Crossett City Council met in regular session April 17, 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

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 Anakin McClain who led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Marshall then introduced Justin McClain, Anakin’s father, who is now the RV Park manager. The council welcomed Mr. McClain.

Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilman Knight to approve the minutes on the March 20, 2023 financial and regular meetings. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

Mayor Marshall updated the council on the Crossett Youth Center grant project. Community Development Block Grant of $300,000 was awarded, but the original bid came in well over $100,000 high. The architect along with Mayor and Public Works Director are working together to change specs and resubmit for bids. The next bid opening is scheduled for May 4 at 2:00 p.m. Phase 1 of the project will include a pitched roof, windows, ADA compliance of 1st floor restrooms, flooring on the 1st floor and painting doors. Additional projects will be added if funds permit.

Mayor Marshall informed the group that the automated garbage truck has arrived and is in operation. Public Works Director Harrison explained that there are many changes that will take some getting used to for citizens. The schedule will not change, but citizens will need to learn where to place there canisters so that they are not obstructed by any other objects and are accessible by the armed truck. Residents will also need to assure that after trash is emptied the lid is closed and can is returned to house. If the can fills with water from rain, it will not be able to be emptied. Provisions will be made for senior citizens or people physically unable to get can to curb. Mr. Harrison also explained that because the truck is a one-man operation it will free up 6 employees to work on other things. Commercial pickup, including apartment complex buildings, will not change.

Mayor Marshall told the council that she has started a Facebook campaign to name the truck. She has opened it to the public to make suggestion and will choose the most popular name and have a sticker put on the truck when the final decision is made.

Mayor Marshall reminded the council that for more than 24 years James Hamilton has served the city as City Attorney. Upon his death, the council will need to approve the appointment of a replacement. Mayor Marshall introduced David Tyler Mills to the council and the audience. She is asking the council to approve Mr. Mills to the position of City Attorney and Prosecuting Attorney for the City of Crossett. Motion by Councilman Pevy, seconded by Councilwoman Mondragon to approve the appointment. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and City Attorney Mills joined the mayor at the table.

Mayor Marshall introduced Tim Rodgers, a local real estate developer. She explained that Mr. Rodgers is requesting a variance for an 8’ fence at 1008 Pine Street. City Ordinance only allows for a 6’ privacy fence. Public Works Director Harrison added that Mr. Rodgers had been through all the protocol to allow for the variance and was denied by the Board of Adjustments by a 2-1 vote. The final option is to bring to the council and ask for variance. Mr. Rodgers told the council that he is working to improve several properties around town. He has added the fencing for privacy and security. Councilman Knight asked why 8’ instead of 6’ and Mr. Rodgers stated it was strictly for privacy. Councilman Pevy added that there are already 6’ fences in the area and the ordinance is in place for a reason. Councilwoman Mondragon added that if the Board of Adjustment has denied the request, she will back their decision. Councilman Gill expressed gratitude to Mr. Rodgers for investing in the community but also stated that although he doesn’t necessarily agree with the ordinance, he will enforce what is on the books. All council are in agreement.

Mayor Marshall opened the floor to the council for further discussion. Hearing none, she opened the floor to the audience. Mr. Rodgers asked if there were grants available to restore the Ramada Inn property. He suggested that the city seek grants and remodel to duplicate the Rose Inn. Mrs. Charlotte Hollimon asked that the Trishman House on Cedar Street be considered for the National Historical Register. Mr. Parker asked the procedure to change ordinance to allow for chicken inside city limits. He was told he would have to be on the agenda and request that the ordinance be changed.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Clark Terrell, Clerk/Treasurer Crystal Marshall, Mayor