

**Regular Meeting of the City Council
City of Rockport
1472 Military Road, Rockport, Arkansas
Tuesday, March 26, 2024**

Call to Order

Council member Brenda Womble called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation

Council member Melinda Baker led the Pledge of Allegiance and the invocation

Roll Call

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

Others present: Shira Kelley

Approval of minutes

- Hughes motion to accept minutes of Thursday, Feb. 22 meeting
- Shuffield second
- Voting yes: Hughes, Shuffield, Womble, M. Baker

- Hughes motion to accept minutes of March 6 special meeting
- Baker second
- Voting yes: Hughes, M. Baker, Womble, Shuffield

Financial Report

Some documents provided do not include current balance; information is a few days old. Womble says Bancorp had city property appraised for loan discussed at the March 6 special meeting. Bancorp will not finance the property with the sewer building included; they request a survey excluding the sewer building and will refinance the rest of the property without that building.

- Hughes motion to authorize Mayor Baker to accept a bid for surveying, up to \$5,000
- Shuffield second
- Voting yes: Hughes, Shuffield, M. Baker, Womble.

- Hughes motion to accept financial report
- M. Baker second
- Voting yes: Hughes, Baker, Womble, Shuffield

Departmental Reports

Planning Commission: no meeting

Police Department: no report (Chief Morales not present)

Street Department: no report

Sewer Department: Womble is making payments on the financing.

State of the City Report

Mayor Baker says priorities are bringing in tax revenue and using it as best we can.

Plans for the TA truck stop are moving forward. TA has accepted the plan and some of the architectural work has already been completed. Construction may begin this summer.

Old Business

Womble is focusing on getting the IRS paid; thousands of dollars of penalties continue to accrue. City has paid over \$50,000 so far. IRS sees effort so has not begun calling regularly.

New Business

Womble reports insurance has lapsed on City Hall and city vehicles; city doesn't have money to pay Arkansas Municipal League for insurance, and there's no money in other funds to pull. City owes about \$10,000 in past-due insurance.

Mayor Baker says police cars must be pulled off the road to prevent liability for the city.

Womble calls bookkeeper Joyce Akrum at home. Joyce reports the bank holding the loan for the two police Tahoes has added insurance to those loans, so those are covered. The coverage is not as good as what ARML provides. ARML was not paid for all of 2023 and part of 2022.

Baker reiterates that other vehicles besides the two Tahoes must be pulled from road until insurance is paid. He will meet with Joyce Thursday to examine options.

Adjournment

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

Adjourned, 6:25 p.m.

Attest: _____
Shira Kelley, Secretary

Approved: _____
Kevin Baker, Mayor

