

**Regular Meeting of the City Council
City of Rockport
1472 Military Road, Rockport, Arkansas
Thursday, Feb. 22, 2024**

Call to Order

Council member Brenda Womble called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation

Womble led the Pledge of Allegiance and the invocation

Roll call

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

Members absent: Jimmy Shuffield

Other city personnel present: Shira Kelley

Approval of minutes

- Baker motion to accept minutes of Jan. 15 meeting
- Hughes second
- Voting yes: Baker, Hughes, Womble

Financial Report

Womble says Joyce will start doing financial reports early due to her schedule; they will not be up-to-the minute but will be submitted in writing.

Womble says after discussing IRS penalties and interest with Joyce, she has talked to Southern Bancorp about a loan to pay off IRS. City has paid over \$50,000 of the \$79,000 owed, but interest accrues at a high daily rate.

- Hughes motion to apply for a loan from Southern Bancorp to pay off IRS, refinancing City Hall as collateral.
- Baker second
- Voting yes: Hughes, Baker, Womble

Departmental Reports

Planning Commission: no meeting

Police Department: no report

Street Department: Womble says the hole on Cuffman Mill has filled in some due to wash. Needles Street needs hot mix. Damon Dyer will contact the HSC Road Department to ask whether they will provide labor if city provides the materials.

Sewer Department: Womble has been issuing shut-offs for nonpayment of bills and charging a reconnection fee. More people are paying delinquent bills as a result. She is also getting locks for meters when they are shut off. Workers are pulling household sewer pumps when they shut off meters.

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

Old Business

None

New Business

Hughes says Malvern has illegally annexed Grapette and Starbucks. Hughes introduces and reads Resolution 01-2024, allowing city attorney Greg Vardaman to pursue litigation against the city of Malvern.

- Hughes motion to accept Resolution 01-2024
- Baker second
- Voting yes: Hughes, Baker, Womble

Baker says she has received word that the truck stop construction has been approved, so city needs to mark sewer lines and begin preparing details of what truck stop will be required to do (water usage, fees, etc.)

Adjournment

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

Adjourned, 6:21 p.m.

Attest: _____
Shira Kelley, Secretary

Approved: _____
Kevin Baker, Mayor