Crossett City Council met in regular session October 19, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Crossett Public Library.

Roll call vote was taken as follows:

Present: Mayor Crystal Marshall, City Attorney James Hamilton

Councilmember’s: Dale Martinie, CT Foster, Cary Carter, Kerstin Mondragon, Sheila Phillips were present and James Knight participated via conference call.

Absent: Clerk/Treasurer Jesse Walthall

Mayor Marshall 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 September 21, 2020 regular meeting and the September 29, 2020 special meeting. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Minutes are approved.

Motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilwoman Mondragon to approve the financial reports for September. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and financial reports were approved.

Mayor Marshall gave update on COVID-19 CARES Act funding. The application for reimbursement has been submitted and is awaiting approval by the Arkansas Department of Finance. Once that is approved, we can send in pay request for the $218,174.93 allotted for the city of Crossett.

Mayor Marshall updated on pavilion and cleaning of zoo property. She commended the public works department for the work they have done. The pavilion that was destroyed by the recent storm is down and cleared. Mayor Marshall is working on getting a picnic table on the concrete slab. Several dead trees have been removed from the zoo area, and most of the buildings are down. Barring unforeseen circumstances, hoping to have the property finished by the end of this month.

Mayor Marshall informed the council that Councilman CT Foster is the recipient of the Marvin Vinson Commitment of Excellence Award from Arkansas Municipal League. This award is given for outstanding service of city officials, and is in recognition of Councilman Foster’s service on the AR Municipal League Cities of the First-Class Advisory Board. Councilman Foster has served on the city council for 22 years and has served on this board for 12 years. Mayor Marshall commended Councilman Foster for his dedicated service to the citizens of Crossett as well as the state of Arkansas.

Mayor Marshall informed the council that she has met with members of the Crossett Recreation Commission and several interested community members concerning use of the Scott McCormick Sports Complex. They are working on making the facility more accessible for the community. They are committed to having the fields and batting cages open for practices and for individual use. Many haven’t scheduled tournaments because of the confusion on pricing the fields. To save on the confusion, a flat rate for use of the fields will be accessed. Local teams will pay $105 per field and other teams will be charged $125 per field. The committee is hoping that this will bring more tournaments to the sports complex. Mayor Marshall added that the sports complex belongs to the citizens of Crossett and is a beautiful park which should be used more.

Mayor Marshall asked the council to approve the appointment of Councilwoman Kerstin Mondragon as ex-officio member of the Crossett Recreation Commission. Motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Foster to approve the appointment. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion is approved.

Mayor Marshall asked the council to approve the appointment of Dena Judge to the Crossett Auditorium Board. Motion by Councilman Martinie, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to approve the appointment. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion is approved.

Mayor Marshall asked if council would like to bring any other business to the table.

Councilman Martinie asked for an update on wheelchair access to Lucas Pond. Mayor Marshall stated that she has spoken to Mr. Pitts, a handicapped citizen who would like to fish in Lucas Pond. She added that there is one place that is accessible to the sidewalk, but would like to make a project for handicap accessible sidewalks from the parking lot on Parkway Drive to the Lion’s Club pavilion and then on to the pond. This is something that would require outside funding. There are grants available for this type of project and will research to see if we can apply.

Councilman Martinie asked for update on garbage trucks. Mayor Marshall stated that the company had asked for an extra 90 days for completion, but should be delivered by Thanksgiving.

Councilman Martinie inquired about downed powerlines on Williams Avenue. Mayor Marshall stated that she and Director of Public Works Jeff Harrison have been in touch with the homeowner. These are Entergy lines and they are waiting for lot to dry up so that they can get equipment in to fix.

Councilman Carter asked Crossett Sewer Committee chairman Claude Spainhour for an update on sewer expansion project. Mr. Spainhour stated that the engineering agreement and the memorandum of agreement with AR Natural Resource Commission is in the works.

Councilman Martinie stated that a citizen had contacted him concerning drainage pipe on Hunters Court. Mayor Marshall and Mr. Harrison are aware of this and it is on the schedule to be addressed when possible.

Mayor Marshall opened the floor to the audience for questions or comments.

Mrs. Wanda Runyun, a concerned citizen, asked if church leagues would be allowed to use the sports complex. Mayor stated that city would love to work with the league to enable them to utilize the complex.

Mr. Bill Runyun suggested the city look into a walking trail around the sports complex with workout equipment staged along the sidewalk. Mrs. Runyun mentioned that she would like for the city to put a sidewalk to the sports complex making it more accessible for everyone in town.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Jesse Walthall, Clerk/Treasurer Crystal Marshall, Mayor