Crossett City Council met in regular session February 22, 2021 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, Clerk/Treasurer CW Terrell

Councilmember’s: CT Foster, Cary Carter, Kerstin Mondragon, Sheila Phillips, Chris Gill, James Knight participated via conference call.

Absent: None

Mayor Marshall called for a moment of silence in honor of Hamburg Mayor Dane Weindorf who passed away recently.

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

Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2021 financial and regular meeting. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passes.

Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to approve the December, 2020 financial statements. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall presented a proposed ordinance to set water rates for Crossett and Crossett rural customers. Motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilwoman Mondragon to have City Attorney Hamilton read proposed Ordinance 2021-1. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Hamilton read the ordinance in its entirety. Motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilwoman Mondragon to suspend the 3-day reading rule and read the proposal for second reading by title only. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Hamilton read by title only. Motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to further suspend the rules and read for 3rd and final reading by title only. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Hamilton read by title only. Motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Knight to adopt Ordinance 2021-1. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Ordinance 2021-1 was adopted. Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to adopt the emergency clause attached to the ordinance. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall updated the council on the winter storm. She commended the city employees and the citizens of the city for taking on extra duties during the storm. Mayor Marshall also informed the gathering that there was some damage to some city properties. The Crossett Youth Center, Port Marina and Wiggins Cabin pavilion and Crossett Pool House suffered structure damage. Water pipes burst at the city pound and street department. There was also widespread damage for city residents and businesses. Mayor also commended Crossett Water Commission for excellent service to customers. She added that County Judge Jim Hudson along with Ashley County EMS coordinator are looking into federal and state assistance where possible.

Clerk/Treasurer Clark Terrell presented a resolution finalizing the 2020 budget. Mr. Terrell explained that Arkansas law requires the budget be cleaned up at end of the year. This resolution satisfies all legal requirements. Motion by Councilman Knight, seconded by Councilman Foster to have City Attorney Hamilton read the proposed Resolution 2021-3. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Mr. Hamilton read the resolution. Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to adopt Resolution 2021-3. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed. Resolution 2021-3 passed and 2020 final budget was approved.

Mayor Marshall introduced Mr. Mark Douglas, 1209 Beech Street, to the council. Mr. Douglas is asking for a variance in order to build a carport at his residence. Director of Public Works, Jeff Harrison, explained that Mr. Douglas was denied the variance by the Board of Adjustments, but the plans have been altered. City ordinance states that no structures should be placed within 30’ of street. Original plans had the carport 6’ off the curb. This request was denied by Board of Adjustments. Mr. Douglas has changed his plans and the structure will be 21’ off the street. This is still in violation, so he is requesting a variance. Mr. Douglas presented pictures and plans to the council. Councilman Gill asked Chairman of the Board of Adjustments, Mr. Richard Welch, had this been the original proposal would the board have approved it. Mr. Welch stated that he feels certain the board would have approved. Motion by Councilman Gill, seconded by Councilwoman Mondragon to grant the variance. All vote yes. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Gill to have City Attorney Hamilton prepare an ordinance to allow this variance. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall opened the floor to the council and to the audience. Hearing no further discussion, Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion by Councilwoman Phillips seconded by Councilman Knight to adjourn. All in agreement and meeting was adjourned.

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Clark Terrell, Clerk/Treasurer Crystal Marshall, Mayor