

Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission

April 16, 2001

Minutes

The Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting at 4:00 PM, Monday, April 16, 2001, in the Rogers Water Utilities Training Center. Commissioners Dick McLelland, Beck Scott, and Jerry Pittman were present. Donnie Moore and Lon Pepple were absent. Rogers Water Utilities staff in attendance were Tom McAlister, Mark Johnson, Joyce Johnson, Don Roberts, Mike Lawrence, Earl Rausch, Luanne Diffin, Curtis Young, and Paul Burns. Others in the audience were E. J. Miller, Jim Clark, H. F. McClellan, Richard Zemke, Beryl Zemke, Marge McNamara, Kevin Thomas, David Fletcher, Duane Miller, Martha Miller, Andy Jaeger, Jodie Burns, and Rick Ellington. McLelland called the meeting to order at 4:07 PM.

There was a motion by Pittman, second by Scott, to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2001 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

McLelland recognized Don Roberts, Superintendent of Field Operations. Roberts recognized Curtis Young, Systems Analyst, for fifteen years of dedicated service to Rogers Water Utilities.

McLelland recognized Luanne Diffin, Laboratory Director for Rogers Water Utilities. Diffin presented a plaque to Paul Burns, Laboratory Analyst, for five years of dedicated service to the City of Rogers.

McLelland recognized Tom Hopper, P. E., of Crafton, Tull, and Associates. Hopper said that he was the engineer for Pinnacle Hills Addition, and that he had come to the Commission a few months ago and secured the promise of the Commission to pay for half the cost of the off-site sewer for that project, up to \$99,000. Since then, several factors had driven up the cost of the project, and now the contractor was asking for half the cost of \$263,983.50, or \$131,991.75. McAlister recommend the Commission pay \$128,875.75, which he said was "fair". There was a motion by Scott, second by Pittman, to pay the contractor that amount. All in favor, motion carried.

McLelland recognized Mark Johnson, P. E., Utilities Engineer. Johnson presented the Commission with a thick volume entitled "2000 Water Master Plan". Johnson said that this was the companion document to the earlier "2000 Master Sewer Plan", in which

the staff tried to foresee capital costs for the next twenty years. The total cost for all the water system improvements came to almost \$34 million, but he said that a large portion of the cost would be “developer driven”. Someone asked if the Prairie Creek water line project was in the plan? Johnson said that it was, but the project was scattered over several section drawings. Pittman asked how much would be paid for by developers? Mark guessed that something around 25% would be cost shared by developers, if and when certain properties were developed. Johnson said that his Engineering division could put out about \$4 million per year in construction plans. Coupled with the sewer master plan, he estimated the time to build everything would be about 14 years. He said that the Utilities had some reserves, but not enough to pay for all the needed improvements.

Continuing, Johnson said that the City of Rogers was going to widen Olrich Street from 8th St. to 13th St., which would require some utility relocation. He also said that the Arkansas Highway Department had sent him plans for the widening of Highway 62 from N. 2nd St. north to Avoca, and some water lines might need to be relocated for that project.

There followed a lengthy dialogue regarding the “Prairie Creek water line” project. E. J. Miller, President of the Prairie Creek POA, said he was concerned that the project was not given enough priority, that the time frame for design and construction continued to slip, even when he was told otherwise by Tom McAlister. He said he was not being communicated with adequately, and that information had to be dragged out of the staff. The Commission said that they were doing the best that they could to bring the project into fruition. Jim Clark, Deputy City Attorney, reminded everyone that the Commission’s first priority should be to the citizens of Rogers, and that the Commission was not bound to the residents outside the City except by contract. McAlister said that he would develop a time line for “the worst case scenario”.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom McAlister, Acting Secretary
Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission