

**Regular Meeting of the City Council
City of Rockport
1472 Military Road, Rockport, Arkansas
Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2024**

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.

Womble offered the invocation.

Roll call

Council members present: Melinda Baker, Darrell Hughes, Jimmy Shuffield (arrived late), Brenda Womble

Not present: Mayor Kevin Baker

Others present: Shira Kelley, Police Chief Toby Morales, resident Teresa Napper

Citizen Concerns (Old Business)

Ms. Napper had requested to appear before the council with questions about the annexation of certain properties into Rockport, which was approved during the Nov. 5 general election. Hughes explained that several people had wanted to annex into Rockport, but the city can only increase its square mileage by 10 percent due to its population. Napper said her family had not wanted to be annexed into the city limits and said it seemed unfair. She said they only found out the issue was on the ballot when the county clerk notified them by mail.

After some discussion, Napper left the meeting at 5:49.

The council continued with a general discussion about the annexation. Some of those who were annexed into the city had petitioned to enter several years ago. Others in the affected area didn't know about the annexation until it was completed.

Approval of minutes

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

Departmental Reports

Financial statement: Womble says still working on new Centerpoint financial system, but they're finding bills that the former employee left unpaid. She said when Centerpoint is fully operational, full financial reports will be available again. The June and September bank statements are missing; some checks are missing. They are getting duplicate statements from the bank to reconcile the account. The IRS payment file is also missing.

Sewer: none

Police Department: Morales said the department had over 500 participants in its Trunk or Treat event for Halloween, and they are already planning for next year. They are planning a Shop with a Cop event for December. All officers have completed training for 2024. Over the past month, they had 282 incidents with 222 contacts and issued 160 citations. Darlene and Judge Gibson are coordinating for a special warrant service date, and increased ticket fees are being developed.

Planning Commission: no report.

Street Department: no report

- Baker motion to approve departmental reports except the financial report
- Hughes second
- Voting yes: Baker, Hughes, Shuffield, Womble

New Business

Womble says city attorney Greg Vardaman wants the city to resume withholding (his) payroll taxes, after canceling them earlier. Discussion of whether the city should do this since he is contracted rather than staff. Withholdings amount to approximately \$175-200 quarterly.

- Womble motion to resume tax withholdings
- Baker second
- Voting yes: Baker, Hughes, Shuffield, Womble

Womble says Farmers Bank is raising the city's payments on the \$300K sewer loan. No action required.

Hughes introduces Resolution No. 2024-1, “a resolution for the adoption of a budget for the city of Rockport, Arkansas, for twelve (12) months beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2025. Appropriating money for each item of expenditure therein providing for and other purposes.” He said the resolution contained the 2024 budget without adjustments.

- Baker motion to rework the 2025 budget in December.
- Shuffield second
- Voting yes: Baker, Hughes, Shuffield, Womble

Adjournment

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

Adjourned, 6:25 p.m.

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