

**Regular Meeting of the City Council  
City of Rockport  
1472 Military Road, Rockport, Arkansas  
Tuesday, March 21, 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: Police Chief Toby Morales, Shira Kelley

**Approval of minutes:**

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

**Financial Report:**

Hughes has question about sales taxes from three businesses: Malvern Matt's Fireworks, Belly's, 3J's Wings. City has not received disbursement from DFA. Need to send a letter to DFA with Mayor's signature asking where those taxes were disbursed, and request they be sent to Rockport.

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

**Departmental Reports**

*Planning Commission:* nobody is present at meeting. Morales: don't know if they met this month. No report.

*Police:* Morales presents statistics (see written report). Requests raise for all full-time officers (not himself). Department now has three part-time officers @ \$14/hour with no benefits. They will rarely work; will only be called in to cover comp time, etc., for full-time officers. This will control comp/leave costs.

Morales is working on pay scale with rank and education steps. Will write that into an ordinance. Will increase total salary line item by \$549.60/month.

Baker: we've been missing payments, late on bills to pay off accrued leave for Shane Davis and Medlin.

Morales has discussed pay with Rebecca Ivy; Womble has discussed with K. Baker. Both said city can afford increase after both Davis and Medlin are paid off.

Womble: need to negotiate monthly retainer bill to county for housing prisoners. Need to seek refund for 1+ year county wouldn't accept Rockport prisoners.

Hughes: go ahead and get pay scale ready; prepare ordinance for April meeting.

*Street Department:* Damon Dyer is not present to report at meeting. Some potholes have been filled, but rain has interfered with much of the work needed.

*Sewer:* Womble says someone came from state to check sewer numbers today. She has sent out more letters for overdue sewer bills; several have been paid. She also got Damon's computer fixed; Sawyer will connect to printer.

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

#### **Old Business:**

Womble got quote from AMPSTUN for sewer online payments: \$12,000 for program, so not going to pursue at this time.

M. Baker introduces and reads Ordinance 2023-5 by title only: *"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."*

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

#### **New Business:**

Hughes introduces and reads Resolution 2023-1, *"A resolution providing for the additional appropriation of funds for the operation of the City of Rockport, Arkansas, for the budget year 2022, and declaring an emergency."* This is a budget clean-up for expenses incurred last year and will help get budget numbers properly designated in computer system.

Heavy discussion about "state employee taxes" (see resolution p. 2, Administration). Members ask: this shouldn't be payroll withholdings, so what is that? Will investigate further.

- Baker motion to approve budget resolution
- Shuffield second
- Baker: Y; Shuffield: Y; Hughes: Y; Womble: Y

Hughes introduces and reads Resolution 2023-2, *"A resolution affirming the City of Rockport's commitment to life and designating the City of Rockport, Arkansas, as a pro-life city."*

- Hughes motion to accept resolution
- Womble second
- Hughes: Y; Womble: Y; Baker: Y; Shuffield: Y

Building permit for commercial business: tabled until fee schedule is developed.

Secretary Shira Kelley requested clarification for a couple of items during website updates.

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

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Shira Kelley, secretary

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Baker, Mayor