Crossett City Council met in special session November 30, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. in the Crossett Administration Building.

Present: Mayor: Crystal Marshall

Council: Carter, Martinie, Phillips, Foster and Mondragon

James Knight participated via phone

Absent: Clerk/Treasurer Walthall, City Attorney Hamilton

Mayor stated that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss the 2021 proposed budget.

Mayor Marshall explained to the council that the revenue predictions for 2021 have been deducted by $200,000. Mayor Marshall informed the council that she has worked alongside department heads and Mr. Terrell to cut both capital and operating expenses from original request. The department heads have looked closely at their budgets and trimmed as much as they felt possible without impacting services and employees.

Councilman Carter asked that the city cut an additional $200,000 to compensate for the sales tax revenue the state has withheld this year. Mayor Marshall explained that she is watching the sales tax revenue very closely and doesn’t feel that the additional cut will be in the best interest of the city at this time. She added that she will stay on top of the situation and if sales tax continues to trend downward, will address the issue. Mayor Marshall stated that she feels that there will be some positive gains in 2021 and asked that we don’t react until we see how the city will fair. Councilman Carter added that he had rather be proactive than reactive. Mayor Marshall explained that she is dedicated to being proactive, but doesn’t want to over react impacting businesses and citizens alike.

Mayor Marshall informed the council that the presented proposal includes a hiring freeze unless necessary and a freeze on employees selling vacation time. It also cuts $50,000 from recreation budget, takes $12,000 out of legal and accounting, cuts mosquito spraying from $45,000 to $17,000 and adjust the line item for dilapidated properties by $10,000. Mayor Marshall has discussed with CEDF the possibility of them assisting with the Crossett Airport budget as needed allowing the city to deduct $50,000 from their request. Sidewalks at Crossett park and parking lot repairs in the amount of $25,000 were omitted and will seek grants for those things, as well as replacing roof at the Crossett Youth Center.

Councilman Carter asked why the police department needed two new cars. He requested a list of police vehicles, mileage and use. He also asked the police department to cut an additional $15,000 out of their budget proposal.

Mayor Marshall agreed to work on those changes and meet again on December 3 at 4:00.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned.

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Jesse Walthall, Clerk/Treasurer Crystal Marshall, Mayor