Crossett City Council met in special session August 29, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. in the Crossett Administration Building.

Present: Mayor Crystal Marshall, City Attorney Tyler Mills

Council: Kerstin Mondragon, Chris Gill, James Knight, Sheila Phillips, CT Foster

Absent: Clerk/Treasurer Clark Terrell, Councilman Dan Pevy

Mayor Marshall announced that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss an ordinance to amend the commencement date for the proposed sales tax for economic development and to discuss rate increase for sewer rates.

Mayor Marshall reminded the council that the city hasn’t had a rate increase on sewer rates since 2008. Traditionally, the city raises rates in increments. The last ordinance was passed in 2004 with annual raises over 4 years topping out in 2008. We have not had a rate increase since then. When those rates were set, the average carryover was $200,000 per year. That allowed for funds to build up and major projects to be performed as needed. The current carryover average is $29,000 per year. Crossett is in the lowest 13% percentile of rates in Arkansas. The Crossett Sewer Committee is in full support of the proposed rate increase presented in this ordinance. Motion by Councilman Gill, seconded by Councilman Foster to have City Attorney Mills read proposed ordinance 2023-9 for the first reading in its entirety. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Mr. Mills read the ordinance. Motion by Councilman Gill, seconded by Councilman Foster to suspend the 3-day reading rule and read the proposed ordinance for second reading by title only. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and City Attorney Mills read for second time by title only. Motion by Councilman Gill, seconded by Councilman Knight to further suspend the reading rule and read proposed ordinance for 3rd and final reading by title only. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and City Attorney Mills read for 3rd time by title only. Motion by Councilman Gill, seconded by Councilwoman Mondragon to adopt Ordinance 2023-9. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Ordinance 2023-9 was adopted. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Foster to approve the emergency clause attached to the ordinance. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and emergency clause was approved.

Mayor Marshall stated that Ordinance 2023-7 which was passed at the regular meeting of August 21, 2023 had a date for commencement of the sales tax for economic development as September 30, 2024 and the date should read October 1, 2024. She presented a proposed ordinance to amend that date. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Knight to have City Attorney Mills read proposed Ordinance 2023-8 for the first reading in its entirety. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Mr. Mills read the ordinance. Motion by Councilman Knight, seconded by Councilman Foster to suspend the 3-day reading rule and read for the second reading by title only. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and City Attorney Mills read by title only. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Gill 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 Mills read by title only. Motion By Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Gill to adopt Ordinance 2023-8. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Ordinance 2023-8 was adopted. Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilman Gill to accept the emergency clause attached to the ordinance. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and emergency clause was approved.

With no other business allowed, the meeting adjourned.

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Clark Terrell, Clerk/Treasurer Crystal Marshall, Mayor