Crossett City Council met in regular session July 19, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Crossett Public Library.

Roll call vote was taken as follows:

Present: Mayor Crystal Marshall, City Attorney James Hamilton, Clerk/Treasurer CW Terrell

Councilmember’s: CT Foster, Cary Carter, Kerstin Mondragon, Chris Gill, James Knight, Sheila Phillips

Absent: None

Mayor Marshall opened the meeting with prayer and pledge of allegiance. She introduced Courtney Norman and Toni Jones who led in the pledge of allegiance.

Motion by Councilman Foster, seconded by Councilman Knight to approve the minutes of the finance meeting and regular meeting of June 21. Roll call vote All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall updated the council on the American Rescue Plan-COVID funding for local governments. Arkansas Municipal League along with treasury department is working with municipalities to determine on what expenses this money can be spent. While a portion of the funds will be restricted, the lost revenue funds will be eligible to be spent on any governmental expense. There is a formula to determine the amount of lost revenue for each entity. Mayor Marshall stated she will propose an employee stimulus when this amount is determined and asked the council to be considering other projects that are needed in the city.

Mayor Marshall reminded the council that we are getting close to going to direct deposit on payroll checks. The current software allows for direct deposit through a third-party source. If the city doesn’t use this third-party vendor, we will have to change our current software program. This will be very costly. She asked council to allow city to contract with third party vendor to complete this procedure. Motion by Councilwoman Mondragon, seconded by Councilman Knight to allow third-party to transmit encrypted data for direct deposit. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Marshall informed the council that the city has an opportunity to have the cabins at Yale Camp moved to city park. She introduced Mr. Joe Felsman from Weyerhouser. Mr. Felsman stated that these cabins have rich history with the timber industry. Students from all over the world have stayed in these cabins to study forestry. Cabins were built in 1946. There are 8 one-room cabins and one main cabin with fireplace and kitchen. Weyerhouser has agreed to pay the expense of moving the cabins and Crossett Economic Development will pay for any foundation work that needs to be performed. The city will be responsible for removing any trees which may need to be cleared. Councilman Carter noted that a termite contract will need to be obtained to preserve the cabins. Motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Foster to accept the gift from Weyerhouser and have the cabins moved to Crossett City Park at the old zoo location. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Motion passed.

Councilman Gill commended Director of Public Works Jeff Harrison on the report for the complex and parks. He is excited about the plans for a driving range at the complex. He also mentioned that a city citizen, Ray Kubiak, has been clearing a path to Lucas Pond and expressed appreciation for his service to the community. Councilwoman Mondragon added that street and sanitation department has been making great stride in keeping the city looking great. Councilman Carter mentioned that more employees are needed to adequately keep up with all the growing tasks required for the city. Mr. Harrison explained that he is currently seeking to hire 6 positions between the sewer, drainage and street and sanitation departments.

Mayor Marshall opened the floor to comments from audience. Hearing none and with no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Clark Terrell, Clerk/Treasurer Crystal Marshall, Mayor