Crossett City Council met in regular session on February 26, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Crossett Public Library.

Roll call was taken as follows:

Present: Mayor Crystal Marshall, City Attorney David Tyler Mills

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

Absent: Clerk/Treasurer Clark Terrell,

 Councilmembers Kerstin Mondragon, Sheila Phillips

Mayor Marshall opened the meeting with prayer and pledge of allegiance led by Kyle and Olivia McNeice.

Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilman Knight to approve the minutes of the January 22 financial and regular meeting. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Motion by Councilman Knight, seconded by Councilman Pevy to approve the financial reports for January, 2024. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall opened the floor for a public hearing for sewer rate ordinance. She explained that in the regular January meeting, Sewer Rate Ordinance 2024-1 was presented. This is the mandated public hearing required for any questions or concerns. Hearing no comments from the audience, the public hearing was closed.

Motion by Councilman Gill, seconded by Councilman Foster to have City Attorney Mills to read Sewer Rate Ordinance 2024-1 for the second reading in its entirety. Roll call vote. Motion passed and City Attorney Mills read the ordinance. Motion by Councilman Gill, seconded by Councilman Foster to suspend the 3-day reading rule and read the proposal for the 3rd and final reading by title only. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and ordinance was read by title only. Motion by Councilman Gill, seconded by Councilman Foster to adopt Ordinance 2024-1. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and ordinance was adopted. Motion by Councilman Gill, seconded by Councilman Pevy to adopt the emergency clause attached to the ordinance. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and emergency clause was adopted.

Mayor Marshall informed the council that the Boys and Girls Club had donated a table for the City of Crossett officials at their annual banquet. She invited the council members to represent the city at the table.

**STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS**

Mayor Marshall reminded the gathering of some of the accomplishments the city has made in the past year including 2023 Volunteer Community of the Year, Capital City of the Day hosted by Governor Sanders and Councilman CT Foster being named as AML Vice-President for District 4. Some of the program successes include establishing Mayor’s Youth Council and another year of the mayor’s assistant intern program which was instrumental in helping to set up the youth council. She reminded us of the grants that the city received for the Youth Center and the East Crossett Sewer Improvement. Both projects are still going strong. A Veteran’s Park has been set up at the City Park with a beautiful sign with all seven of the divisions of military. Mural on building on Main invites residents and visitors for photo sessions. We are working on the second year of the VIP Special Needs Baseball program this year. Lucas Pond clean-up has been an on-going thing, but enhances the beauty of our city. Going to the one-arm garbage truck has increased efficiency of the department. School crossing zone at the Crossett High School has helped with safety of students. Mayor Marshall added that while sales tax and property taxes were up slightly from 2022, overall revenues were down by about $75,000. We are expecting 2024 revenues to come in about $200,000 under 2023 receipts. We will be frugal with our spending. She stated that Phase 1 of the Youth Center renovations will be complete soon and phase 2 should begin. We are working on an agreement between the city and the school district for revamping the tennis courts. A local company is wanting to assist us in restoring the windows at the Yale Cabins. Plans to remodel one bathroom at the RV Park are underway. Federal EPA grants are being sought to remediate 307 Main Street. We are working on revamping the city website. Promotional videos should begin in early spring. And as always, we are committed to recruiting new businesses and industries to the city.

Mayor Marshall asked council if they had anything to bring to the table. Hearing none, she opened the floor to the audience.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Clark Terrell, Clerk/Treasurer Crystal Marshall, Mayor