Crossett City Council met in regular session June 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Crossett Library.

Roll call vote was taken as follows:

Present: City Attorney James Hamilton

Also Present: CPA Clark Terrell

Councilmember’s: Crystal Marshall, Dale Martinie, James Knight, CT Foster, Lynn Rodgers

Absent: Mayor Scott McCormick, Clerk/Treasurer Jesse Walthall, Councilman Cary Carter

In the absence of Mayor McCormick, Councilwoman Lynn Rodgers set in as President Pro Tempore.

President Rodgers called the meeting to order with prayer and pledge allegiance to the flag.

Minutes of the April and May regular meetings were presented for approval. Motion by Councilman Knight, seconded by Councilman Foster to approve the minutes of the April 15 and May 20 regular council meetings. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed 4-0.

Motion by Councilwoman Marshall, seconded by Councilman Martinie to accept the financial reports of April and May as discussed in the special meeting of June 10. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

President Rodgers stated that Mr. Sam Selig, with Entegrity, has asked for a special meeting to discuss the changes in the energy savings proposal. Council agreed to meet on Monday, June 24 at 4:30 if that time is suitable for Mr. Selig. If not, a date in late July will be determined.

President Rodgers presented a letter from CenturyNext Bank requesting a variance in city ordinance to all firework presentation. A copy of the letter is attached. Motion by Councilwoman Marshall, seconded by Councilman Martinie to grant the variance for this year and future years. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

President Rodgers asked Councilwoman Marshall for an update on the Arkansas Municipal League Conference. Councilwoman Marshall stated that the conference was very informative. An emphasis was placed on medical marijuana in the workplace. Councilwoman Marshall asked that the personnel committee reconvene to discuss how the city will need to proceed with this.

Councilwoman Marshall also discussed Census 2020, sharing how important it is to count everyone. City state aid funds are determined by the census count and every cent the city can get to operate on is important. She asked that a committee be formed to help spread the word in the city. She suggested that church pastors, city administrators, hospital administrators and school administrators help emphasis how important this census count is to our city.

Councilwoman Marshall informed the council that the city of Crossett is one of 85 opportunity zones in the state of Arkansas. This is set up as incentive for businesses to locate in the area. Opportunity Zones offer tax cuts and incentives for new businesses.

Councilwoman Marshall also stated that due to recent law changes, audio recordings are required at all city council, commission and committee meetings. These recordings have to be in a format that is easily accessible for FOI request.

President Rodgers presented a proposed resolution accepting the facility plan dated May 2019 for the Crossett Water Commission water meter replacement project. Motion by Councilwoman Marshall, seconded by Councilman Foster to have city attorney read proposed resolution R-2019-7. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Hamilton read the proposal. Motion to adopt Resolution-2019-7 by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilman Knight. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and resolution was adopted.

Mrs. Dianne Marter, Crossett Water Commission manager, presented 1st quarter 2019 financial reports.

President Rodgers commended Crossett Economic Development Foundation, Mike Smith and Cherub Alford for an outstanding presentation in hosting Arkansas Economic Development Foundation. She added that the state commissioners were very impressed with the city of Crossett. CEDF was awarded the 6th Competitive Community Initiative award, which is given to city’s committed to success.

Mr. Mike Smith, CEDF director, added that this is a community effort involving all aspects of the city. He commended the team effort of the community, school administration, hospital administration, city and CEDF.

Mr. Smith went on to say that USA Biofuels presented an impressive program. This group has been working for well over a year with Mr. Smith and others to bring a biofuel plant to the area. He added that all the preliminary work is done. The group is committed to proceed and is waiting on final word for funding.

President Rodgers reminded everyone gather of the importance of speaking positive about our city.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned.

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