Crossett City Council met in regular session on August 19, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Crossett Public Library.

Roll call was taken as follows:

Present: Mayor Crystal Marshall, Attorney David Tyler Mills

Councilmembers: Dan Pevy, Kerstin Mondragon, Chris Gill, James Knight, CT Foster

Absent: Clerk/Treasurer Clark Terrell and Councilwoman Sheila Phillips

Mayor Marshall opened the meeting with prayer and pledge of allegiance led by Cash Farmer.

Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilman Knight to approve the minutes of the July meetings. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Motion by Councilman Pevy, seconded by Councilwoman Mondragon to approve the July financial statements. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall updated on several projects:

* EC Crossett Youth Center grant project (Phase 1) is complete. Grant for phase 2 has been approved. This will provide a commercial kitchen and complete air conditioning for upstairs and downstairs.
* Auditorium HVAC Phase 1 project is complete. Grant for phase 2 has been approved. Architect for this project is Clements & Associates out of Little Rock. This will be for the second unit. Bidding process will be in person only.
* Crossett RV Park Loop C bathhouse project is complete. This makes the unit ADA compliant with showers and stalls. The building was given a great facelift.
* Director of Public Works Jeff Harrison stated that the East Crossett Sewer Project is 62% complete. Target date for completion is November 26th.

Mayor Marshall stated that the new city website is nearing completion. This website include reporting concerns, community calendar, link for water payments, all city ordinances, budgets along with minutes and financials. There will also be links for Crossett Recreation and the hospital. This will go live soon. Waiting on CGI videos so that it can all be uploaded at the same time.

Mayor also updated on the traffic light situation at Hwy 82 and Main Street. This is the light pole knocked down by a truck earlier this year. State mandates that the pole has to be exactly the same dimensions as the one taken down. A Hot Springs company has a pole for fabrication. The original quote for the replacement was $19,000 but additional work is needed to meet states requirements. A revised quote is being submitted to insurance carrier.

When asked about the traffic light at Hwy 82 and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Mayor Marshall stated that ARDot is doing a traffic study at the location. There may be grants available for assistance with this light. For now, the city of Little Rock has given us five control boxes to assist us in keeping traffic flowing safely.

Mayor introduced Dianne Marter from Crossett Water Commission. Mrs. Marter presented the 2022 audit report and fielded questions from the council. She stated that the audit reports are behind, but promised the 2023 audit before the end of the year.

Mayor Marshall along with Mrs. Marter asked the council to consider the appointment of Edith Morrison to the Crossett Water Commission replacing Beverly Gammel who has resigned. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Gill to approve the appointment. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall informed the council that Georgia-Pacific Corporation is wanting to donate their inoperable waterwells, wiring, land and electrical poles to the city. This could potentially improve the water quality within the city. This could also help develop future industry. We now have access to 2.5-3.5 million gallons of treated water, these wells could bring 15 times our current capacity. To dig a new well would cost around $500,000 each. These wells could be restored and put back into operation for about $60,000. Motion by Councilman Gill, seconded by Councilwoman Mondragon to accept the donation of the waterwells and accessories. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Crossett Economic Development Foundation Director Mike Smith updated the audience on several projects. He stated that the loss of jobs at Ingevity was not expected. There was nothing that the city or community could have done to prevent it. He added that a job fair is being planned for later this year. He also spoke of many positive things going on in the area. Cynergy Cargo is buying more property to expand business. Alvar Resin Plant built back after the fire and are looking to add new projects within the year. Premier PV is doing new renovation and looks to add 30-40 jobs soon. AOP received a detailed certification which is a major accomplishment for their company. UAM-CTC was successful in obtaining a grant for new buildings and equipment. Mr. Smith added that he is continuing to make contact with industries to encourage them to look at our area for location. Councilman Pevy expressed gratitude to Mr. Smith for the job he is doing in promoting our town.

Mayor Marshall asked if the council had anything else to bring to the table. Hearing none, she opened the floor to the audience. No comments were received.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

