

**Regular Meeting of the City Council
City of Rockport
1472 Military Road, Rockport, Arkansas
Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023**

Call to Order

Council member Brenda Womble called the meeting to order

Pledge of Allegiance

Council member Melinda Baker led the Pledge of Allegiance

Opening Prayer

Council member Brenda Womble led the opening prayer

Roll call

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

Other city personnel present: Police Chief Toby Morales, Shira Kelley

By phone, later in meeting: Mayor Kevin Baker

Approval of minutes

Minutes from the following meetings were approved:

- September 19, 2023: M. Baker motion; Shuffield second.
 - Voting yes: M. Baker, Shuffield, Womble, Hughes
- October 16, 2023: M. Baker motion; Hughes second.
 - Voting yes: M. Baker, Hughes, Shuffield; Womble
- November 21, 2023: M. Baker motion; Hughes second.
 - Voting yes: M. Baker, Hughes, Shuffield, Womble
- November 29, 2023 special meeting: Hughes motion; M. Baker second.
 - Voting yes: Hughes, M. Baker, Womble, Shuffield.

Departmental Reports

Planning Commission: no meeting

Police Department: see written report

Street Department: no official report; Baker says rear end is going out in white Ford. Discussion of repairs. Baker says still trying to coordinate inmates to trim trees and brush. Morales says a community service worker picked up trash a couple of days this month.

Sewer Department: Womble says someone from ISI came to do readings. Hughes says Damon Dyer has reported one of the lift stations is not working properly. Womble says several pumps aren't working. Need to order parts so Damon, etc., can repair.

- Hughes motion to accept departmental reports
- Shuffield second
- Voting yes: Hughes, Shuffield, Womble, M. Baker

Old Business

M. Baker introduces and reads Resolution 2023-3, "A resolution for the adoption of a budget for the city of Rockport..."

- Hughes motion to approve the 2024 budget
- Baker second
- Voting yes: Hughes, M. Baker, Womble, Shuffield

New Business

Mayor Kevin Baker joined the meeting by phone with the following information:

The city is delinquent in tax withholding payments to the IRS, with another quarterly payment almost due. K. Baker met with the IRS this week and was told the IRS will get their money; if necessary will seize bank accounts and property. K. Baker says he had to submit paperwork to IRS providing his Social Security number, etc., and says the IRS will hold him as mayor responsible until the city at least gets an attorney involved and makes other arrangements.

The city has paid \$12,000 and will pay \$9,000 this week, but the total will increase again when the next quarterly payment is due.

K. Baker and Morales have discussed selling old police cars to provide money. Morales says he's received a few inquiries but no offers or anyone coming to look.

K. Baker: city needs to determine how to catch up on payments to avoid having to lay off personnel.

K. Baker also said he and Melinda have been paying the city's trash disposal expenses, accumulating \$30,000 in unreimbursed cost this year. (\$1,700/month dumping fees; \$320/month for employee to throw bags; \$50/week fuel) They saved \$120/week by cutting the employee who was driving; M. Baker is driving.

The city receives \$3,000 monthly in SWA taxes; that money has been used for other bills.

Morales says when the IRS is paid, the city will have some extra money available to go toward other overdue bills, including Baker's reimbursement.

K. Baker: will continue trash pickup for another month until city can get IRS taken care of but council must have a solution in mind by next meeting.

Discussion of items to auction. City personnel will inventory and list.

- Hughes motion to try to sell any excess equipment to pay the overdue IRS bill
- Shuffield second
- Voting yes: Hughes, Shuffield, M. Baker, Womble

Adjournment

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

Attest: _____
Shira Kelley, Secretary

Approved: _____
Kevin Baker, Mayor