

Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission

February 19, 2001

Minutes

The Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting at 4:00 PM, Monday, February 19, 2001, in the Rogers Water Utilities Training Center. Present for the meeting were commissioners Donnie Moore, Lon Pepple, Beck Scott, and Jerry Pittman. Dick McLelland was absent. Others in attendance were Rogers Water Utilities staff Tom McAlister, Mark Johnson, Joyce Johnson, Don Roberts, and Manual Anchondo, Deputy City Attorney Jim Clark, Lynn Arkins, Ashley Kelly, Stephen Ponder, Charles Reaves, Sam Rogers, E. J. Miller, H. J. McLellan, and Herb Garrett. Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

There was a motion by Scott, second by Pepple, to approve the minutes of the January meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Don Roberts, Superintendent of Field Operations. Roberts presented Manual Anchondo, Field Operations Technician II, with a certificate of appreciation for five years of service.

Moore recognized Mark Johnson, P. E., Utilities Engineer. Johnson presented the Commission with a report showing the status of the various projects with which the Commission was involved. He noted that the waterline proposed for Pleasant Grove Road was entering the "final design" phase. No exceptions to the report were noted.

Moore recognized Sam Rogers, 1806 Indian Trail Drive. Rogers presented the Commission with a sketch showing his home in relation to the existing water main. Rogers said that the City was planning to extend a sewer main to his property, and that, while he did not need the sewer service, he would connect to the sewer if something could be done about the sewer charges he anticipated to be charged him for his irrigation water. Rogers said he had an underground sprinkler system, and it would be difficult to separate his potable and irrigation systems. He asked if the Commission could bill him based on his water usage during the winter months?

McAlister said that sewer fees had been based on 100% of the actual water usage for the past fifteen years. Those wanting not to pay the sewer fees on non-return water were required to pay for an irrigation meter. McAlister said that there were some customers who were not on the water system who were connected to the sewer system, and those people were on a fixed consumption, but not a special rate. Someone asked Jim Clark, Deputy City Attorney, if it would be legal to comply with Rogers' request. Clark said that he thought it would be legal, since the Utilities were already estimating some customers' demand. Moore suggested that McAlister see what the cost would be, and

report back to the Commission at the next meeting. No action was taken on Rogers' request.

Moore recognized Stephen Ponder, P. E., representing the Frisco Springs water system. Ponder presented the commission with a proposed contract for the sale of up to five million gallons per month to the Benton County Rural Development Authority. The rate charged to the Authority was the same for all outside city customers, McAlister said. Moore asked who would operate the system? Ponder said that the RDA was going to provide an operator. Will the system ever become a part of the Rogers water system? Someone asked. "No", McAlister said. There was a motion by Pittman, second by Scott, to approve the proposed contract, subject to approval by the Rogers City Council. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Joyce Johnson, Controller for the Utilities. Johnson presented the Commission with a proposal to buy a new hand-held meter reading system from Invensys (formerly Sensus). She explained that the present system was over twelve years old, and needed to be upgraded. The cost was set at \$18,471.88, which was budgeted. Was this going out for bids? Scott asked. No, this was a request to purchase the system outright, Johnson said. The system had been demonstrated and it worked, she said. There was a motion by Scott, second by Pittman, to allow the purchase. All in favor, motion carried.

Continuing, Joyce Johnson presented the Commission with a single bid to provide property insurance for the Utilities. The bid was from Farris Insurance of Springdale, for \$16,198. Johnson said that the property insurance had been advertised in the paper, and that a local insurance company had been contacted, but had refused to submit a bid previously. Johnson noted that the bid was 20% more than the previous year. Motion by Scott, second by Pittman, to approve the bid from Farris Insurance. All in favor motion carried.

Moore recognized Charles Reaves, developer of Shadow Valley Golf and Country Club. Reaves had previously come to the Commission in an effort to purchase certain real property from the City in order to make his proposed golf course work better. In a counter offer, the Commission had offered a land swap, since Reaves' property on the south side of the Rogers Pollution Control Facility was needed for a buffer. Otherwise, some of the City's property used for sludge application would be rendered unusable for that purpose, due to the proximity of some of the residences in the proposed development. At the request of the City attorney, both parcels in the proposed land swap were appraised.

The appraised value of the 16-acre tract owned by the city was \$52,500. The appraised value of the eight-acre tract owned by Reaves was \$51,000. Someone asked Jim Clark if the swap was legal, and he said it was, since the parcels were very close in value, and since other value accrued to the City (the ability to continue to spread sludge on its property). Who paid for the appraisal? Someone asked. McAlister said that the appraisal fee was about \$1800 for both tracts, and that it had not been paid yet. Pittman

asked Mike Lawrence, Pollution Control Facility Manager, what he thought about the proposal. Lawrence replied that he thought the idea was a good one, since he was unable to spread sludge on the City's tract, most of which was in the flood plain. There was a motion by Pittman, second by Pepple, to recommend the swap to the City Council, providing that Mr. Reaves pay for the appraisal. Reaves indicated that he had no problem with that proposal. Two in favor, one opposed, motion carried.

Joyce Johnson presented the January financial sheets. No exceptions were taken to the financial statements.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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