Crossett City Council met in regular session April 19, 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, Cary Carter, Kerstin Mondragon, Chris Gill, James Knight participated via conference call.

Absent: Councilwoman Phillips

Mayor Marshall opened the meeting with prayer and pledge of allegiance.

Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilman Carter to approve the minutes of the March meetings. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Gill to approve the February and March, 2021 financial statements. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall updated the council on the sell of the 1990 Pumper Fire Ladder Truck. Bids were received from two entities. City of Hamburg had the high bid at $40,000. The check has been received and the truck has been delivered to the City of Hamburg.

Several city properties received damage during the February winter storm. We have received an insurance settlement for the roof at Crossett Youth Center, Crossett Pool House and the Wiggins Cabin Pavilion. Mayor stated she would like to completely redo the roof at the Youth Center. She, along with Cherub Alford from Crossett Economic Development Foundation, have applied for a grant to assist with this project. The pool house roof is being replaced by Mr. Kenny Bolin and he has volunteered to rebuild the Wiggins Cabin pavilion if the city provides the material. Mayor Marshall added that the Marina at the Crossett Port was not covered by insurance. The property has been cleared and the owners have retrieved their boats.

Mayor introduced Mr. Tim Carraway, the port manager, and Port Board President Dan Pevy. Mr. Pevy presented a letter asking for a rate increase for the Crossett RV Park. He explained that there hasn’t been an increase in about 5 years. The port is completely self-funded and receives no additional money from the city. The rate increase is needed for continued maintenance and upkeep of the facilities. Mr. Pevy added that the park is mostly utilized by construction workers, hi-end campers and local campers. Councilman Carter stated that he feels like the park is under-marketed. Councilwoman Mondragon added that she has checked with other parks in the area and feels that the rate increase is competitive with other parks. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Foster to approve the rate increase for the Crossett RV Park. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall presented a proposed ordinance to rezone certain platted lands located in the city of Crossett from District R-D (Duplex Residential) to District C-N (Neighborhood Commercial). She explained that this is the property located directly behind the Sonic Drive-In. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Carter to have City Attorney Hamilton read the proposal for the first public reading in its entirety. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Hamilton read Proposed Ordinance 2021-2. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Carter to suspend the 3-day reading rule and read the proposal for the second reading by title only. Roll call vote. Motion passed and Hamilton read by title only. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Carter to have City Attorney read for third and final reading by title only. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and the proposal was read by title only. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Gill to adopt Ordinance 2021-2. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Ordinance 2021-2 was adopted.

Mayor Marshall presented a proposed ordinance granting a variance on the vision triangle at 1209 Beech Street. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Gill to have City Attorney Hamilton read the proposed ordinance in its entirety. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Hamilton read proposed ordinance. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Carter to suspend the 3-day reading rule and read the ordinance for the second reading by title only. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Hamilton read by title only. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Carter to further suspend the rule and read for 3rd and final reading by title only. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and City Attorney read by title only. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Foster to adopt Ordinance 2021-3. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Ordinance 2021-3 was adopted.

Mayor Marshall asked council to approve the appointment of Mrs. Judy Stephens to the Crossett Auditorium Board. This is to fill the vacated position of Sean Carpenter as he resigned due to work conflicts. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Gill to approve the appointment. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall informed the council that the most recent stimulus packet (America Recovery Act Covid Relief Funds) included an allocation for cities and counties. There has not been a determination as to what the funds can be used for at this time. If funds are spent inappropriately, they will have to be returned to Department of Finance. Mayor Marshall suggested that when this money is received, it be set aside in an account until a full explanation of allowable expenses is given. The city is projected to receive around $914,000.

Mayor Marshall told the council that she and Cherub Alford, grant writer for Crossett Economic Development, have applied for several grants on behalf of the city. The first is an EDA grant to aid in the East Crossett Sewer Project in the amount of $1.46 million. A Historical Heritage Grant application has been submitted for the Crossett Auditorium. A CDBG grant, for around $300,000 to assist with renovations to the Crossett Youth Center has been submitted as well. She is currently working on a Walmart Foundation Grant for the Youth Center, a Lowes Grant for tennis courts, and a Department of Transportation Grant for handicap sidewalks to pavilions and fishing docks at Lucas Pond. Research is being done on a Kubota Promotions Grant for work at the sports complex, and a grant for the Municipal Building..

Clerk/Treasurer Clark Terrell presented the 2019 Legislative Audit. Mayor Marshall explained the findings and the action that was taken to correct the findings. Mr. Terrell opened the floor for any questions. Hearing none, motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilwoman Mondragon to accept the audit. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall asked council for any other business.

Mayor Marshall opened the floor to the public.

Mr. Charles Atkins, 603 North Adams, expressed concerns about drainage issue on his property. He is not satisfied with the work that has been done. Director of Public Works, Jeff Harrison stated that the city has done what was asked of them. He added that the problem with the property is that the back yard is lower than the alley, causing his yard to stand in water. This is something that the city is not able to fix. Mayor Marshall reminded Mr. Atkins that she and Mr. Harrison have met with him previously and agreed to come look at the problem again. She added that the city will do what is legally obligated and necessary to help remedy the situation.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Clark Terrell, Clerk/Treasurer Crystal Marshall, Mayor