

**Regular Meeting of the City Council
City of Rockport
1472 Military Road, Rockport, Arkansas
Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2024**

Call to order

Councilwoman Brenda Womble called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

Councilwoman Brenda Womble led the pledge and offered the invocation.

Roll call

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

Not present: Jimmy Shuffield, Mayor Kevin Baker

Others present: Shira Kelley, Police Chief Toby Morales, Jim Dyer

Approval of minutes

- Hughes motion to approve minutes of Aug. 20 regular meeting
- Baker second
- Voting yes: Hughes, Baker, Womble

Departmental Reports

Financial statement: none

Sewer: none

Police Department: see written report. Morales said he approved a request from Arkansas State Police to provide an office for an ASP CID officer who will be present four days weekly. The officer will provide his/her own WiFi and equipment and only needs space. Morales reported that the department has obtained donations for a Trunk or Treat event for Halloween; they focused on community-related items. He also said the city may wish to reexamine using a fine collection company now since a state law has changed.

Planning Commission: no report. Baker: need to get this going again next year. Womble: problem was that council didn't act on commission proposals, so commission stopped.

Street Department: need to bid out some paving work

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

Citizen appearance

Jim Dyer spoke to the council about a neighbor's dogs attacking other dogs and cattle. The dogs have been dragging trash into his yard. The same neighbor's horse has been getting out through an open gate and chasing his (Dyer's) dogs; one of his dogs ran off for a week after being chased. Last week six dogs attacked his two Blue Heelers; one suffered serious injuries. They tried to attack the female again Saturday.

Dyer said he has called the owner and wants her to pay the veterinarian's bill for treating the injured dog. He has security camera footage, with sound, of the attack. He requested an incident report from the Rockport Police Department as documentation to file with small claims court.

Morales said the police department would provide the report. He also verified to a question from Dyer that a property owner has the legal right to protect his property from vicious animals.

Old Business

None

New Business

Womble asked that the council consider increase the monthly amount all sewer bills by \$5 in 2025.

- Baker motion to increase sewer bills by \$5, beginning Jan. 1, 2025
- Hughes second
- Voting yes: Baker, Hughes, Womble

Adjournment

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

Adjourned, 6:39 p.m.

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