Crossett City Council met in regular session January 23, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Crossett Public Library.

Roll call vote was taken as follows:

Present: Mayor Crystal Marshall, Clerk/Treasurer Clark Terrell, City Attorney James Hamilton

Councilmembers: Dan Pevy, Kerstin Mondragon, Sheila Phillips, James Knight, CT Foster

Absent: Councilman Gill

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

Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilman Knight to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2022 council meeting. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to approve the December 2022 financial report. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and the report was approved.

Mayor Marshall presented a proposed resolution expressing the willingness of the city to utilize state aid street money for certain resurfacing projects (about 1.08 miles). Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to have City Attorney Hamilton read proposed Resolution R-2023-1. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Hamilton read the proposal. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to adopt the resolution. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Resolution R-2023-1 was adopted. Mayor Marshall added that with the fluctuating prices on the market right now, this may have to come back to the table to be revisited before the project actually begins.

Mayor Marshall stated that the procedural rules for the new year need to be set in this meeting. Motion by Councilman Knight, seconded by Councilwoman Mondragon to leave all meeting rules the same. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall asked council to consider changing the ex-officio member of Crossett Economic Development Foundation from James Knight to Dan Pevy. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to make that change. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Councilman Pevy will serve as ex-officio member of Crossett Economic Development Foundation.

Mayor Marshall asked council to consider having resolution to honor the Cary Carter’s service to the city as alderman. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Foster to have City Attorney Hamilton prepare a resolution honoring Mr. Carter for his service to the city to be presented at next month’s council meeting. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Fire Chief Leroy Higginbotham asked council to consider changing residential requirements for fire and police. Currently the ordinance states that the employee must reside in the state of Arkansas, have a valid AR state driver’s license, and a cellphone on file with the department. Chief Higginbotham said this wording will allow him to hire employees from northwest Arkansas, but not across the Louisiana line. He is asking that the requirement be dropped to only have a valid drivers license (not necessarily Arkansas) and a cellphone number on file with the department. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to have Hamilton make the necessary changes to the ordinance. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall presented proposed ordinance allowing City of Crossett to contract with FL&B Corporation to purchase property. She explained that the Crossett Water Commission is wanting to purchase the old Pizza Hut Building which is owned by FL&B Corporation. Mrs. Beverly Gammel, a member of the Crossett Water Commission is also an owner of the FLB Corporation. Mayor Marshall asked Greg Sivils, CWC president, to inform council of the status of the purchase. Mr. Sivils explained that the current offices are in the water plant operation building. This can be a hazard for small children and is not adequate space. They have looked at 3 different options, and this building is best suitable. The building appraised for $190,000 and they are purchasing for $170,000. Motion by Councilman Knight, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to have City Attorney Hamilton read the proposed ordinance for the first public reading in its entirety. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Hamilton read the proposed ordinance. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Knight to suspend the 3-day reading rule and read the proposed ordinance for the second reading by title only. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Hamilton read by title only. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Knight to read for third and final reading by title only. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Hamilton read by title only. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Knight to adopt Ordinance 2023-1. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Ordinance 2023-1 was adopted.

Mayor Marshall asked council if they had anything else to bring to the table. Hearing none, she opened the floor to the audience for comments. Mike Smith, Crossett Economic Development Foundation director thanked Councilman Knight for his service to the foundation over the past years. Mayor Marshall commended Councilman Knight and also appreciated CWC for all of their service to the city.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Clark Terrell, Clerk/Treasurer Crystal Marshall, Mayor