

Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission
April 15, 2024
Minutes

The Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission held its monthly meeting at 4:00 PM, April 15, 2024, in the Rogers Water Utilities Administration Building located at 601 S 2nd Street.

Present were Commissioners Paige Sultemeier, Travis Greene, Kathy McClure, and Chairman Peter Farmer. Rogers Water Utilities staff present were Dana Daniel, Johnny Lunsford, Todd Beaver, Debbie Putman, Jerry Roegner, Mario Morales, Mark Landis, Armando Garcia, David Ingram, Jered Sigmon, and Brent Dobler. Others in attendance were Robert Frazier with the Frazier Law Firm, and Neil Clemmons and Carolyn Akin from the Scissortail Residential Subdivision.

Chairman Farmer called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM then called for an action on the minutes from the March 18, 2024, Water and Sewer Commission meeting. Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve the March 18, 2024, minutes and Commissioner McClure seconded. All in favor, minutes were approved.

Chairman Farmer then recognized Jered Sigmon to present the financial reports. Mr. Sigmon then presented the financial reports to the Commission. Billed revenue in the Water department for March 2024 was up 10.6% from March 2023 at \$1,159,734. Water consumption was up 13.1% from March 2024 at 206,755,700 gallons. The Water department reported a net income of \$349,413.27 for March 2024 and YTD income of \$4,515,423.38. The percentage of Fiscal Year Passed is at 75%. Water revenues are 79% of the budget and expenses are 69% of the budget.

The Sewer department billed revenue for the month of March 2024 is up 10.7% from March 2023 at \$1,365,064. Sewer consumption was up 10.0% from March 2024 at 172,790,500 gallons. The Sewer department reported a net income of \$509,707.01 for March 2024 and a YTD income of \$5,147,033.50. The percentage of Fiscal Year Passed is at 75%. Sewer revenues are 83% of the budget and expenses are 67% of budget.

Water and Sewer YTD income exceeds FY24 budgeted income for each company.

Total restricted and unrestricted funds are \$48.88 million for March 2024 compared to \$48.29 million as of March 2023.

Chairman Farmer then recognized Todd Beaver for the Rogers Pollution Control Facility Reports. DMR summary is fine, FOG inspections are ongoing with no outstanding issues. Todd gave an update on our permit, and he has heard that it is ready to go public but has not yet. He went on to recognize Amber Owens for her work and informed the Commission that Amber presented the new FOG program at the City Council and did an excellent job. He then presented the Industrial Pretreatment Activities for March 2024. The plant has completed the solids hauling to Springdale. Our new solids handling employee is being trained. The plant treated 289.6 million gallons in March. 26.1 million gallons were from I and I. These flows included 2.38" of rain over 6 events. The historical average rainfall for March is 3.5".

Chairman Farmer then recognized Brian Sartain for the Engineering Reports. Brian went over plan review, large scale developments and elaborated on two new hotels on Northgate. He also mentioned the proposed Temple Live 16 story hotel and event center. A new car dealership

and more townhomes are on the way as well. Brian also went over three new projects that are currently out for bid and this construction is driven by City Street projects. He then reported the progress on the Pinnacle Golf course sewer project and some of the challenges. It is progressing and we are on schedule to finish by early June, weather permitting. Lastly, he described the RPCF Capacity Improvements progression and some equipment selection visits.

Chairman Farmer then recognized Johnny Lunsford to present the Operations reports. Mr. Lunsford went over the 48" break that Bentonville experienced last month. He went on to commend SCADA department employees Mark Landis and Armando Garcia for their expertise and hard work that made this emergency connection successful. From monitoring to valve operation, these employees did an exceptional job. Johnny also recognized Jeff Harrison for achieving his D4 license and Tanner Stamps passed his Class 3 Collection exam.

Chairman Farmer then recognized Johnny Lunsford to present Resolution No. 24-10 that waives competitive bidding for our Badger water meters and Itron transmitters. We have included an additional meter manufacturer due to supply issues. The additional meter provider is Neptune. Commissioner Greene asked what RWU has budgeted for water meters this year, and Johnny responded approximately \$500,000. He also asked about the pricing. The prices for the water meters have gone from \$103 seven years ago, to their current price of \$137.90. Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve RESOLUTION No.24-10 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN COMPONENTS OF ROGERS WATER UTILITIES' AUTOMATED METER READING SYSTEM (AMRS); WAIVING COMPETITIVE BIDDING' AUTHORIZING RELATED AGREEMENTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Commissioner McClure seconded. All in favor, 4-0, Resolution 24-10 passed.

Chairman Farmer then recognized Brian Sartain to present an engineering proposal for the Mt. Hebron Emergency Connection for consideration. Brian explained that this is the largest emergency connection currently available for RWU. RWU has a 24" main that intersects a 48" Bentonville main. This proposal is for the design of a metering station to serve both cities during an emergency. The design contract is \$218,000. The overall cost of the project is estimated at \$2,500,000. This will be a 50/50 shared project with the City of Bentonville. Staff requests authorization to enter into an agreement with Garver Engineers for the design of an emergency connection and metering station at Mt Hebron Rd., at an hourly rate not to exceed a total amount of \$218,000. Commissioner McClure made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Sulzemeir. All in favor, 4-0, motion carried.

Brian then continued and presented the proposal for administration and inspection for the Poplar St. Construction project for consideration. CEI is the proposed administrator and inspector for this City project and RWU's portion of this admin and inspection contract is \$56,780 for water and sewer. Staff recommends approval of the task amendment by CEI Engineering for construction administration and inspection services for the Poplar St. Reconstruction project, authorizing funds to reimburse the City of Rogers in an amount not to exceed \$56,780 and allow staff to negotiate the final form and content of this agreement. Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner McClure. All in favor, 4-0, motion carried.

Brian then continued and presented proposed changes to RWU's Inspection Request Forms. This is due to RWU making trips to test installations that are not actually ready when we arrive. RWU incurs a cost when this happens, and this form provides a way to charge for this type of incursion. This request was tabled.

Chairman Farmer then recognized Brent Dobler to present RESOLUTION 24-11 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SALE OF THE PERSIMMON STREET ELEVATED STORAGE TANK SITE TO DRA PROPERTIES, LLC; RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF THE SALE BY THE ROGERS CITY COUNCIL; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Dobler explained that this water tower has no current or future benefit to our water system and has been offline and completely disconnected from our water system for a couple of years. Due to this, it is a liability that would require either painting or demolition. Demolition would be preferred since it would be more economical in the long run. DRA properties is interested in the property for use as a cell tower site. This sale would allow the City to sell this property, including the water tower on the site, with the condition that the water tower be demolished and hauled off within eighteen months. DRA properties submitted a bid of \$1,000. RWU estimates that the demolition costs would be approximately \$180,000. Commissioner McClure made a motion to approve RESOLUTION 24-11 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SALE OF THE PERSIMMON STREET ELEVATED STORAGE TANK SITE TO DRA PROPERTIES, LLC; RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF THE SALE BY THE ROGERS CITY COUNCIL; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Commissioner Greene seconded the motion. All in favor, 4-0, Resolution 24-11 passes.

Chairman Farmer then recognized Jered Sigmon to present the award of property insurance. He explained that he had worked with several companies and other entities such as ours and all agree that Cincinnati Insurance has a very good rate for municipalities such as ours. Mr. Sigmon stated staff recommends approval of property insurance with Rogers Insurance for \$99,701 with \$10,000 deductible and optional earthquake coverage of \$879. Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve awarding the \$10,000 deductible and the \$879 optional earthquake coverage, Commissioner McClure seconded the motion to award the annual insurance to Rogers Insurance. All in favor, 4-0, motion passes.

Chairman Farmer then recognized David Ingram to present RESOLUTION NO. 24-12 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN EMPLOYEE SAFETY MANUAL FOR THE ROGERS WATER UTILITIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Mr. Ingram described the need and the processes required to produce this document. This manual replaces a manual from 2008. This was put together by our own Safety committee. Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve RESOLUTION NO. 24-12 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN EMPLOYEE SAFETY MANUAL FOR THE ROGERS WATER UTILITIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Commissioner McClure seconded the motion. All in favor, 4-0, Resolution No. 24-12 passes.

Chairman Farmer then recognized Dana Daniel to present RESOLUTION NO. 24-13 A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE EMPLOYEE POLICY MANUAL FOR THE ROGERS WATER UTILITIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Mr. Daniel went over some minor changes that will provide additional clarification to the existing Employee Policy Manual. Commissioner McClure made a motion to pass RESOLUTION NO. 24-13 A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE EMPLOYEE POLICY MANUAL FOR THE ROGERS WATER UTILITIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Commissioner Sultemeir seconded the motion. All in favor, 4-0, Resolution No. 24-13 passes.

Chairman Farmer then recognized himself to open a discussion regarding Resolution No. 24-09 that he had signed at the prior Commission meeting. Audio on file on RWU website.

Chairman Farmer then recognized members in the audience and invited them to speak if they would like to. Neil Clemmons, a Scissortail resident spoke. He wanted to know why this was an "emergency" annexation. He was curious if anyone could give clarity to this question. Chairman

Farmer asked Robert Frazier why he thought the emergency clause was in place. Mr. Frazier responded by stating that it is used regularly regarding City of Rogers legislation. Chairman Farmer asked him to look further into this to see if it is a standard method of legislation, or otherwise.

With no further action, Chairman Farmer adjourned the meeting.



Brent Dobler, Acting Secretary
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