

**Regular Meeting of the City Council
City of Rockport
1472 Military Road, Rockport, Arkansas
Tuesday, April 18, 2023**

Call to Order

Council member Brenda Womble called the meeting to order

Pledge of Allegiance

Council member Brenda Womble led the Pledge of Allegiance

Opening Prayer

Melinda Baker led the opening prayer

Roll Call

Council members present: Melinda Baker, Darrell Hughes, Jimmy Shuffield, Brenda Womble

Others present: State Rep. Rick McClure, Police Chief Toby Morales, Shira Kelley

Approval of minutes

- Hughes motion to accept minutes of March 21 regular meeting
- Shuffield second
- Hughes: Y; Shuffield: Y; M. Baker: Y; Womble: Y

Rep. McClure was invited for a discussion of discrepancies between various state agencies in mapping Rockport and Malvern city limits. The Arkansas Department of Finance & Administration had sent some sales tax revenue to Malvern from businesses that should be paying to Rockport. McClure will check with the Secretary of State's Office to verify certain annexations, and with the Arkansas Department of Transportation to clarify other maps. He has already spoken to Philip Yancy at DFA regarding the former "Belly's," previously known as "Chile Peppers;" both cities' mayors and the assessor say this is in Rockport.

Financial Report

Questions about a payment to Country Garden florist. Auditors will flag this. Need to make sure these are not paid from city funds in future.

Questions about "Cares Act" payment of \$190.76; COVID funds were not matching funds. But did have to have plastic barriers up before reopening to public.

Medlin's accrued leave payout is completed.

- M. Baker motion to accept financial report
- Hughes second
- M. Baker: Y; Hughes: Y; Womble: Y

Departmental Reports

Planning Commission: Morales says Laura Robbins has set up email and text groups and has set up a date to do more work at the park. Someone has agreed to donate money, but he does not have details. Says Robbins is working on some kind of animal control ordinance. Discussion of this. Morales says must have something in place for code enforcement to carry legal weight.

Police: Morales says department responded to over 335 calls for service, including theft reports, interstate calls and more. This is in addition to citations, assists, warrant services, etc. He has hired three part-time officers to help with coverage. He has gotten everyone's comp time reduced except Skinner; Morales cannot cover all of Skinner's time and do his own work but is getting closer.

Finney has given notice for May 1 and is currently burning his accrued leave. Finney will use all accruals before his end date.

Morales will attend canine handler classes to take over working the dog but is soliciting donations to cover registration fees.

Morales received several applications for that job and hired Chris Curtis, who has moved from Ward to Rockport for the job.

Ford Explorer should be returned from repairs Thursday, April 20. All work was covered under warranty; new motor has three-year warranty.

Discussion about jail fees paid to county.

Street Department: no report, but ditches in some areas have been sprayed.

Sewer: Womble says another pump has been turned on. Plumber had to make repairs at Military/Babcock intersection, but need him to come back and repair another leak.

- Hughes motion to accept departmental reports
- Baker second
- Hughes: Y; Baker: Y; Womble: Y

Old Business

Reading of Ordinance 2023-5 for third and final time

- Hughes motion to table third reading
- Shuffield second
- Hughes: Y; Shuffield: Y; Womble: Y; Baker: Y

New Business

Auditors are near completion on 2021 audit. Don't know when they will begin 2022 audit.

Baker introduces and reads Ordinance 2023-6, *"An ordinance requiring a permit to sell fireworks in the city of Rockport, Arkansas, and for other purposes."*

- Baker motion to accept ordinance on first reading
- Womble second
- Baker: Y; Womble: Y; Hughes: Y

- Hughes motion to suspend rules and place ordinance on second reading by title only
- Womble second
- Hughes: Y; Womble: Y; Baker: Y

- Womble motion to accept second reading
- Baker second
- Womble: Y; Baker: Y; Hughes: Y

- Hughes motion to suspend rules and place ordinance on third reading by title only and adopt emergency clause
- Baker second
- Hughes: Y; Baker: Y; Womble: Y

- Hughes motion to accept ordinance
- Baker second
- Hughes: Y; Baker: Y; Womble: Y

Baker introduces and reads Ordinance 2023-7, *“An ordinance allowing Darrin Dyer to work for the city of Rockport mowing city property lawns.”*

- Baker motion to accept on first reading
- Womble second
- M. Baker: Y; Womble: Y; Hughes: Y

- Hughes motion to suspend rules and place ordinance on second reading by title only
- Womble second
- Hughes: Y; Womble: Y; Baker: Y

- Hughes motion to suspend rules and place ordinance on third reading by title only
- M. Baker second
- Hughes; Y; M. Baker; Y; Womble: Y

- Hughes motion to accept ordinance
- Baker second
- Hughes: Y; Baker: Y; Womble: Y; Shuffield: Y
 - *Note: Shuffield left meeting early but recorded his vote in favor of the ordinance prior to leaving.*

Executive session

- Baker motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss personnel issues
- Womble second
- Baker: Y; Womble: Y; Hughes: Y

Upon return to general session

- Baker motion to increase Zachary Skinner’s pay to \$17.60 per hour.
- Womble second
- Baker: Y; Womble: Y; Hughes: Y

Adjournment

- Womble motion to adjourn
- Baker second
- Womble: Y; Baker: Y; Hughes: Y

Attest: _____
Shira Kelley, Secretary

Approved: _____
Kevin Baker, Mayor