Crossett City Council met in regular session on October 21, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Crossett Public Library.

Roll call was taken as follows:

Present: Mayor Crystal Marshall, City Attorney Tyler Mills

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

Absent: Clerk/Treasurer Clark Terrell, Councilman Dan Pevy

Mayor Marshall opened the meeting with prayer and pledge of allegiance led by Noah Albritton, Chase Fleming and Avery Fleming.

Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilman Knight to approve the minutes of the September meeting amending to show Councilman Chris Gill as absent. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

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

Mayor Marshall began the meeting with a slide show presentation of the City of Crossett updated website. She thanked the committee which has worked diligently on the CGI videos. The website address is cityofcrossett-ar.com.

Mayor Marshall presented several project updates including:

* + Crossett Youth Center renovation project is complete. The final walk-through is scheduled for October 24, 2024. After the walk-through a grand opening/open house will be scheduled. Mayor Marshall expressed appreciation to everyone for has worked on this project, including ADEQ, EDF and Orlando Robinson.
  + Phase 2 of the Auditorium industrial heating & air project is ready for bids. Bid opening is scheduled for Tuesday at 2:00 p.m.
  + Crossett Wastewater project update was presented by DOPW Jeff Harrison. The project is 92% complete. The punch list for issues to be completed at the end of the project has started. Mr. Harrison asked that if any citizen has seen damages or any issue that was caused by the construction, to contact his office to be added to the list.
  + Mayor Marshall stated that the pole for the traffic light at Main and Hwy 82 which was damaged in the accident, is being fabricated and the insurance company has agreed to pay for the foundation damage in order to complete the project.

Mayor Marshall presented the names of the nominees for Mayor’s Youth Council for 2024-2025 school year. They are Jordin Temple, Sophie Langston, Whitney Juarez, Isabel Ross,

Kaylee Trigleth, Dallany Flores, Carolynda Bailey, Asher Johnson, Makenzie Merriweather, Jhakera Williams, Harvey Broderson, Mallory Walsh, and Jaydin Temple. Motion was made by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Gill to approve all members for the 2024-2024 Mayor’s Youth Council.

Home occupancy Ordinance Review was made by City Attorney Tyler Mills. He stated state statue 14.36.07 14-1-106 (updated 2021) does not allow city to prohibit home based businesses. They are allowed to regulate the businesses. Councilman Gill “What are you allowed to regulate?” City Attorney Mills “Regulation of signs, types, number of employees, etc.” Councilwoman Mondragon “State statue allows it, but local government is allowed to regulate it?”. Councilman Gill “Have we reviewed any covenants for the city?” Attorney Mills “We do not have any for the city. That would be a civil matter within the covenant”.

Mayor Marshall presented Resolution 2024-5 and 2024-6 to the council. Motion made by Councilman Gill to read 2024-5, seconded by Councilwomen Phillips. Roll call vote. All yes. Motion passed and City Attorney Mills read the resolution. Motion made by Councilman Gill to adopt Resolution 2024-5, seconded by Councilman Knight. Roll call vote. All yes. Motion passed. Motion made by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Gill to adopt emergency clause. Roll call vote. All yes. Motion passed.

Motion made by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Foster to read 2024-6 Library Milage. Roll call vote. All yes. Motion passed and City Attorney Mills read the resolution. Motion made by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Gill to adopt resolution 2024-6. Roll call vote. All yes. Motion passed. Motion made by Councilwoman Mondragon to adopt emergency clause, seconded by Councilman Gill. Roll call vote. All yes. Motion passed.

Floor turned over to Mr. Orlando Robinson to discuss the EC Crossett Youth Center. Mr. Robinson informs council that a beautiful pavilion was built a few years ago. He would like to dedicate the pavilion and rename to Robert Bradford Pavilion. He has hopes to continue to improve the facility and bring youth activities for the community to come together. Mr. Robinson discussed how he would eventually want public restrooms on the grounds, updated basketball court, and possibly even a tennis court. Mr. Robinson informed council that Cynergy Cargo will donate the letters and materials and he will do the installation for the name sign if approved. Motion made by Councilwoman Mondragon to approve the dedication and renaming of the pavilion to Robert Bradford Pavilion, seconded by Councilman Gill. Roll call vote. All yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall brought forth a proposal for the council to consider allowing the Crossett Boys and Girls Club to oversee the League Ball Program. Mayor also proposed updating the contract between the City of Crossett and The Boys and Girls Club by increasing their funding from $12,500 to $25,000 yearly. Mayor Marshall expressed this would be a tremendous savings for the city. Councilwoman Mondragon asked “about how much savings would this be for the city?” Deputy Clerk Lisa Gulledge answered with stating “Around a $16,000 savings for the city”. Mr. Jeff Harrison expressed how this will help with being able to help the city’s Allstars teams financially, where as of now the city cannot. Mayor Marshall added to this comment explaining about tax payers funds, public funds, and the way the laws work with this situation. Councilman Gill asked “What will this intel, as far as breaking down the details?” Mr. Harrison answered “They will operate the League baseball and softball program and the concession stand. The city will continue operating and maintain the grounds and utilities. The city will also continue to operate VIP League ball.” Councilwoman Mondragon recuses herself from voting, as she is a Boys and Girls Club Board Member. Motion made by Councilman Gill for the Crossett Boys and Girls Club to operate/oversee the League Ball Program, while also increasing their contract amount to $25,000.00, seconded by Councilman Knight. Roll call vote. All yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall then opened the floor for to audience for questions or comments.

Kimberly Lewis asked how would or do they have a plan to increase participation for the girls softball program?

Lindsey Coulter “That is the goal of this transition. We will pound the pavement for participation, for more coaches, for more sponsors. She also believes with towns familiarity with the Boys and Girls Club already hosting many other sports, this could help the involvement also. Mr. Chase Carlson, a Board Member for Crossett’s Parks and Rec joined Ms. Coulter to the meeting.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Clark Terrell, Clerk/Treasurer Crystal Marshall, Mayor