Crossett City Council met in regular session January 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Crossett Economic Development Foundation.

Roll call vote was taken as follows:

Present: Mayor Pro-Tempore Crystal Marshall, City Attorney James Hamilton

Councilmember’s: Cary Carter, Dale Martinie, CT Foster, James Knight and Sheila Phillips

Absent: Mayor Scott McCormick, Clerk/Treasurer Jesse Walthall

Mayor McCormick called the meeting to order with prayer and pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilman Martinie to approve the minutes of the January regular meeting. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Motion by Councilman Martinie, seconded by Councilman Carter to approve the January financial statements. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

City Attorney James Hamilton spoke of the years that he served as deputy city attorney under Mr. Tom Streetman. Mr. Streetman served honorably as City Attorney from January 1, 1965 through December 31, 1998. Mr. Hamilton introduced Mr. Streetman’s widow – Mrs. Joanne Streetman. A resolution honoring Mr. Streetman was presented. Motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Knight to have City Attorney Hamilton read the proposed resolution. Hamilton read proposed Resolution R-2020-1. Motion by Councilman Carter seconded by Councilman Knight to approve the resolution. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Resolution R-2020-1 was approved. A certified copy was presented to Mrs. Streetman by Mayor Pro-Tempore Crystal Marshall.

Councilman Martinie asked that the city prepare a comprehensive plan to clean up and maintain the former zoo property. He acknowledged that the school has removed the animals that they were housing there, but the property is still in dire need of cleaning. Mr. Martinie added that an ordinance stating the purpose of the property and who should be responsible for maintaining it may be necessary.

Crossett Fire Chief Leroy Higginbotham updated the council on the ladder truck. Currently the truck is on 30-day hold. The EPA has stated that the purchase of the truck by Georgia-Pacific for the city will meet their obligations. A formal announcement from the EPA and Georgia-Pacific has not been made yet.

A resolution for the final 2019 budget was presented. Motion by Councilman Martinie, seconded by Councilman Carter to read the proposed resolution. Roll call vote. All vote yes and Hamilton read Proposed Resolution R-2020-2. Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilman Knight to approve. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Resolution R-2020-2 was approved.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Crystal Marshall introduced 4th and 5th grade Cub Scout Troop and gave each member an opportunity to ask questions of the council.

Crossett Water Commission Office Manager Dianne Marter presented the 2019 audit report. She added that the first round of construction on replacing meters has begun. The new meters must be 6” above the ground in order for signal to be transmitted. She asked for public’s patience while this construction is going on. Motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Martinie to accept the CWC 2019 audit report. Roll call vote. All vote yes.

Mr. Mike Smith, Crossett Economic Development Foundation Director, updated the council on projects. Solar Farm has entered an agreement and is still working on financing. They plan to start clearing grounds in summer 2021 and project completion date around October, 2022. Mr. Smith mentioned that it may be possible to annex adjacent properties into the city if property owner would desire. The potential bio-diesel plant is working to acquire financing. A cargo trailer manufacturer is also considering the area.

Mr. Claude Spainhour, Crossett Sewer Commission, added that the grant for the sewer project is still being sought. CRIST Engineers is working on separating out a proposal. Mr. Spainhour added that the engineering cost will not be recoverable through the grant proceeds.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned.

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