

# Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission

January 17, 2005

## Minutes

The Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting at 4:00 PM, Monday, January 17, 2005, in the Council Chambers of the Rogers City Administration Building. Commissioners present were Donnie Moore, Jerry Pittman, Fred Wanger, and Lon Pepple. Dick McLelland was absent. Rogers Water Utilities staff in attendance were Tom McAlister, Mark Johnson, Joyce Johnson, William Evans, Tim House, Stephen Ponder, Everett Balk, and Earl Rausch. Others in attendance were Donna Warren, John Moore, Mike Rowe, Derrel Smith, and Ben Lipscomb. Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

There was a motion by Wanger, second by Moore, to approve the minutes of the December meeting as submitted, provided the statement made by Moore regarding access and hookup fees was attached. Moore, Wanger voted "Aye", Pepple abstained. Motion carried. (Pittman arrived after the vote.)

Moore recognized Mark Johnson, P. E., Utilities Engineer. Johnson presented the Commission with a brief report detailing the status of the several construction projects in which the Commission had a monetary interest. He said that not much had changed, due the recent spate of wet weather. He described the construction activity as "slow". Moore asked Johnson to send the Commissioners copies of the most recent capital improvement plan.

Continuing, Johnson presented the Commission with part of a sixty page proposed contract with PB2 Architects (previously known as Perry Butcher and Associates), for the provision of necessary architectural services for the design of a new building to house the engineering staff of Rogers Water Utilities. He said most of the contract was boilerplate language used by the American Institute of Architects (AIA), and did not bother with copying that part, Johnson said that the contract was for 6% of the total construction cost of the building. He said that the RWU engineering staff would provide the site engineering design.

"How much will it cost?" someone asked. Johnson replied that the cost of the facility was indeterminate at present, since the Commission had expressed a desire to build a larger building, with the possibility of a second floor. He said an elevator would cost \$40,000, and would be required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. He said that his staff would work with John Mack of PB2 to determine the needs and costs, and report back to the Commission before continuing with the project.

There was a motion by Pittman, second by Pepple, to approve the contract with PB2. Pepple and Pittman, voted “Aye”, Wanger abstained, motion carried.

Chairman Moore announced that he was planning to appoint an “ad hoc” committee to study the issue of access fees and hookup fees. He said that he would make appointments based on stakeholder interest. McAlister asked Ben Lipscomb, City Attorney, if the committee meetings would be subject to the Freedom of Information Act? Lipscomb answered in the affirmative. Some questions were raised about a few volunteer committee persons who lived outside the city of Rogers. Lipscomb said that he did believe that residency was a requirement, since the committee would have no authority to act. Moore said he would continue to work on the matter, and announce his appointments and charges soon.

Moore recognized William Evans, Superintendent of File Operations. Evans presented the Commission with a report detailing the options his department had for the replacement of data loggers for leak detection. He said that the current loggers were getting old, and repair was slow, as the loggers had to be shipped to England for service. He noted that the replacement was a budgeted item. There was a motion by Pittman, second by Pepple, to approve the \$22,000 purchase from Metrolog. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Donna Warren, a Rogers resident who had expressed a desire to serve on the Commission. She said that she had heard about a vacancy from her neighbor, Fred Wanger, who had expressed a desire to leave the Commission several months ago. She said that her experience with Cooper Communities had shown her the importance of serving future residents as well as existing customers. She claimed that her presence on the Commission might bring a “fresh perspective” and some needed diversity.

The other candidate for Wanger’s position on the Commission, Don Kendall, a Rogers attorney, was not in attendance but did send a letter to the Commission expressing his interest. There was a motion by Wanger, second by Pepple, to adjourn to executive session, for the purpose of selecting a replacement for Wanger. All in favor, motion carried. Everyone but the Commission left the meeting room.

About ten minutes later, the Commission readjoined to the regular session. There was a motion by Pittman, second by Wanger, to appoint Donna Warren to fill the unexpired term of Fred Wanger on the Commission. All in favor, motion carried. Lipscomb said that he would prepare a resolution for the appointment of Warren by the City Council, who had to confirm the appointment by a two-thirds majority vote, according to state statute.

The Commission expressed their sentiment that Wanger had served admirably, and would be missed.

There was a motion by Pittman, second by Wanger, to direct the City Attorney to draft an ordinance setting the membership on the Commission at seven instead of the present five.

All in favor, motion carried. Pittman expressed the desire to have Don Kendall serve in one of the two additional Commissioner spots.

Moore recognized Joyce Johnson, CPA, Utilities Controller. Johnson reported that the 2004 \$8 million water revenue bonds had been issued, and that the proceeds were with the trustee, Regions Bank, in Little Rock. She said interests cost had begun to accrue in December, and that, plus the low demand, had caused a small deficit in the water department for the month. She noted that RWU had added additional two personnel in the engineering division, one in the Customer Service section (a live person answers the phones), and one at the pollution control facility. McAlister said the new employee at the treatment plant would be responsible for assuring compliance with the City's grease trap requirements.

Moore recognized Everett Balk, P. E., Project Facilitation Engineer. Balk said that not much had changed since the last Commission meeting, since only ten working days had passed. He noted that more engineers were coming into the office prior to working on designs for developments. Moore praised Balk for his good work, and said that RWU was making progress toward improving relationships with the design-build community.

The February meeting was moved back to February 28, 2005.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom S. McAlister, Acting Secretary  
Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission

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