Crossett City Council met in regular session September 20, 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 opened the meeting with a prayer and pledge. Mayor Marshall introduced Riley, Evie and Sophie Kinnaird who led in the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to approve the minutes of the August 16 financial and regular meetings. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

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

Mayor Marshall updated the council on the city’s municipal building. ADEQ and EPA have accepted the city into a program to access the status of the building. This will help identify the contaminates within the building at no cost to the city. Identifying the hazards will be the first step to renovating the building.

Mayor Marshall presented a proposed resolution adopting premium pay for certain municipal employees from the American Rescue Plan. She explained that this American Recovery Acts funds allow for municipalities to pay premium pay to employees who worked during the Covid pandemic. She is suggesting that we pay eligible employees $5.00 per hour for hours worked during the height of the pandemic up to 300 hours or $1,500. This resolution allocates the funding to cover this expense and sets the parameters of the payments. Motion by Councilman Gill, seconded by Councilman Foster to have City Attorney Hamilton read the proposed resolution. 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-2021-12. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and resolution was adopted.

Mayor Marshall asked the council to approve the appointment of Councilman Chris Gill to the Crossett Port Authority as exofficio member. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to approve the appointment. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall informed the council of the need for a vehicle for the city’s code enforcement officer. She explained that the vehicle is has been driving is in disrepair. Director of Public Works, Jeff Harrison, presented a proposal for a 2021 Dodge Ram 1500 Crew Cab on state bid for a price of $26,373.00. Mayor Marshall explained that she has checked with all other departments to see if there were any vehicles available in their fleets. None are available and Police Chief JW Cruce has expressed the need for additional vehicles in his department. Councilwoman Mondragon asked what will be done with the older cars not in use. Chief Cruce explained that the cars not driven by officers are used by reserve officers and jailers to make transports to other facilities and to carry prisoners to doctors visits and other necessary trips. He added that he has 2 cars that can be sold and taken out of fleet. Councilman Chris Gill asked the police chief to prepare a report giving update on his vehicles for next month’s meeting. Councilman Gill also asked Mr. Harrison if additional equipment will have to be purchased for the new truck. Mr. Harrison stated that the equipment out of the current truck will be used. Motion by Councilman Knight, seconded by Councilman Gill to give permission to DOPW Jeff Harrison to order the truck for the code enforcement officer. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall informed the council that several citizens have asked about when Halloween will be observed this year. Halloween falls on Sunday and some citizens would like to see the traditional trick-or-treating changed to Saturday. Mayor asked council’s opinion. Councilman Gill stated that he would rather have it changed to Saturday. Audience members agreed that it should be observed on Saturday. All curfews and regular Halloween night activities will be observed on Saturday, October 30, 2021.

Mayor Marshall asked council for any additional discussion or comments. Hearing none, she opened the floor to the audience. Mrs. Charlotte Hollimon asked if the Crossett Water Commission had trucks available to the city. Mayor Marshall explained that they are considered a complete separate entity and purchase their own equipment and not available to the city. She also asked if Ashley County Sheriff’s Office transported city inmates. They do not.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Clark Terrell, Clerk/Treasurer Crystal Marshall, Mayor