Crossett City Council met in regular session October 16, 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 David Tyler Mills

Councilmembers: Dan Pevy, Kerstin Mondragon, Chris Gill, James Knight, CT Foster

Absent: None

Mayor Marshall introduced Gunner Pack, Rex Webb and Barrett Hughes who led the group in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilman Knight to approve the minutes of the special council meeting of August 29 and the September 18 financial regular meeting. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Foster to approve the September, 2023 financial reports. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion carries and financial reports are approved.

Mayor Marshall gave updates on Youth Center construction progress. The roof and windows are complete and the total project should be complete by January or February. Still no word of the National Historical Registry. More information was requested and provided in order for a decision to be made.

East Crossett Wastewater project update was given by Mayor Marshall. Two separate bids were awarded and Pioneer construction has begun work on their portion of the job. Belk is waiting on material and should be beginning soon. Estimated completion of the full project is 1 ½ - 2 years.

Mayor also updated on the City Auditorium grant. Plans and specs are complete and submitted to the agency. Bids should be submitted soon.

Clerk/Treasurer Clark Terrell presented two resolutions for collection of property taxes in 2024 for consideration. He explained that these resolutions allow for the continuation of collection of 5 mill real and personal property tax for general fund operations and 2.4 mill real and personal property tax for maintenance and upkeep of the Crossett Public Library.

Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Knight to have City Attorney Mills read proposed Resolution 2023-7, a resolution to levy 5 mills general property taxes for the year 2023 to be collected in 2024. Roll call vote, all vote yes. Motion passed and Attorney Mills read. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Foster to adopt Resolution R-2023-7. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and resolution was adopted. Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilwoman Mondragon to adopt the emergency clause associated with the resolution. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Emergency clause is adopted.

Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Gill to have City Attorney Mills read proposed resolution to collect 2.4 mills for the operation of Crossett Public Library. Roll call vote. All vote yes, motion passed and Attorney Mill read Proposed Resolution. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Knight to adopt Resolution R-2023-8. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Resolution R-2023-8 was adopted. Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilwoman Mondragon to approve the emergency clause. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and emergency clause was approved.

Fire Chief Bo Higginbotham informed the council that there is equipment in his department that has no value to the city but would have value to volunteer departments or office of emergency management. There are several airpack units that are outdated and can be used as parts by Unity Frost Prairie Fire Department and old non-service ambulance (Medic 8) that he would like to donate to the Ashley County Office of Emergency Management to be used as a command center. In order to donate this equipment resolutions would be required. Two resolutions were presented for consideration.

Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Pevy to have City Attorney Mills read proposed resolution to donate retired SCBA Air Packs to Unity Frost Prairie Volunteer Fire Department to be used for parts. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Attorney Mills read the resolution. Councilman Gill asked that the sentence ensuring that the units would be deemed safe be removed from the resolution. All agree. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Gill to adopt Resolution R-2023-9 as amended. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and resolution was adopted.

Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Foster to have City Attorney Mills read a proposed resolution to donate an old ambulance for a command center to Ashley County Office of Emergency Management. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Attorney Mills read. Councilman Gill asked that section concerning making sure the vehicle was in running order be removed. All agree. Mayor Marshall explained that the city cannot donate equipment unless it has a benefit to the citizens of Crossett. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Pevy to adopt Resolution R-2023-10 as amended. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and resolution was adopted.

Mayor Marshall asked council to approve the appointment of Yolanda Martin, William Spradlin and Christian Kidd to the Crossett Parks & Recreation Commission. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to approve the nominations. Roll call vote. All vote yes.

Mayor Marshall informed the council that the VIP league for special need athletes will be kicking off Tuesday, October 17. Games will be played on October 17, October 19, October 24, October 26 and October 30. She encouraged everyone to come and participate and cheer on these very special athletes.

Mayor Marshall turned the floor over to Councilman Chris Gill. Councilman Gill stated that he has had several inquiries regarding changing trick-or-treating from a weekday to the Saturday before. He added that he sees potential conflicts either way and just wants to know the council’s thoughts on the matter. Councilwoman Mondragon stated that even if we agreed we wouldn’t be able to get the word out in time this year. Mayor Marshall added that she learned that trying to change rituals is not always a good thing. Councilman Pevy feels it should be left alone also. All agree that it is not as big an issue for the majority of citizens.

Mayor Marshall asked the council if anyone had anything else to bring to the table. Hearing none. She opened the floor to the audience. She introduced Mackenzie Merriweather, a member of Mayor’s Youth Council, and Yolanda Martin.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Clark Terrell, Clerk/Treasurer Crystal Marshall, Mayor