are for the current two on order. Split over the 33 months, the total monthly amount equals \$39,650.52. This acquisition will completely allow for the frontline fleet to be 2018 or newer and should greatly reduce maintenance costs.*

*Council member Turner requested for this item to be pulled for discussion. He wanted to clarify the price of the truck being \$1,308,467.00 with \$39,650.52 being placed in to a sinking fund to pay for the apparatus once it is available for purchase. He stated there was a misprint in the Chronicle on the price and wants the public to be aware of the correct price.*

**A motion was made by Council Member Mike Turner, seconded by Mayor**

**Pro-tem Art Gernt, to approve the purchase. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 5 - Mayor R.J. Crawford, Mayor Pro-tem Art Gernt, Council Member Mike Turner, Council Member Mark A. Fox and Council Member James Mayberry

## 6. Other Business

### a. Discussion and action regarding Municipal Advisor Services

*Mayor Crawford made a motion for this item, which was second by Council member Gernt. Mayor Crawford emphasized that this was to only negotiate a contract, not enter in to one. Council member Mayberry began the discussion by stating through his research, he feels that Mr. Kidwell's contract is still valid, due to the signature date being the official date on the contract, therefore, his contract was not cancelled six months in advanced, which is required by his contract. Council member Mayberry stated if he is reading the contract correctly, the City has a Municipal Advisor through 2027, as far as he is concerned.*

*Mayor Crawford repeated his motion. He stated he only wanted what was best for City tax payers and was trying to get a better rate. He stated he was like to explore terms with Cumberland Securities for Fire Station #2. Council member Turner clarified that the City would not have to use Cumberland Securities under this motion. Mayor Crawford stated that is correct and asked for a roll call vote.*

**A motion was made by Mayor R.J. Crawford, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Art Gernt, to allow the City Attorney to negotiate a contract with Cumberland Securities to be brought back for final approval by Council for the financing of Fire Station #2. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 3 - Mayor R.J. Crawford, Mayor Pro-tem Art Gernt and Council Member Mike Turner

**Nay:** 2 - Council Member Mark A. Fox and Council Member James Mayberry

### b. Approval to file back tax lawsuit

*City Attorney Randy York has requested approval to file the back tax lawsuit on or before April 1st. He suggested excluding those that owe less than \$5.*

**A motion was made by Council Member James Mayberry, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Art Gernt, to file the back tax lawsuit, excluding anyone who owes less than \$5, and file it on or before April 1st. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 5 - Mayor R.J. Crawford, Mayor Pro-tem Art Gernt, Council Member Mike Turner, Council Member Mark A. Fox and Council Member James Mayberry

## 7. City Attorney's Report

### a. City Attorney's Report

*City Attorney Randy York mentioned 2 items. He stated there is currently a contract with Crab Orchard Utility District in regards to a waterline. He stated he also*

*represents Crab Orchard Utility District and after reviewing everything, he believes he has a conflict of interest and recommends retaining Victor Gernt in representing the City of Crossville in this matter. He proceeded to give an update on the First Responder discussion from the previous week. He is under the impression there is an amendment to current legislation, but he will check the status of the bill. If an amendment has not been filed, he will begin working on an amendment for the next legislative session.*

*City Attorney Randy York stated a motion would need to be made to retain Victor Gernt. Council member Mayberry questioned whether to appoint Mr. Gernt or discussion potential attorneys. Mayor Crawford suggested discussing this matter further at the April work session.*

**This report was received and filed.**

## **8. City Manager's Report**

### **a. City Manager's Report**

*City Manager Hale gave an update on the construction of the Crossville Family YMCA. She stated the IT department will have a webcam install to live stream the construction progress.*

*The Maintenance Department intended to have the shade structure finished at Garrison Park, but the poor weather has delayed them. City Manager Hale said they the sails will be installed next week after the storm over the upcoming weekend.*

**This report was received and filed.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem Art Gernt at 6:25 p.m., seconded by Council Member Mark A. Fox, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.**