Crossett City Council met in regular session August 21, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Crossett Public Library.

Roll call vote was taken as follows:

Present: Mayor Crystal Marshall, City Attorney David Tyler Mills

Councilmembers: Dan Pevy, Sheila Phillips James Knight, CT Foster

Absent: Clerk/Treasurer Clark Terrell, Councilman Chris Gill, Councilwoman Kerstin Mondragon

Mayor Marshall opened the meeting with a prayer and pledge. Mayor Marshall introduced Roman Hebert who led the group in prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilman Knight to approve the minutes of the regular council meeting of July 17 and the August 11, 2023 special meeting. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

Motion by Councilman Knight, seconded by Councilman Foster to approve the July, 2023 financial reports. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion carries and financial reports are approved.

Mayor Marshall updated on the Crossett Youth Center. Arkansas Historical Registry Board has approved the nomination of the youth center to the state registry and recommended the building to the National Historical Registry. We should have news by the end of September on this nomination. The construction improvements should begin soon. Roofing materials were delivered today. Street overlay project will begin in that area soon also.

Mayor Marshall stated that applications for Youth Council are available to all High School students, including home school students and will be accepted through August 25. Interviews will be set up after applications are received. Mayor Marshall feels that this group of young adults have great insight and have a lot to offer this council. She will keep the council updated and informed as this is a new project and everyone is learning as we go.

Mayor Marshall presented a proposed resolution to add authorized signers for payment vouchers for the East Crossett Wastewater Project. Motion by Councilman Pevy, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to have City Attorney Tyler Mills read Proposed Resolution 2023-6. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Mr. Mills read the proposal. Motion by Councilman Pevy, seconded by Councilman Foster to adopt Resolution 2023-6. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Resolution 2023-6 was adopted.

Mayor Marshall gave an update on the Auditorium Historic Preservation Grant from upgrade on the air conditioning. Clements and Associates out of North Little Rock should have engineering work completed within the next 30 days and the bid process should be finalized in the next 2-3 months.

A parks and recreation grant for the Crossett Tennis Court renovation is scheduled to be turned in by Friday.

Mayor Marshall presented a proposed ordinance providing for the levy of a .25% sales and use tax within the city of Crossett for the purpose of securing, maintaining and developing economic development in the city of Crossett. Marshall asked Councilman Pevy to explain the tax since he was instrumental in the initiative from the beginning. Councilman Pevy explained that this is not a new tax and that the proceeds of this tax are used to allow Crossett to compete for business with other cities, counties and regions. He and Mike Smith, Crossett Economic Development Director, spoke of several accomplishments that have been made over the duration of the sales tax. Motion by Councilwoman Phillips, seconded by Councilman Knight to have City Attorney Tyler Mills read proposed ordinance 2023-6 for the 1st reading in its entirety. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and City Attorney Mills read the proposed ordinance for the first reading in its entirety. Motion by Councilwoman Phillips, seconded by Councilman Pevy to suspend the 3-day reading rule and read the proposed ordinance for the 2nd reading by title only. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and City Attorney Mills read the proposal by title only. Motion by Councilman Gill, seconded by Councilman Knight to further suspend the 3-day reading rule and read the proposal for 3rd and final reading by title only. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Mr. Mills read by title only. Motion by Councilman Gill, seconded by Councilman Pevy to adopt Ordinance 2023-6. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Ordinance 2023-6 was adopted.

Mayor Marshall presented a proposed ordinance calling for a special election for the question of continuing the sales and use tax for economic development within the city of Crossett and declaring an emergency. Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilman Knight to have City Attorney Tyler Mills read proposed Ordinance 2023-7 for the 1st reading in its entirety. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Mr. Mills read the proposal. Motion by Councilman Pevy, seconded by Councilman Knight to suspend the 3-day rule and read the proposed ordinance for 2nd reading by title only. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and City Attorney Mills read by title only. Motion by Councilman Pevy, seconded by Councilman Knight to further suspend the rule and read the proposed ordinance for 3rd and final reading by title only. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Mr. Mills read by title only. Note was made that there was typographical error and the date of commencement of tax was changed from September 31 to September 30. Motion by Councilman Pevy, seconded by Councilman Foster to adopt as amended. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Ordinance 2023-7 was adopted. Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilman Knight to adopt the emergency clause attached to the ordinance. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and emergency clause was adopted.

Mayor Marshall opened the floor to the council for further discussion. Hearing none, she opened the floor to the audience.

Mike Smith, CEDF director, thanked city employees for aiding him as he was struggling with equipment at the community center.

Robin Krneta asked if the city could clear the walking trails on the back side of the pond. She added that since the recent storms several trees and limbs are down on the sidewalk.

Scott Parker invited and encouraged the council and all present to attend the Sock Hop at the Crossett Middle School on September 9 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Proceeds from this event will benefit Options, Inc.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Clark Terrell, Clerk/Treasurer Crystal Marshall, Mayor