Crossett City Council met in regular session February 27, 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, Chris Gill, Sheila Phillips, James Knight, CT Foster

Absent: None

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

Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilman Knight to approve the minutes on the January 23rd council meeting. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to approve the financial reports for January with the exception of funds being corrected as noted. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall introduced Colt Craig, coach of the AYSSP Crossett Trap Shooting Team. Colt Craig explained that his team is a group of 14-15 year old students from Crossett schools who compete throughout the state in trap shooting contest. There are about 35 members of the team. They stress gun safety and responsible gun handling. They are asking for permission to hold practices on the big field next to the sports complex. This will be the open field against the tree-line on the east side of the practice field. Their practices are held on Sunday afternoons from 2:00-4:00 and shouldn’t interfere with baseball practices or games. Councilman Pevy asked if the throwers would require electricity and Mr. Craig stated they will not. Councilwoman Mondragon asked Director of Public Works Jeff Harrison if he had any concerns about the matter. Mr. Harrison added that all of his initial concerns have been answered. Mayor Marshall explained that there is a city ordinance prohibiting the shooting of firearms within the city limits. In order to allow for this, a variance to the ordinance would have to be granted. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to grant the variance to allow Crossett AYSSP to practice from 1:00 – 6:00 on Sunday afternoons in the designated area. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall presented a proposed resolution honoring Cary Carter for his service on the Crossett City Council. Motion by Councilman Gill, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to have City Attorney Hamilton read the proposed resolution. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Hamilton read proposed Resolution 2023-3. Motion by Councilman Gill, seconded by Councilwoman Mondragon to adopt the resolution. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Resolution 2023-3 was adopted.

Clerk/Treasurer Clark Terrell presented proposed resolution to finalize the 2022 budget. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to have City Attorney Hamilton read the proposal. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Hamilton read the proposed resolution. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to adopt the resolution. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Resolution 2023-2 was adopted.

Mayor Marshall presented proposed Ordinance 2023-2 to modify the residency requirements for members of the Crossett Fire Department. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Knight to have City Attorney read the proposal in its entirety. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and CA Hamilton read the proposed ordinance. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon to suspend the 3-day reading rule and have City Attorney Hamilton read the proposed ordinance for second ready by title only. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Hamilton read by title only. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Pevy to further suspend the reading rule and read for 3rd and final time by title only. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Hamilton read by title only. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Foster to adopt Ordinance 2023-2. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Ordinance 2023-2 was adopted.

Mayor Marshall asked council to approve the following appointments to the A&P Commission:

Chris Gill

Dan Pevy

Alicia Wise

Nick Adams

Laura Huntsman

Jennifer Griffin

Mayor Marshall explained that she is still working on getting one more member of the commission and would like for it to be a representative from a local hotel. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to approve the commission members stated above. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and members were approved. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to appoint Chris Gill as Chairman of the Commission. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Mr. Gill was named chairman.

Mayor Marshall asked council to approve the appointment of Joe Chambless to the Crossett Recreation Commission. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Gill to approve the appointment. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Mr. Chambless was appointed to the board.

**STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS**

**Mayor Marshall expressed gratitude for the teamwork shown between the city, department heads, city council, Chamber of Commerce, CEDF, county officials, state agencies, state legislators, federal legislators and most importantly our citizens. She added that department heads are meeting regularly to determine strategies to improve the safety and stability of our town and improve services to citizens. Mayor Marshall along with CEDF is working on a wide variety of grants to bring home any money we can qualify for. She reiterated improvements in each department and plans for future upgrades. Mayor Marshall added that CEDF is working to showcase Crossett and make our city attractive to investors and is hoping to have some commitments in the near future. She stated that even with the $100,000 state pullback (from overpayment of sales tax revenues in prior year) the city has remained flat in sales tax revenue and overall revenues are up a bit. We are expecting a decline next year in property tax revenue due to the demolition at Georgia-Pacific, but we are focusing on doing more with less. Mayor stated that the she, along with Jeff Harrison (DOPW) and the city of Crossett were recently featured in a City and Town Magazine publication. This brings added recognition and attention to our great city. Mayor Marshall informed that she has been appointed to serve on AML executive committee and is Vice-President of the league. She is also on the street aid committee. She stated “Every seat I have at the table means Crossett has a seat at the table. The importance of Crossett being in the conversation cannot be overstated. Staying plugged in is a strategic focus for our community. Our future is bright but won’t be without challenges. Working together we will face them and continue to proper.”**

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, CEDF Director, asked that as a courtesy to the businesses, Mr. Harrison inform the those around the sports complex of the intention to allow the trap shooting team to practice in the area. This would keep from alarming the workers when they hear the gunshots.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Clark Terrell, Clerk/Treasurer Crystal Marshall, Mayor