

**Regular Meeting of the City Council  
City of Rockport  
1472 Military Road, Rockport, Arkansas  
Tuesday, April 16, 2024**

**Call to Order**

Council member Brenda Womble called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation**

Council member Melinda Baker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Womble led the invocation

**Roll Call**

*Members present:* Melinda Baker, Darrell Hughes, Jimmy Shuffield, Brenda Womble

*Others present:* Shira Kelley, Joyce Ankrum

**Approval of minutes**

- Baker motion to accept minutes of March 26 meeting
- Shuffield second
- Voting yes: Baker, Shuffield, Hughes, Womble
  
- Baker motion to accept minutes of April 2 special meeting
- Shuffield second
- Voting yes: Baker, Shuffield, Womble, Hughes

**Departmental Reports**

*Planning Commission:* no report

*Street Department:* Womble says Damon Dyer is supposed to price gravel for Phillips Road. Also need to repair tire on side-by-side. Jim has looked at the diesel truck and thinks he can get it fixed. Need to get this done because the other street department truck is having trouble.

Baker says the city can get some waste ground asphalt from the I-30 construction work.

Damon is riding roads with an employee of AHTD to choose roads to be repaired if the city gets a grant.

Council discussion on roads that need repair: JJ Hughes, Division, Oak Meadow, Pleasant Hill, Cuffman Mill, Needles. Some need to be redone; others can be patched.

Baker says Sealy Road should eventually be turned back into private drive rather than city street.

*Sewer Department:* Womble says not much money has come in this month, so she hopes to be able to make the payment.

*Police Department:* no report (Chief Morales not present). Hughes says the officers didn't pick up shell casings behind city hall as was discussed at an earlier meeting, and he found a live round in the grass.

*Financial Report:* discussion of expenses. Questions about payment to Teeco Safety. Ankrum says she is using officers' uniform allowance to pay this, because they should have used that to pay it anyway. Insurance for vehicles has been restored, and workers' comp has been paid.

- Baker motion to approve departmental reports
- Shuffield second
- Voting yes: Baker, Shuffield, Womble, Hughes

## **Old Business**

Hughes says he texted attorney Vardaman about lawsuits the city has authorized against Malvern for inappropriate annexation. Vardaman said he is working on it.

Womble says the city was turned over to a collection agency for the delinquent electric bill, but says they haven't received a bill for three years until today. Entergy said there was a billing error on their end. At least part of the past-due amount has been withdrawn from the collection agency.

## **New Business**

Discussion of cash housed at City Hall. Womble says she made a \$4,000 deposit and recently deposited \$13,000 in funds that had been at City Hall. Ankrum says about \$4,000 accrued in about one month, and another \$1,600 accrued in four days. As a result, all city personnel who handle money must sign a memo that they've been informed the city cannot keep over \$1,000 in cash on hand and must make bank deposits accordingly. Baker says there should be repercussions for violating cash policy. Hughes says in future, after employees have signed memo, third offense should result in termination.

Motor in police department's Ford Explorer blew up, but it isn't under warranty. Discussion. Council thought it was covered. Paperwork states there is no warranty. *(Note: see minutes and recording from April 18, 2023, meeting.)*

**Adjournment**

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

*Adjourned, 7:08 p.m.*

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Shira Kelley, Secretary

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