Crossett City Council met in regular session September 21, 2020 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

Councilmember’s: Dale Martinie, CT Foster, Cary Carter, Kerstin Mondragon, Sheila Phillips were present and James Knight participated via conference call.

Absent: Clerk/Treasurer Jesse Walthall

Mayor Marshall called the meeting to order with prayer and pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Minutes of the regular council meeting of August 17 and special meeting of August 26 were presented. Motion by Councilman Martinie, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to approve both minutes. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to approve the financial report of August, 2020. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall presented proposed Resolution R-2020-14, a resolution honoring Mr. Eddie Rowe for his service as alderman of the city of Crossett. Motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Foster to have City Attorney Hamilton read the proposal. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion carried and City Attorney Hamilton read the resolution. Motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilwoman Mondragon to adopt R-2020-14. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Mayor Marshall presented a signed and sealed copy of the resolution to Mr. Rowe’s son, Mike Rowe.

Mayor Marshall updated the council on Covid-19 CARES Act. Federal funds have been allocated to state for distribution to cities and counties. Arkansas Municipal League along with Arkansas Department of Finance have researched ways to fairly distribute these funds, and have created a formula based on population. The city of Crossett is eligible for up to $218,714.93. This money can only be used for reimbursements of expenses related to the pandemic. Training session is scheduled for Thursday.

Mayor Marshall informed the council that city crews are still working to clean up the zoo area. A crew is dedicated to spend part of each Friday on the clean-up project as time will allow. She added that a lot of good ideas for the property have been brought to the table and encouraged anyone with suggestions to bring them forward.

Mayor Marshall reminded the council that the deadline to fill out census report is September 30, 2020. She stressed the importance of this and added that each person counted in the census brings about $3,300 per year to the City of Crossett. Currently the city has about 60% of citizens who have completed the census.

Mayor Marshall introduced Mrs. Tena Carter to council. Mrs. Carter is interested in restoring and revitalizing the municipal building located at 305-307 Main Street. She stated that she has done this with other buildings which were in disrepair. Mrs. Carter suggested that Ashley County Sports Hall of Fame could be housed there with many other options. She is asking for permission to pursue estimates of what it would cost to restore. She also asked for permission to pressure wash and get the outside of the building attractive. Motion by Councilman Martinie, seconded by Councilwoman Mondragon to allow Mrs. Carter to proceed. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall informed the council that during Hurricane Laura we had about 25 large trees across city streets. City crews were able to clear trees from streets. To date, the street and sanitation crew has picked up over 300 loads of limbs and debris and have much more to do. Mayor Marshall reported that there was damage to the roof at Crossett Youth Center and significant damage to the park pavilion next to the boat dock. A large tree has fallen on the pavilion and done structural damage. One contractor has suggested that the pavilion be torn down and rebuilt. The city has insurance coverage on the pavilion with a $2,500 deductible. She asked council for direction on what to do with the pavilion. Motion by Councilman Martinie, seconded by Councilman Foster to get a second contractor’s opinion and have councilmembers go by and check out the damage. Council agreed to look and have an opinion to Mayor Marshall by Friday. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall stated that in the May 18, 2020 meeting, council had voted to name the Crossett Sports Complex as the Mayor Scott McCormick Sports Complex of Crossett. Mrs. Stacy Johnson, Mayor McCormick’s sister asked that the name be shortened to Scott McCormick Sports Complex. She stated that her brother would never have wanted fanfare and would want it to be kept simple. Recreation Director Larry Cantley added that he would like to have a plaque made in honor of Mayor McCormick and displayed at City Hall. Motion by Councilman Martinie, seconded by Councilman Carter to rename the complex as the Scott McCormick Sports Complex. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Councilman Martinie made motion to move forward with signs for the complex and plaque. Motion was seconded by Councilman Carter. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed. Mr. Howard Beatty, Crossett Economic Development Foundation President, added that the foundation may be willing to help with the sign expense.

Mayor Marshall recognized Councilman CT Foster for receiving the Marvin Vincent Commitment to Excellence Award through the Arkansas Municipal League. Councilman Foster has served on the Cities of the 1st Class Advisory Committee of the Arkansas Municipal League for over 12 years.

Mayor Marshall opened the floor to the audience. Titus Warren asked for update on sidewalk at park. Mayor Marshall is waiting for the name of the citizen with concerns so that she can follow up with the request.

Recreation Director Larry Cantley informed council of a leak on the spillway at the park.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Jesse Walthall, Clerk/Treasurer Crystal Marshall, Mayor