Crossett City Council met in regular session on December 16, 2024 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, Chris Gill, Sheila Phillips, James Knight, and CT Foster

Absent: Councilwoman Kerstin Mondragon

Mayor Marshall opened the meeting with prayer and pledge of allegiance led by Aubree Creekmore.

Motion by Councilman Pevy, seconded by Councilman Knight to accept the minutes of the special meeting of December 9 and the finance and regular minutes of December 16, 2024. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Motion by Councilman Knight, seconded by Councilman Foster to approve the November, 2024 financial statements. 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.
	+ Crossett Wastewater project update was presented by DOPW Jeff Harrison. The project is 99.9% complete. Only about 8 service laterals yet to tie in. Weather has caused a delay in completion date and is now estimated for mid-January.

Mayor Marshall asked council to approve the appointment of Anthony Boykin and Jan Hambrick to the Crossett Library Board. Motion by Councilman Gill, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to accept the nominations. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and nominations were accepted.

A proposed resolution adopting the budget for 2025 was presented to the council. Motion by Councilman Gill, seconded by Councilman Knight to have City Attorney Mills read proposed Resolution 2024-7. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Attorney mills read the proposal. Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilman Knight to adopt Resolution 2024-7 as the 2025 budget. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and Resolution 2024-7 was adopted.

Mayor Marshall and CEDF Director Mike Smith updated the assembly on the recently announced GP Expansion. This is a $90 million investment into the local facility and shows that GP is committed to Crossett and continuing operations here. This expansion will add 2 converting lines and will create about 50 new jobs. It may take up to 12 months for the equipment to arrive. Hiring should start in late spring.

CEDF Director Mike Smith announced that Grant Writer Hali McNeice has secured a grant for Crossett Police Department of nearly $60,000. This will be for dash cams and fingerprint scanners.

Mayor Marshall informed the council that there is a team of students at Crossett High School interested in putting duck boxes on the island at Lucas Pond. They have received a $2,000 grant and are working with Arkansas Game & Fish to get this started.

Mayor Marshall opened the floor to the council for further discussion. Hearing none, she opened the floor to the audience. Mrs. Gail Zimmerman asked about the water rate increase that was discussed at a prior meeting. Mayor Marshall explained that State Act 605 requires a rate study and implementation of a rate increase. She is still working with Ar Rural Water Association on the rate study to find ways to cause the least amount of damage to the lower income residents.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Clark Terrell, Clerk/Treasurer Crystal Marshall, Mayor