Crossett City Council met in regular session May 15, 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, James Knight, CT Foster

Absent: Councilmembers Kerstin Mondragon, Chris Gill, Sheila Phillips

Because only 3 councilmembers were present, Mayor Marshall would be voting to make a majority.

Mayor Marshall opened the meeting with a prayer and pledge. Mayor Marshall introduced Hayzen Harris and Heidi Ruth Meeks who led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Marshall gave tribute to former City Attorney James Hamilton who passed away in March. Motion by Councilman Knight, seconded by Councilman Foster to have City Attorney Mills to read proposed resolution 2023-5 honoring Mr. Hamilton for his service to the city. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Mr. Mills read the resolution. Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilman Knight to adopt Resolution 2023-5. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Resolution was adopted. Mayor Marshall presented a signed, sealed copy of the resolution to Mr. Hamilton’s family.

Motion by Councilman Pevy, seconded by Councilman Knight to approve the minutes and the financial statements for April 2023. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall updated the council on the Crossett Youth Center grant. After initial bid opening came in over budgeted amount, a smaller project was carved out and the project was rebid. Although the bid is still over budget by $29,900 it was resubmitted to ADEC and accepted with the overage. Construction should begin in about 45 days.

Mayor Marshall updated council on East Crossett Sewer Project. This project is almost to the point to go to bid. City Attorney Mills has found documentation showing that Weyerhaeuser owns property in question and an easement should be obtained by the end of the week. We will need access agreements from Entergy and Railroad. We are looking at a June bid opening date and are working with other grant sources for covering projected overages in bids.

Mayor Marshall informed the council that the automated garbage truck is picking up and the biggest challenge is having citizens place cans in the proper place with no other debris around can. The street and sanitation crew has started implementing procedures to pick up only trash that is properly set out. No cans other than city cans and no trash that is not in the can is picked up. When the crew sees a violation, they are contacting the homeowner and explaining the proper procedure. She added that each stop is taking around 12 seconds and should continue to get more efficient.

Mayor Marshall also updated on the garbage truck name promotion. She stated that over 300 comments were received with suggestions. She had Street and Sanitation Department make the final decision on the name. The 3 finalist were The Claw, Oscar, and Bandit with the final selection being Bandit. Signs will be made and displayed on the truck.

Mayor Marshall reminded the council that last year the city applied for an outdoor recreation grant for tennis court improvements. While the application was rejected last year, the grant cycle is opening again and she would like the council’s permission to apply again. Motion by Councilman Knight, seconded by Councilman Foster to submit an outdoor recreation grant application for improvements to the Crossett City Tennis Courts. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall introduced Sheena Cooks, the chairman of the Juneteenth Holiday Celebration. Ms. Cooks informed the council that she is planning the Juneteenth celebration to be held at the City Park on June 19. She wants this to be a community event for all races and ethnic backgrounds. As of now, she plans to have games for kids, voter registrations, speakers, food venders and a variety of other events. She is asking for city’s support and encouraged everyone to participate in the event.

Mayor Marshall stated that the regularly scheduled June council meeting will be on June 19 (Juneteenth) which is a holiday for the City of Crossett. She asked that the council change the meeting to the following Monday, June 26. All are in agreement.

Mayor Marshall informed the council that she has been notified by National League of Cities that Crossett has been selected to represent Arkansas in the national publication. More information on this will be available soon.

Mayor opened the floor for council comments. Hearing none, she opened the floor for audience. No comments were made.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Clark Terrell, Clerk/Treasurer Crystal Marshall, Mayor