

**Regular Monthly Meeting of the City Council
City of Rockport
1472 Military Road, Rockport, Arkansas
Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022**

Pledge of Allegiance:

Council member Brenda Womble led the Pledge of Allegiance

Opening Prayer:

Opening prayer by council member Melinda Baker

Roll Call:

Council members present: Mayor Kevin Baker; Melinda Baker; Brenda Womble; Jimmy Shuffield; Darrell Hughes

Others Present:

Shira Kelley; Damon Dyer; Sgt. Toby Morales (arrived later)

Approval of Minutes:

M. Baker motion to accept minutes of Oct. 18 regular council meeting

Womble seconds

M. Baker: Y; Shuffield: Y; Womble: Y; Hughes: Y

Financial Report:

This month's council meeting was moved one week before the regular date, so the financial report is not available. Tabled until next meeting.

Departmental Reports:

Street Department:

Damon Dyer says need to put gravel on Phillips Road. K. Baker says gravel won't do any good until ditches are pulled and other work is done. Have to be careful working on drainage because of sewer right of way.

Discussion: K. Baker emphasizes the importance of avoiding conflicts of interest, or appearance thereof, if he does the work. Hughes says the city has a waiver allowing him to do work for the city; Womble says since Baker is a local company it's permissible. K. Baker tables further discussion for a month to evaluate.

Planning Commission Report:

Dyer says need to talk to engineer to get a study on effect of upcoming truck stop. The parking lot will create too much drainage flow to handle. To a question from M. Baker, he says another culvert will help but will not completely cure the problem. K. Baker says he can get with the engineer and have the truck stop build a concrete bridge as part of construction. (Truck stop to pay as part of construction costs.) Dyer says the culvert supplier has said he is willing to help the city in any way possible.

Off-agenda personnel issue:

Dyer wants to sell back 200 unused 2022 vacation hours, as done last year. Womble asks if there's a limit. M. Baker says handbook sets limit. Discussion about handbook policies. K. Baker says in future city is going to start going by policy and get vacation hours under control. Vacation hours are not supposed to carry from year to year. This will end after this year. Need to get handbook updated and ready by end of this year.

Womble motion to buy back 200 hours of vacation time from Dyer, to be paid from street department.

Shuffield seconds.

Hughes: Y; M. Baker: Y; Womble: Y; Shuffield: Y

Code Enforcement:

Dyer is sending a letter to Tina Hobbs on Nix Road about code enforcement for leaves/trash she is blowing into neighbor's yard and other property. K. Baker instructs him to provide follow-up report at next meeting.

Dyer and Hughes say the tree trimming service contracted by Entergy to clear power lines is not cleaning up wood (except in yards). K. Baker says enough local people want firewood; let them get the wood rather than fighting with the contractor or Entergy.

Sewer Department:

Dyer says Rebecca has various paperwork that must be submitted to the state by Nov. 22. Heavy discussion of records management and organization. K. Baker instructs Dyer to get the information back from Rebecca and submit it to the state.

Womble motion to accept departmental reports.

M. Baker seconds

Shuffield: Y; Hughes: Y; M. Baker: Y; Womble: Y

New business:

Paying sewer bills with a credit card through RVS

Womble has researched. Says there are 20 vendors the city can use to take sewer payments online. Cost varies from \$125-\$1,000. Discussion about how many customers want this. K. Baker says do more research to get more details on cost, how many people will use it, etc.

Old Business:

2023 Budget for the City of Rockport:

M. Baker introduces and reads Resolution NO. 2022-2, providing for the adoption of the 2023 budget.

K. Baker says District Judge Gibson asked if city is willing to pay its \$1,500 share of a raise to his clerk. Council agrees (see corrections below).

Corrections noted: Under Judicial Fine Enhancement, there's an extra \$7,500 line item called Equipment. There should only be one line item, called Equipment & Repairs, for \$7,500.

Under Malvern Courthouse Expense add \$1,500 to line item "Judge's Clerk Salary." Denote as "other expenses" last line item of this category, of \$1,775.
End of this section should be Total Rockport (\$14,325); Total Malvern Court Expense (\$34,355); Total Court Expense (\$48,680).

Womble motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-2.

M. Baker seconds.

Hughes: Y; Shuffield: Y; Womble: Y; M. Baker: Y

K. Baker instructs Sgt. Morales to obtain access to all other officers' tickets and information to compile police reports.

Adjournment:

M. Baker motion to adjourn

Womble seconds

Shuffield: Y; Hughes: Y; M. Baker: Y; Womble: Y

Attest: _____
Shira Kelley, secretary

Approved: _____
Kevin Baker, Mayor

Date: _____