

**Regular Meeting of the City Council
City of Rockport
1472 Military Road, Rockport, Arkansas
Tuesday, Feb. 21, 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:

Secretary Shira Kelley led the opening prayer

Roll Call:

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

Others present: Police Chief Toby Morales, Damon Dyer, Clayton Thornton, Shira Kelley

Approval of minutes:

- Hughes motion to accept minutes of Jan. 16 regular meeting
- M. Baker second
- Hughes: Y; M. Baker: Y; Shuffield: Y; Womble: Y

- M. Baker motion to accept minutes of Feb. 14 special meeting
- Hughes second
- M. Baker: Y; Hughes: Y; Womble: Y; Shuffield: Y

Financial Report:

Still no financial report available.

Departmental Reports:

Planning Commission

Laura Robbins is new head of planning commission but unable to attend. Toby Morales reports accounts have been established for Parks & Recreation as approved at Jan. 16 meeting. Laura has applied for grants and has been talking to vendors about donating fencing material for the park. Leon Perry will be part of this project.

Police

Morales presents statistics and provides written report. See written report for full details.

Highlights: Officers had 342 incidents in January and made 418 contacts: 256 citations and 162 warnings.

Morales attended Feb. 13 meeting of Haskell city council. That council voted to donate Haskell's canine to Rockport PD. Officer Finney has taken possession of dog, Wey, and will attend handler school. Morales is working on sponsor for the \$2,500 school fee, but police department has funds available if no sponsor steps in. Providence Veterinary will provide all medical care; Tractor Supply and Farmer's Co-Op will sponsor all food, leads, etc. for canine – all at no cost to city.

Officers attending training classes; Morales has established system to maintain vehicle records; newly outfitted vehicle will be completed and ready for delivery Feb. 24.

Street Department

Damon Dyer says Phillips Road needs to be graded before gravel is added (this was tabled from a previous month). He has patched a few holes. Ditches around city are full of leaves, but too wet to burn.

Discussion about removing trees along highway and near I-30 on-ramp.

Discussion between Morales, Dyer and council about police/city boundary map. Jennifer Wheeler from GIS says the city needs a court order/ruling to re-do the city's boundary map. Current version leaves out several parts currently in city, including parts of Highway 270 and Tanner Street.

Discussion about charging a fee to inspect for new sewer hookups. Hughes says this will require an ordinance; he will look into it.

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

Old Business: M. Baker is checking grader status. Tells Dyer to stockpile gravel if need be; can put at end of Phillips Road for access. Just need one load for now.

- Hughes motion to purchase one load of gravel from Bozeman
- Shuffield second
- Hughes: Y; Shuffield: Y; M. Baker: Y; Womble: Y

New Business:

Mapping and sewer charges already discussed in departmental reports.

State of the City Report: Mayor Kevin Baker delivers report via phone. Three major goals for this year: get city hall to become more economical and professional; have police department run more smoothly; get bypass into development mode. Want to figure out how to make everyone's time more usable and develop better plan for everyone living in Rockport.

Baker reports he has been approached about two other truck stops (one with a car wash) in addition to the TA about to begin construction, but nothing is definite. A tire shop is going in on highway, but final timeline isn't available. TA plans to be open by fall.

Baker has been working with Deltic-Potlatch and reports they're about to start buying all their culverts locally.

Womble is collecting further information about online sewer payments.

M. Baker introduces and reads Ordinance 2023-3, "An ordinance amending ordinance 02-11-03C, amending employee personnel policy and declaring an emergency."

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

M. Baker introduces and reads Ordinance 2023-4, "An ordinance establishing hours of operation of selling beer, wine and liquor, at wholesale, retail and restaurants and other purposes and declaring an emergency."

- M. Baker motion to accept ordinance on first reading
- Shuffield second
- M. Baker: Y; Shuffield: Y; Hughes: Y; Womble: Y
- Shuffield motion to suspend rules and place ordinance on second reading by title only
- Hughes second
- Shuffield: Y; Hughes: Y Womble: Y; M. Baker: y
- Hughes motion to suspend rules and place ordinance on third reading by title only
- Shuffield second
- Hughes: Y; Shuffield: Y; Womble: Y; M. Baker: Y
- 'Shuffield motion to accept ordinance and enact emergency clause
- Hughes second
- Shuffield: Y Hughes: Y; M. Baker: Y; Womble: Y

M. Baker introduces and reads Ordinance 2023-5, "An ordinance calling for and setting the election for the annexation of certain lands into the city of Rockport, Arkansas, during the special Hot Spring County Jail Election.

- Shuffield motion to accept the ordinance's first reading
- Hughes second
- Shuffield: Y; Hughes: Y; Womble: Y; M. Baker: Y

- M. Baker motion to open account at Bank OZK for Rockport City & Street Repairs, with Brenda Womble and Rebecca Ivy as signers.
- Shuffield second
- M. Baker: Y; Shuffield: Y; Hughes: Y; Womble: Y

- M. Baker motion to adjourn
- Womble second
- Voice vote aye, unanimous

Attest: _____
Shira Kelley, secretary

Approved: _____
Kevin Baker, Mayor