Crossett City Council met in regular session August 16, 2021 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, Clerk/Treasurer CW Terrell

Councilmember’s: CT Foster, Kerstin Mondragon, Chris Gill, James Knight, Sheila Phillips

Absent: Councilman Cary Carter

Mayor Marshall introduced Beckham, Briston and Bruinne Hartley who led in the prayer and pledge of allegiance to open the meeting.

Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to approve the minutes of the July 19 finance meeting and regular meeting. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall informed the council that there will be a public hearing on September 7 at 5:00 p.m. at city hall. This meeting will satisfy a legal requirement to discuss alternative means of financing the East Crossett Sewer Expansion project. She added that closing documents for the project have been signed.

Mayor Marshall presented a proposed resolution to amend the personnel handbook and make Juneteenth (June 19) a city holiday. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to have City Attorney Hamilton read Proposed Resolution R-2021-11. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Hamilton read the proposal. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to adopt R-2021-11. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Resolution R-2021-11 was adopted.

Mayor Marshall presented two resolutions to assess property taxes. City Attorney Hamilton explained that these resolutions are legal requirement directed the Ashley County Quorum Court to collect real and personal property taxes within the city of Crossett.

Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Knight to have City Attorney Hamilton read proposed resolution R-2021-9, a resolution to levy five (5) mills general property taxes for the year 2021, collected in 2022. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Hamilton read proposal. Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to adopt Resolution R-2021-9. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and R-2021-9 was adopted.

Motion by Councilman Gill, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to have City Attorney Hamilton read proposed resolution R-2021-10, a resolution to levy two and four-tenths (2.4) mills on all personal and real property located in the city of Crossett for the purpose of funding on-going maintenance and operation expenses for the Crossett Public Library to be collected in 2022. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Hamilton read the proposal. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Knight to adopt Resolution R-2021-10. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and R-2021-10 was adopted.

Mayor introduced Mr. David Schweitzer with River City Hydraulics. Mr. Schweitzer was invited to discuss the pros and cons of using side-arm truck for garbage pick-up. We are currently leasing 2 rear-load trucks. This requires 6 people to pick up trash at around 200 residents twice a week. A side-loader truck will require one person to operate. The side-loader is much safer as the employee doesn’t actually touch the refuse. He added that an employee can be fully trained on the truck in a couple of weeks. The only concerns were determining the best route, low-hanging branches and vehicles parked on the side of the road. Mr. Schweitzer added that he would assist the city in setting up the best route.

Director of Public Works Jeff Harrison added that although this may not save money for the city, it will increase productivity. He feels that the service to the citizens would greatly improve. He suggested that the city purchase the first trash bin for each resident. If that is lost or destroyed or if the citizen feels they need extra, they will be allowed to purchase them. These cans are 96-gallon and hold several bags of trash.

Mayor Marshall informed the council that updated census numbers for the city is 4,822.

Mayor Marshall also announced that approximately half of the American Relief Act funds have been received in the amount of $495,316.40. These funds are very restricted and are in a separate bank account. She is working on a proposal for premium pay for city employees and asked council to be considering other projects.

Mayor Marshall informed that a memorial event to honor and recognize those who lost their lives September 11 is in the works. More information will be made available when plans are finalized.

Mayor Marshall opened the floor for questions or comments from the council. Hearing none,

she opened the floor to the audience. Mike Smith, Crossett Economic Development Director updated the council on the EDA grant application for the Crossett Sewer project stating that there are still no red flags showing that the application has been denied.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Clark Terrell, Clerk/Treasurer Crystal Marshall, Mayor