Crossett City Council met in regular session March 20, 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, Chris Gill, Sheila Phillips, James Knight, CT Foster

Absent: Kerstin Mondragon

Mayor Marshall opened the meeting with a prayer and pledge. Mayor Marshall introduced Zarionna Brown, Cheri-Chanel Mansfield and Savannah Brown who sang the National Anthem and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilman Knight to approve the minutes on the February 27 financial and regular meetings. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

Motion by Councilman Knight, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to approve the financial statements for February. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed

Mayor Marshall and Clerk/Treasurer Terrell introduced Ms. Ashlynn Heintze. She has been hired as Deputy Clerk/Treasurer & Mayor’s Assistant.

Mike Smith, Crossett Economic Development Foundation Director introduced Hali McNeice. She has been hired as grant writer and administrative assistant for CEDF.

Mayor Marshall updated the council on the State Street Aid project. The bid for the project came in more than $370,000 over projections. A small section from 9th/Beech to 9th/Main will be eliminated to stay within the budgeted amounts. Pine Bluff Sand and Gravel was awarded the bid and is scheduled to begin the overlay anytime between April and November, 2023.

Mayor Marshall added that the Crossett Youth Center grant improvements also came in over budget by around $100,000. Carpenter & Son was low-bidder on the project and they are working with the architect to get prices reduced. There is a chance that we could qualify for additional funding the AEDC. The priority on the project will be the roof and windows. Flooring will be added if funds are available.

Mayor Marshall presented an Ordinance for a variance on discharging firearms in the city limits, allowing Crossett School Skeet Shooting Team to use sports complex property for skeet shoot practice. Motion by Councilman Gill, seconded by Councilman Pevy to have City Attorney Hamilton read Proposed Ordinance 2023-3 for the first reading, in its entirety. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Hamilton read. Councilman Gill motioned that the title be changed to AYSSP instead of Crossett School as this team is not sanctioned by the school. Second by Councilman Pevy. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Mr. Hamilton changed the title on the ordinance. Motion by Councilman Gill, seconded by Councilman Pevy to suspend the 3-day reading rule and have City Attorney Hamilton read proposal for second reading by title only. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Hamilton read by title only. Motion by Councilman Gill, seconded by Councilman Pevy to further suspend the rules and read for third and final time by title only. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Hamilton read by title only. Motion by Councilman Gill, seconded by Councilman Knight to adopt Ordinance 2023-3. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Ordinance 2023-3 was adopted.

Mayor Marshall asked council to approve the appointment of Trudie Guy, manager of Tru Hotel in Crossett, to the A&P Committee. Motion by Councilman Pevy, seconded by Councilman Foster to approve the appointment. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall updated on the Auditorium grant. We have applied for grant again, after being rejected on two previous applications. Clements & Associates out of North Little Rock is the architect for this project and have shared their expertise and assisted in this grant application. Phase 1 is projected to cost around $165,000. The city has budgeted $35,000 as grant match and CEDF has pledge to contribute $25,000 additional funds.

Mayor Marshall added that when the Crossett Auditorium Board was formed, it was unclear of what their responsibilities would be to the city. She added that it is currently not working well. Mayor Marshall asked the council to consider dissolving the board until we can better define the role the board will play. Councilman Gill asked if this would have any effect on the current operation of the auditorium. Mayor Marshall answered that it would not. Motion by Councilman Gill, seconded by Councilman Foster to dissolve the Crossett Auditorium Board until roles can be more clearly defined. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall informed the council that there will be a community breakfast Thursday, March 30 at 8:00 at the American Legion building. Everyone is invited.

Mayor Marshall stated that Jennifer Rawlings has left and needs to be removed from signature card and banking information for Crossett Port Authority. She would like to add Ashlynn Heintze to that account. Motion by Councilman Knight, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to make that change. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor opened floor to council and no business was mentioned. She opened the floor to the audience. Mike Smith, CEDF Director, informed the group that a company will be bringing a barge through the Crossett Port in May. Arkansas Waterways Commission has assisted in getting this arranged. The barge will be tied up for about a week at the port. This will generate around $15,000 in revenue.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Clark Terrell, Clerk/Treasurer Crystal Marshall, Mayor