Crossett City Council met in special session April 26, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. in the Crossett Administration Building.

Present: Mayor: Crystal Marshall

 Council: Phillips, Mondragon, Knight, Gill, Carter and Foster

Absent: City Attorney Hamilton, Clerk/Treasurer Terrell

Mayor Marshall stated that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss redistricting and a proposal to adjust budget for American Rescue Plan funds.

Mayor Marshall recognized Councilman Gill, who has been researching options for redistricting. Councilman Gill explained that following the 2020 census, our local voting districts are out of proportion. He presented publications explaining the laws regarding this issue. He added that legally we cannot have more than a 10% deviation between wards. Based on the census records, the total number of voters for the city of Crossett is 4,822. This makes our target for each ward as 1,607. Currently Ward 1 has 1,400 voters, Ward 2 has 1,659 and Ward 3 has 1,763. This makes Ward 1- 12.9% under target, Ward 2 – 3.21% above target and Ward 3 – 9.7% above target number, making total deviation 22.58%. To stay in compliance, we must redistrict.

Councilman Gill has worked closely with Arkansas Geographic Information Systems Office (GIS) and presented 2 possible redistricting options. The first proposal includes moving about 148 people from Ward 3 to Ward 1. This proposal changes the blocks of Pine Street, Oak Street and Beech Street from 9th Avenue to 11th Avenue from Ward 3 to Ward 1, This option brings the overall deviation to 4.4%. The second proposal splits blocks of Elm, Cedar, Hickory and Maple Street and brings the deviation level to 6.1%. Councilmembers agree that Option 1 is the best option. Motion by Councilman Knight, seconded by Councilman Carter to have City Attorney Hamilton draw up an ordinance redistricting the wards as presented in the first proposal. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed. Mayor Marshall thanked Councilman Gill for his work on this matter.

Mayor Marshall presented a resolution to amend the 2021 budget changing ARPA funds to cover police and fire salaries. Mayor Marshall explained that this is a new development and will simplify the compliance reporting. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips to have Mayor Marshall read the proposed resolution. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed. Mayor Marshall read proposed resolution R-2022-2. Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilman Knight to adopt the resolution. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed and R-2022-2 was adopted.

With no other business, motion to adjourn by Councilman Knight, seconded by Councilman Foster. All vote yes. The meeting adjourned.

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Clark Terrell, Clerk/Treasurer Crystal Marshall, Mayor