

# Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission

March 2, 2000

## Minutes

The Rogers waterworks and Sewer Commission held a special called meeting at noon, March 2, 2000. Commissioners in attendance were Beck Scott, Dick McLelland, Donnie Moore, Lon Pepple, and Jerry Pittman. Rogers Water Utilities staff in attendance were Tom McAlister, Mark Johnson, Joyce Johnson, Don Roberts, Earl Rausch, and Mike Lawrence. Tom Sissom of the Morning News of Northwest Arkansas was also in attendance. Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 12:10 PM.

Moore said that the first order of business was to appoint successors to his term and the term of Beck Scott, both of which expired February 1, 2000. Motion by McLelland, second by Pittman, to recommend to City Council that Donnie Moore and Beck Scott be allowed to succeed themselves, and that Scott's term should expire February 1, 2007, and that Moore's term should expire February 1, 2008. All in favor, motion carried. McAlister said that the appointments would be brought to City Council for ratification at its next scheduled meeting.

The only other agenda item dealt with the on-going problem dealing with new sewer connections in those areas where the Commission was installing sewer mains. McAlister said that recurring complaints from the residences mainly dealt with the cost to reroute the household sewer service line. Some residents were extremely hard pressed to afford the cost; others just did not want to go to the trouble of contracting with a plumber, he said. Also, a recurring theme heard from the affected residents was that they had just made a significant investment in the septic tank-leach field system, and some thought they should be allowed to continue to use their septic systems. Still others were concerned that their houses were not plumbed for sewer service, i. e., their irrigation systems were not isolated from the household plumbing, and these people would be paying for sewer on no-return water, he said.

McAlister said that the staff at RWU had tried to come up with potential solutions to some of the problems just mentioned. One thought was that the Utilities should offer to pay some or all of the cost to reroute the sewer services, if they would agree to connect as soon as the sewer service became available. Otherwise, they could wait up to a year to connect, at which time they would do so on their own expense.

The Commissioners had questions about how much such a program would cost? Could the Commission base their participation based on need? McLelland said that he thought the Commission should help these residents, but desired more information on the total costs, in order to determine an equitable cost sharing proposal. The other Commissioners agreed, and directed the staff to determine as much as possible the

potential costs so that the Commission could consider adopting a policy for cost sharing at the next regular Commission meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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