

**Regular Meeting of the City Council
City of Rockport
1472 Military Road, Rockport, Arkansas
Tuesday, April 15, 2025**

Call to order

Councilwoman Brenda Womble called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

Councilwoman Melinda Baker led the Pledge of Allegiance and offered the invocation.

Roll call

Council members present: Mayor Kevin Baker, Melinda Baker, Darrell Hughes, Brenda Womble

Others present: attorney Greg Vardaman; Shira Kelley

Citizens present: Brenda Beason and Jim Beason with attorney, Perry Young

Approval of minutes

- Baker motion to approve minutes of March 2025 regular meeting
- Hughes second
- Voting yes: Baker, Hughes, Womble

Old Business: Citizen Appearance

Attorney Perry Young spoke on behalf of the Beasons, requesting the council's consideration of their petition to sever their two recently-annexed parcels from Rockport's city limits. Young acknowledged that nothing in state law compels the council to do so, but said the Beasons were unaware their property was included in the annexation until the election.

Vardaman advised the council that they *may* within 30 days of the election pass an ordinance allowing a petitioner to detach, but said it is discretionary.

M. Baker said the city has chosen to not release anyone in the affected area to avoid a series of related petitions. Some parcels were annexed to provide access to people who actively sought to annex into Rockport.

The council said they would discuss the matter further and would notify the Beasons of their decision later.

The Beasons and their attorney left at 5:40 p.m.

- M. Baker motion to take no action on Beason petition to detach
- Womble second
- Voting yes: Baker, Womble, Hughes

K. Baker instructed Vardaman to write to the Beason's attorney, notifying him that the city declines to take action.

Departmental Reports

Financial statement: no report; Sylvia is out on medical leave. Womble says recently found another shortage of \$1,500-\$2,000 in tax payments to IRS.

Police Department: no report

Planning Commission: no report

Street Department: M. Baker says recent storms caused extensive damage. The three dirt roads in the city are washed out. She has asked Damon Dyer to scrape those roads to make them passable until the city obtains FEMA funding, if possible. M. Baker, Jim, and Scott have taken pictures of road damage.

The city needs to find money for street maintenance; there is currently no money to maintain. Some of what had been earmarked for maintenance is being used to pay IRS back-taxes and repair the city truck.

M. Baker says AHTD will not help with runoff mitigation from the bypass onto Jenny Lane but may possibly help with Military Road.

Sewer Department: Scott is registered for training; Womble has made hotel reservations for him. No word yet on the soil sample discussed in March; flooding delayed this. Council members also received a handout with information about the security cameras the council authorized in March.

- M. Baker motion to authorize purchase of an additional security camera, for a total of 3.
- Hughes second
- Voting yes: Baker, Hughes, Womble.

M. Baker says we will have prison work crews clean rights-of-way for the sewer. We need access because we are conducting a lot of repairs since the construction company installed the wrong pipe. M. Baker says she will try to get some of this issue turned in to FEMA since the recent flooding has caused issues for several house pumps.

We need to get a wash-out system for the pumps.

The winch the council voted in March to purchase arrived today.

- Hughes motion to sell diesel Chevrolet truck through online auction
 - Baker second
 - Voting yes: Hughes, Baker, Womble
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- Baker motion to approve departmental reports
 - Hughes second
 - Voting yes: Baker, Hughes, Womble

New Business

Police vacation time: Morales had earlier asked the council to revisit leave accrual for officers. State law says officers will accrue no less than 15 days per year, but the city can limit carryover. Womble says she will tell Morales to seek Vardaman's advice. Hughes suggests having a working session on this issue at the May agenda meeting.

Comp time: Hughes asks how we verify that employees work the overtime they turn in. M. Baker says we don't; we have to take their word for it.

Salary increase: Womble says she will send a laptop home with Sylvia to work when she can, while she convalesces.

- Hughes motion to raise Syliva's pay by \$1 per hour
- Baker second
- Voting yes: Hughes, Baker, Womble

Adjournment

- Womble motion to adjourn
- M. Baker second
- Voting yes: Womble, Baker, Hughes

Adjourned, 6:58 p.m.

Attest: _____ Approved: _____
Shira Kelley, Secretary Kevin Baker, Mayor