

# **Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission**

**May 21, 2001**

## **Minutes**

The Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting at 4:00 PM, Monday, May 21, 2001, in the Rogers Water Utilities Training Center. Commissioners Beck Scott, Dick McLelland, Jerry Pittman, and Donnie Moore were present. Lon Pepple was absent. Rogers Water Utilities staff in attendance were Tom McAlister, Mark Johnson, Don Roberts, Joyce Johnson, Earl Rausch, Terry McCauley, and Bob Anderson. There were approximately 50 people in the audience (a copy of the sign-in sheet is attached hereto, and, by reference, is a part of these minutes). Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

There was a motion by Scott, second by Pittman, to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2001, meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Mark Johnson, P. E., Utilities Engineer. Johnson gave a brief update on the progress of the "Prairie Creek" water line project. He said that the plans were near completion, and the project would be advertised for bid in the next two consecutive Sunday newspapers. He said the project had been broken up into three segments in order to facilitate construction speed. Johnson said that all three segments would be under construction simultaneously. He said that the three smaller contracts should allow local contractors to bid who might not be able to bond a two million-dollar job. Johnson said that breaking the project up into three segments would cause costs to increase and cause an increased administrative burden, but said that the project might be built in six months from the time the contractor(s) got started.

There were several questions from the audience regarding the project. One asked about the time frame for construction. One asked about the size of the line and the route that had been chosen? Johnson said that the earliest the contractor could begin would be July. He said the water main was partly 24-inch, 12-inch, and 8-inch. He referred to a preliminary set of drawings showing the route of the water line, which basically followed Pleasant Ridge Road east to Beaver Shores and the Yacht Club additions in Benton County.

Someone asked about this summer (2001)? What was going to be done to get water supplies to the customers before the water main was in place. Johnson said that a letter had been sent out to the customers in the area asking them to conserve water. Tom

McAlister, Rogers Water Utilities Manager, said that the letter asked the water users to water their lawns on alternate days and only during the evenings and early morning hours. One asked that the Commission consider banning additional taps on the system until the new water main was in place. McAlister said that such a ban was not necessary since the project was going to be built. The Commission took no action on the suggested water connection ban. Moore said that such a move would place an unnecessary burden on the people building homes in the area. With that, most of the people in attendance left the meeting.

Moore recognized Glen Kelley, an attorney representing Rick Warren, 422 Laurel Road, and Don Speer, 414 Laurel Road. Kelley said that Warren and Speer, and another neighbor named Graham, had recently gone through an Act 779 deannexation/annexation from Lowell into Rogers. Warren and Speer were interested in sanitary sewer service from neighboring Saddlebrook addition. Kelley said that he had met with RWU staff and had been told that the cost would be about \$22,000 to extend sewer service to all three neighbors on Laurel Road, and, that a contribution from all three of \$3000 each would probably be necessary. Kelley said that Warren and Speer were offering to pay \$1500 each towards the cost of a sewer main line, plus giving the necessary easements to the City. Pittman said that he would like to help, but that the Commission could not afford to give services away. McAlister said that they (the neighbors) might wish to contact the property owner to the south (Diane Huffman), who had also recently come into the city via Act 779, in order to see if any contributions toward the cost of the project might be forthcoming. No action was taken on the request.

Moore recognized Mark Johnson again. Johnson presented the Commission with a bid tabulation showing the bids for the Olrich Street water line replacement. Johnson said that the City was going to improve Olrich from N. 8<sup>th</sup> St. east to N. 13<sup>th</sup> St. He said the staff wanted to extend a new, 12-inch water main from the 24-inch transmission main in N. 11<sup>th</sup> St. to the existing 12-inch main on the east side of 8<sup>th</sup> St. The low bid was from McClelland and Son, for \$131,445. Motion by McLelland, second by Pittman, to approve the low bid. All in favor, motion carried.

Johnson proceeded to update the Commission on the numerous projects in which the Commission had an interest. He mentioned that U. S. Highway 62 north to Avoca was going to be widened, and that a water main would have to be relocated. McAlister asked about the New Hope Road improvement? Johnson said that the Highway Department had not finished plans yet.

Moore recognized Joyce Johnson, CPA, Controller for the Utilities. Johnson presented the Commission with the financial sheets for April. She also presented the draft FY '02 budget, which the Commission took under advisement.

McLelland asked about the proposed "post-employment health insurance benefit" featured in the budget report? Johnson said that, as proposed, employees retiring at age 55 or older, with at least 20 years of service, could receive individual health insurance paid for by the Utilities for a specific time period. She said that the cost to provide the

insurance should be funded, if the Commission approved the benefit. McLelland said that he thought the people who worked for the Utilities for that long should be rewarded, and made a motion to approve the benefit, subject to approval by counsel and the insurance company. Second by Pittman, all in favor, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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