

Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission

February 21, 2000

The Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting at 4:00 PM, Monday, February 21, 2000, in the Rogers Water Utilities Training Center. Commissioners Donnie Moore, Dick McLelland, and Jerry Pittman were present. Commissioners Lon Pepple and Beck Scott were absent. Rogers Water Utilities Staff present were Tom McAlister, Mark Johnson, Joyce Johnson, Don Roberts, Mike Lawrence, and Earl Rausch. Others in the audience were Jim Clark, Jeana Walker, Tom Sissom, Raymond Burns, Dennis Almond, Tim Sorrey, Ted Viala, and Bruce Johnson. Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 4:07 PM.

There was a motion from Pittman, second by McLelland, to approve the minutes of the January meeting, as submitted. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Raymond Burns of the Rogers Chamber of Commerce. Burns told the Commission about the problem with sewer service at the old Ichiban complex on South Eighth Street. Burns said that the old "Southern Signature" building on the north side of the complex was for sale, and that a prospective buyer was concerned about the status of the sewer service, since the existing privately-owned sewer line on the old Daisy property was near failure. Burns said that Arkansas National Bank had offered to contribute \$30,000 toward fixing the problem.

Tom McAlister, Rogers Water Utilities Manager, said that the complex could be served by gravity sewer from the south and west, a move that would cost about \$350,000, but would open up a large area to sewer service on the south part of Rogers. Another option that was mentioned was to extend sewer from the east. After some discussion, there was a motion by Pittman, second by McLelland, to allow the Rogers Water Utilities to proceed with the sewer extension from the south and west, if the current owner would put up the \$30,000 previously discussed. All in favor, motion carried. Someone asked how long the project would take? Mark Johnson, Utilities Engineer, said it would take about a year, since his people were currently busy designing other projects.

Moore recognized Mark Johnson, who gave a brief update on the 1998 Bond projects. Phase I of the sewer project was virtually complete and ready for connections. He said that Earl Rausch, Design Engineer, was currently busy obtaining easements for the Lake Atalanta sewer project. Johnson reminded the Commission that the Utilities had entered into a contract with a contractor to do the line work around the Lake Atalanta, with the provision that the Utility purchase the grinder pump stations outright, and save the Contractor's markup. He presented the Commission with two resolutions, which, if approved, would allow the Utility to waive competitive bidding, and purchase thirty grinder pump stations each from Instrument Supply, Inc. and B – T Environmental, both in Hot Springs. Johnson said that the staff had decided to use two vendors to keep the other competitive. He said he worded the proposed resolutions to allow the Utilities to

purchase additional pump stations, if the price did not change. Motion by McLelland, second by Pittman, to approve resolutions 2000-08 and 2000-09, which waived the requirements of competitive bidding and allowed the utility to purchase grinder pumps from ISI and B-T Environmental. All in favor, motion carried.

Continuing, Johnson said that Phase IV of the sewer project was about 25% complete. Phase I (Bellview and Garrett Road) waterline project was virtually complete. Phase II of the water bond projects (Stoney Brook Road, Dodson Road, Rainbow Road) design was about finished. Johnson said that Phase III of the water projects (a twelve inch water line from Bellview School to the proposed A. G. Russell project at S. 26th and Laurel Road, that would finish a southwestern hydraulic loop) was next on the project board. McLelland asked what side of the road would the water line go on? Johnson said the south side, because George Mills had offered free right of way across his property. Pittman asked if Earl Rausch was hired as an engineer, why was he involved in procuring easements? Johnson said that Earl designed the pressure sewer system around Lake Atalanta, and could answer any questions people might have. He said that if people were directed solely to Earl, then there was less of a chance of miscommunication. Johnson said that Earl and Bob Anderson were working on obtaining easements, and they were doing a good job.

Chairman Moore recognized Bruce Johnson, a property owner on Garrett Lane. Bruce had come to an earlier meeting, requesting a long service line form the newly installed water line in Garrett Road, and had been told by the Commission to talk to his neighbors and try to raise enough money to fund half the cost of a mainline extension, or about \$10,000. He said that he could raise \$8500. McAlister said that the waterline could be built for that much, and recommended that the Commission build the waterline, with the \$8500 contribution form Mr. Johnson and his neighbor. Motion by Pittman, second by McLelland, to build the waterline to the last property line on Garrett Lane, with the help of the \$8500 contribution form Bruce Johnson. All in favor, motion carried. Mark Johnson said that the water line could be built in about six months.

Moore recognized Tim Sorrey, P. E., of Sand Creek Engineering. Sorrey said that his client, A. G. Russell, was trying to get water to his property at S. 26th St. and Laurel Road in Lowell. The Commission had previously agreed to pay for half the cost to extend a twelve-inch waterline from Dixieland Road, not to exceed \$80,000. Sorrey said that he had obtained a lump sum bid from S & J Construction for \$114,000. He asked the Commission to waive competitive bids, and award the contract to S & J Construction.

Mark Johnson said that he had asked Sorrey to advertise the project and to use a unit price format, and include a line item for trench safety, a requirement of state law whenever public monies are involved. Johnson said that the lump sum price should not change if the contractor had bid the project correctly. Jim Clark, Deputy City Attorney, said that state law had to be followed, since public monies are involved. The request to waive competitive bidding requirements was denied.

Moore recognized Don Roberts, Superintendent of Field Operations. Roberts had advertised for bids to replace a camera van and a backhoe. Bids were opened on January 31, he said. The bids for the front-end loader (to replace the backhoe) did not meet specifications, and he could not recommend any of those bids; however, he did receive a competitive bid from Cues, Inc., for a camera truck. The bid was \$74,500 with trade. Motion by Pittman, second by McLelland, to approve the Cues bid. All in favor, motion carried.

Tom McAlister, Water Utilities Manager, presented a map depicting the latest proposal for a service boundary line adjustment between Lowell, Rogers, and Springdale. McAlister explained that the Commission had previously approved another version last November, and that he had intended to take the matter before the City Council; however, officials from Bentonville had raised last minute objections. Since then, McAlister had ascertained that Bentonville was concerned about the location of the boundary line west of Cave Springs, and had made their approval of the boundary line adjustment contingent upon assurances that the City of Rogers would not extend its municipal boundaries beyond Highway 112 to the west. Since that revelation, McAlister said that the boundary line west of Cave Springs had been brought back to the original township line. He said that the Springdale Water Commission had approved this map. Motion by McLelland, second by Pittman, to recommend the boundary proposal to City Council.

McAlister presented a lease proposal from Sprint PCS to install antennae and ancillary equipment on the water tower at N. 8th St. and Persimmon. The annual rent would be \$10,000, payable in advance. Motion by McLelland, second by Pittman, to approve the lease agreement. All in favor, motion carried.

McAlister asked that the March 2000 meeting be set back one week, to March 27. The Commission agreed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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