Crossett City Council met in special session December 3, 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 stated that $20,000 had been reduced from the police salaries.

Councilman Martinie asked if any other departments were asked to cut their budget. Mayor Marshall added that she has worked with each department head along with Mr. Terrell trimming the budget where possible. Capital equipment and operating expenses were cut from each department’s original request.

Councilman Carter stated that with the information he was given concerning police vehicles, he feels that the department can reschedule vehicles among the crew and not purchase new ones in 2021. Councilwoman Phillips asked if these proposed vehicles were to replace existing fleet. Chief JW Cruce stated that this would replace the Tahoe and the SRO Impala, both with over 100,000 miles. He explained that he does try to keep a couple extra vehicles in the fleet for reserve officers to drive. Councilman Knight reminded the council that several years ago, the police chief was challenged not to let his fleet get depleted as in was at that time. A plan to purchase 2 cars per year was developed. Councilman Martinie asked if we could reduce the fleet to 12 vehicles. This would require city to discontinue the “take home” policy for officers. Councilwoman Mondragon added that this is a benefit to the employee and wouldn’t want it to be taken away. Councilman Knight, Councilman Foster and Councilwoman Phillips all agree that the vehicles should be left in the budget. Councilwoman Mondragon asked if we could compromise and purchase one car in 2021. Mayor Marshall added that due to the circumstances, this would be a reasonable compromise. Motion by Councilman Knight to purchase on vehicle for the Crossett Police Department, second by Councilwoman Phillips. Roll call vote. Phillips – yes, Martinie – no, Carter – no, Mondragon – yes, Foster – yes, Knight – yes. Motion passed by a vote of 4-2.

Councilman Knight made motion to have City Attorney Hamilton draft a resolution approving the 2021 budget with the above noted changes, seconded by Councilman Foster. Roll call vote. Phillips – yes, Martinie – no, Carter – no, Mondragon – yes, Foster – yes, Knight – yes. By a vote of 4-2 the motion passed.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned.

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Jesse Walthall, Clerk/Treasurer Crystal Marshall, Mayor