

# Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission

April 21, 2008

## Minutes

The Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting at 4:00 PM, Monday, April 21, 2008, in the Council Chambers of Rogers City Hall. Commissioners in attendance were Donnie Moore, Don Kendall, and Travis Greene. Lon Pepple and Donna Warren were absent. Rogers Water Utilities (RWU) staff in attendance were Tom McAlister, Mark Johnson, Joyce Johnson, Johnny Lunsford, Earl Rausch, Tim House, Ken Allen, Steve Rowlett, Robert Moore, and William Thompson. Others in the audience were Jim Fowler, Asa Hutchinson III, Jill Drewyor, Guy Cable, and John Henley, Jr. A quorum was declared to exist. Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM.

Moore recognized Johnny Lunsford, Acting Superintendent of Field Operations. Lunsford recognized the following individuals for service to the City of Rogers and its citizens as members of RWU:

- |                  |                      |          |
|------------------|----------------------|----------|
| 1. Ken Allen,    | Information Tech     | 10 years |
| 2. Steve Rowlett | Field Tech II        | 25 years |
| 3. Wade Woodward | Assistant Field Supt | 20 years |

Moore recognized Robert Moore, Operations and Maintenance Supervisor for the Rogers Pollution Control Facility (RPCF), who recognized William Thompson, Operations Tech II, for 20 years of dedicated service to RWU as a member of the RPCF.

There was a motion by Kendall, second by Greene, to approve the minutes of the March 24, and April 15 Commission meetings. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Mark Johnson, Utilities Engineer. Johnson presented the Commission with a brief report showing the status of the few active projects in which the Commission had a monetary interest. He said that the contractor had started the Stave Mill Road water line project. He reminded the Commission that this water line was intended to serve the City's new recycling center. Johnson said that the painting subcontractor for the new elevated tank had moved on site at s. 23<sup>rd</sup> St., and the existing elevated tank had been drained and was being cleaned and blasted for repainting.

Johnson reported that the S. 26<sup>th</sup> St. road widening project was still a project, although there had been delays. Kendall asked how long the project would take. Johnson said about two years.

Johnson said that the widening of W. Pleasant Grove Road was progressing slowly, however, the water utilities' contractor was ahead of the street contractor and the other utilities.

Johnson said that the City had indicated its desire to continue with the extension of Price Lane through to First St. Johnson said that the City desired to perform the work by force account; so, the water and sewer design work would also be prepared in house.

Johnson said that the Olive St. Overpass widening had been designed and the design had very little impact of RWU facilities. He said that the proposed Fir St. overpass across I 540 was under design. Johnson said that he was working with the City's consultant to make sure it was designed to be able to hang a 24-inch water line from the deck.

Moore recognized Tim House, plan review engineer. He made the presentation typically made by Everett Balk, who was on vacation. He said that all plans submitted for approval received the first review within ten working days. He said that the number of plans submitted had been very static over the past several months. Moore asked if the consultants were making use of the predesign conference? House replied in the affirmative, and said that was a good way to reduce the number of review letters necessary to achieve approvable plans.

Moore recognized Jim Fowler with Morgan Keegan, bond underwriter for the 2008 refunding issue. Fowler said that he had looked at the 2003 water revenue bond, and decided that the bonds could be advance-refunded and save approximately \$10,000 per year and \$120,000 over the life of the bonds. He suggested the Commission allow Morgan Keegan and the Bond Attorney (Jill Drewyor) to prepare for the eventual bond issue to refund the 2003 issue, should the right market present itself. There was a motion by Kendall, second by Greene, to allow the bond underwriters to prepare for an eventual bond refunding, should savings (market condition) be realized. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Robert Moore again. Moore presented the Commission with a resolution asking that the Commission to waive the requirements of competitive bids, and allow the RPCF to purchase an 85 horsepower pump from Jack Tyler Engineering of Little Rock, who had the exclusive franchise for Flygt pumps in Arkansas. He said that the pump was a good one, and that the delay from order to delivery was usually 12 months. Therefore, he said, the requirements of competitive bidding were unnecessary.

Kendall said that the Commission's attorney had advised that the Council was the only governmental body in Rogers with authority to waive bids. He said that he realized that the Commission had waived bids before, but he thought the Commission should listen to the advise of its attorney, and send issues like this one to the Council, if it presented no particular hardship on the RWU. Tom McAlister, Utilities Manager, said that it did not, and he would take the matter to the Council at their first meeting in May.

Moore recognized Mark Johnson again. Johnson presented the Commission with Resolution No. 08-09, which waived competitive bids and awarded a contract not to exceed \$65,500 to G-Squared LLC, for aerial photography and ortho-rectified mapping for 38 square miles outside the City of Rogers, where RWU had water/sewer facilities. Johnson said that the City of Rogers had already waived bids, since it desired to piggy back on the Bentonville-Centeron mapping project and save some money. The City of Rogers was getting new aerial photos for its drainage project/master plan. Johnson asked that the Commission pay for updated maps of the areas outside the City where water facilities might be extended. There was a motion by Kendall, second by Greene, to approve Resolution No. 08-09. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Joyce Johnson, Utilities Controller, who presented the Commission with financial reports for March. She said that water demand continued to be very soft, and the water department, with its slim margins, showed another loss for the month of February. However, it should be noted that the water department was on track to meet budget for the year. The sewer department, with its large margins (thanks to a recent rate increase) would exceed the projected budget, she said. Greene asked why the City of Rogers' metered consumption was up over last year. Johnson could not answer, but vowed to get back to Greene by email.

Donnie Moore officially announced his resignation from the Commission. He said that the last twenty years as a Commissioner had been good, but it was time to move on. He said that Travis Greene had agreed to stand for election. There were some questions as to procedure. Finally, there was a motion by Kendall, second by Moore, to elect Travis Greene chairman of the Commission. All in favor, motion carried.

Next the Commission considered two applicants for Moore's position on the Commission (which Moore holds until replaced by City Council). There was a motion by Kendall, second by Greene, to appoint Guy J. Cable to the Commission, subject to approval by the Rogers City Council. All in favor, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

File: RWWSC minutes, 4-21-08

