Crossett City Council met in regular session on January 27, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Crossett Public Library.

Roll call was taken as follows:

Present: Mayor Crystal Marshall, Clerk/Treasurer Clark Terrell, City Attorney Tyler Mills

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

Absent: Councilwoman Kerstin Mondragon, Councilman Chris Gill

Mayor Marshall opened the meeting with prayer and pledge of allegiance led by Braidyn Smith.

Motion by Councilman Pevy, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to approve the minutes of the finance and regular meetings of December 16, 2024. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Motion by Councilman Knight, seconded by Councilman Foster to approve the December, 2024 financial statements. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall introduced students from CHS EAST Lab along with their sponsor and Arkansas Game and Fish Biologist Ryan Mozisek. The students presented a proposal for fish habitats and duck houses for Lucas Pond. This would include native trees, shrubs and grasses to help alleviate erosion and sediment infiltration into the pond. Motion by Councilman Knight, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to approve the proposal.

The EAST Lab students also presented a proposal for constructing a duck house to place on the island to provide shelters from the elements and from predators. The students will construct and maintain the house. The estimated cost for project will be around $600. Motion by Councilwoman Phillips, seconded by Councilman Knight to approve spending the funds for the construction. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall presented several project updates including:

* + Phase 2 of the Auditorium heat and air renovation was awarded to Mizell Heating & Air out of Dumas. Contract has been signed and we are awaiting equipment. CEDF has agreed to pay the match for the AR Heritage Historic Preservation Grant. Units should be shipped in early February.
  + Crossett Wastewater project update was presented by DOPW Jeff Harrison. The project is 99.9% complete. Clean up is stalled due to weather. Light poles are ordered to finish up Chen Chen parking lot. Contractors should be here this week to make sure all the equipment is working properly.

Mayor Marshall reminded the council that we are in an agreement with Arkansas Municipal Equipment for a 2-year rotation on garbage trucks. It is time again to secure funding for the trucks. The first truck is ready to be delivered. CenturyNext Bank of Ashley County is offering to finance the first truck at 4.9% interest. Mayor Marshall is asking council to continue with this 2-year rotation agreement and to secure financing for vehicles when needed, beginning with CenturyNext Bank for this first truck. Motion by Councilman Knight, seconded by Councilman Foster to approve. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall presented a proposal to shift months for sewer rate calculations from December/January to October/November of each year. Mayor explained that due to excessive cold weather in December/January, many residents have pipes burst which causes extra usage for those months. Motion by Councilwoman Phillips seconded by Councilman Knight to have City Attorney Mills read proposed Ordinance 2025-1 for the first reading in its entirety. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and the ordinance was read. Motion by Councilman Knight, seconded by Councilman Foster to suspend the 3-day reading rule and read the proposal for the second reading by title only. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Mills read by title only. Motion by Councilman Knight, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to further suspend the rule and read 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 Foster, seconded by Councilman Knight to adopt Ordinance 2025-1. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Ordinance was adopted. Motion by Councilman Knight, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to adopt the emergency clause associated with the ordinance. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and emergency clause was adopted.

Mayor Marshall asked council’s pleasure on the procedural rules for meetings. Motion by Councilman Pevy, seconded by Councilman Foster to continue with current procedures. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor reminded council that she will be leaving Wednesday, January 29 going to Dallas, Texas along with Crossett Economic Development Foundation Director Mike Smith for a convention on International Council of Shopping Centers.

Mayor opened the floor to council for further discussion. Hearing none, she opened the floor to the audience. Mrs. Charlotte Hollimon asked to contribute the funding for the duck houses at the pond in memory of her brother, Bill Runyun.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Clark Terrell, Clerk/Treasurer Crystal Marshall, Mayor