Crossett City Council met in regular session March 21, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Crossett Public Library.

Roll call vote was taken as follows:

Present: Mayor Crystal Marshall

Councilmembers: Cary Carter, Kerstin Mondragon, Chris Gill, James Knight and CT Foster

Absent: Clerk/Treasurer Clark Terrell, City Attorney James Hamilton

 Councilwoman Sheila Phillips

Mayor Marshall opened the meeting with a prayer and pledge. Mayor Marshall introduced Elizabeth Ford who led in the pledge of allegiance.

Motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Knight to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2022 finance and council meeting. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

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

Mayor Marshall updated the council on the Broadband Internet grant. Part of the requirements in receiving this grant was to conduct an evaluation of service every two years. Customers with positive or negative feedback is asked to share it with the city. Mayor Marshall has asked Jennifer Rawlings to be the point of contact for the city. Her contact information will be given to the public for input.

Mayor Marshall informed the council that two of the pound volunteers were involved in a serious accident while transporting dogs to another town. She also has been looking into how other cities handled animal control. Mayor suggested that city hire someone and the position continue to operate under the police department. She suggested allocating $55,000 for salary and benefits for the position. She has also inquired about a volunteer driving a city vehicle. AML insurance will cover the vehicle only and no bodily harm for driver. Motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Foster to allocate $55,000 for salary/benefit for animal control officer and an addition $5,000 for tools and equipment. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall updated on various grants. Wastewater project grant – a contract has been issued. Easements are 80% complete. Main Street partnership between City of Crossett and Arkansas Highway Department is underway and almost complete. Mayor is hoping to have a formal ribbon cutting ceremony with the AHD at a later date. The city will be receiving a $300,000 grant for 3rd Avenue Youth Center. Paperwork will be signed tomorrow. In accordance with certain grants, a public meeting will be held to discuss the 2023 Triennial review of Arkansas Waters Quality Standards on Coffee Creek. This meeting will be March 29 at 6:00 at the Crossett Public Library.

Mayor informed the council that McClelland Engineering along with the Crossett Airport has received the 2021-2022 Engineering Excellence Award for the CRT Runway Lighting Reconstruction project. Mayor Marshall and Airport Manager Todd Freeman have been invited to attend the presentation of the award on March 31 at the Governor’s Mansion.

Mayor Marshall also explained that current city ordinances hold the Crossett Airport Commission to 5 members, all of which live within the city limits of Crossett. The airport commission has asked that the council consider adding an additional 2 members and expand the commission to Ashley County. Airport Manager Todd Freeman added that with only 5 members on the commission sometimes it is difficult to get a quorum. He stated that the airport is used by the whole county and it is getting more difficult to find members interested in serving who live within the city limits. Councilman Knight stated that he was afraid that if the commission is expanded to the county, the city will lose control. He added that the city is liable for the airport. He suggested if we do this, that the ordinance state only a certain number of board members can be from county so that we to ensure that the city has majority vote. This will need to be discussed with City Attorney Hamilton to see if this is possible. This will be tabled until next month meeting.

Mayor Marshall opened the floor for council comments or questions. Hearing none, she opened for audience. Mrs. Charlotte Hollimon stated that they are looking at doing a memorial for Mary Lynn Smith at the Crossett Centennial Park. She is open to suggestions.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Clark Terrell, Clerk/Treasurer Crystal Marshall, Mayor