Crossett City Council met in regular session April 18, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Crossett Public Library.

Roll call vote was taken as follows:

Present: Mayor Crystal Marshall, City Attorney Hamilton

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

Absent: Clerk/Treasurer Clark Terrell

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

Motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Knight to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2022 finance and council meeting. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

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

Mrs. Mary Jo Jones, CWC commissioner, was present to answer questions regarding the Crossett Water Commission 2020 audit and they year-end statements for 2021. Motion by Councilman Knight, seconded by Councilman Foster to approve the financial statements presented. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall introduced Mr. Downey Robinson and Mr. Warren Gouner from the Crossett Airport Commission. Mr. Robinson asked the council to consider expanding the airport commission from 5 to 7 members. He added that it would be beneficial for membership to be open to county residents as well. Councilman Carter stated he had no problem increasing the number of members, but feels that they should be limited to city residents. Councilman Knight agreed that he didn’t want the city to lose majority vote on the commission, but thinks we should allow up to 2 members to be county residents. He added that because of the nature of the airport, some interested parties will be from the county rather than the city. City Attorney Hamilton stated that the ordinance can be changed limiting the number of seats that can be filled by county residents. Councilman Gill commended the airport commission on the outstanding job they have done and added that it is imperative to have people on the commission that are interested in the airport. He agrees with going outside city limits to add members. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to have City Attorney Hamilton amend the current ordinance to increase the airport commission membership from five (5) members to seven (7) members allowing no more than two (2) members to be chosen from Ashley County registered voters outside the city limits of Crossett. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall stated that one of the requirements of the AEDF grant for the Crossett Youth Center is to assign a committee to review the contractor’s submissions on our request for proposals for qualifications. She asked for volunteers from the council. Councilman Carter, Councilwoman Mondragon and Councilwoman Phillips volunteered to serve in this capacity.

Mayor Marshall updated council on improvements being made to the dog pound. She stated that we have been able to make repairs to outdoor sunshades, pens and overhead door and patched holes in the building. She added that some of the pens will need to be completely rebuilt and asked council to consider appropriating more money for this and other repairs. Mayor Marshall added that the Volunteers of the Crossett Pound have asked for permission to place a storage building on the property. Because they are wanting to put their building on city’s property, an agreement will need to be drawn up stating that the city will have no ownership or liability on this building. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Gill to have contract written allowing for the portable building to be put on city property. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed. Motion by Councilman Knight, seconded by Councilman Foster to appropriate an addition $10,000 for dog pound expense. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall asked council to approve the appointment of Mr. Joe Felsman to the Crossett Port Authority Board. Motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilwoman Mondragon to approve the appointment. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall presented Councilman Gill to discuss the redistricting requirement for the city. Councilman Gill explained that according to statute, there cannot be more than a 10% variance on population between city wards. As a result of our most recent census, the city is not in compliance with that rule. He added that he has been in contact with the State of Arkansas and the GIS for suggestions. Councilman Gill asked that we hold a special meeting to discuss this further. Mayor Marshall asked that a special meeting be planned for Tuesday, April 26 at 4:00 at the Crossett Economic Development building to discuss this and a resolution for the ARPA funds. All council agrees.

Mayor Marshall introduced Mr. Bill Mayo and informed the council that the Crossett Recreation Commission has approved a small area at the Crossett Park to be designated as a veteran’s park. This will be an area around fenced in playground close to the bathrooms. A sign and a flagpole will be erected in honor of veterans. After this is complete, Mr. Mayo asked that we plan an official dedication. Motion by Councilman Knight, seconded by Councilman Carter to approve this park at this location. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall opened the floor for council comments or questions. Hearing none, she opened for audience. There were no further comments or questions.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Clark Terrell, Clerk/Treasurer Crystal Marshall, Mayor