

Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission

July 16, 2001

Minutes

The Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting at 4:00 PM, Monday, July 16, 2001, in the Rogers Water Utilities Training Center. Commissioners present were Donnie Moore, Dick McLelland, Lon Pepple, Beck Scott, and Jerry Pittman. Rogers Water Utilities staff present were Tom McAlister, Mark Johnson, Don Roberts, Joyce Johnson, Earl Rausch, and Mike Lawrence. Others in attendance were Jim Clark, Charles Reaves, E. J. Miller, Lori Harrison-Stone, Kevin Thomas, and Jim Smith. Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM.

There was a motion by Scott, second by Pittman, to approve the minutes of the previous two meetings (June 18 and June 20). All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Mark Johnson, Utilities Engineer. Johnson presented the Commission with a report detailing the status of the many projects in which the Commission has a pecuniary interest. Johnson said that the Prairie Creek water line project was still waiting for the necessary easements. He said that 51 easement out of a total of 69 had been obtained. He estimated that as many as 13 properties would need to be condemned. Johnson said that all necessary approvals had been obtained, except for the permission of the Benton County Road Department.

Continuing, Johnson said that the Olrich water main project was under way. Also, the water main loop in far southwest Rogers project was close to being ready for bid. Johnson said that the State Highway Department had plans to widen Highway 62 from North Second Street in Rogers to Avoca, and that most of the 12-inch water main along that stretch of road would need to be relocated at the Commission's expense.

McLelland asked about the New Hope Road relocation project? Johnson said that final plans from the highway department had not yet been made available, since the design of the western reach of that road had not been completed. Moore asked about the sewer on Perry Road? Johnson said that sewer project was completed at the same time as the improvements to Perry Road near the new high school. Pittman asked about the boring contractor that threatened to sue the Utilities? Johnson said that he had not heard further from Pinson Construction.

Moore recognized Don Roberts, Superintendent of Field Operations. Roberts said that he had been looking for better leak detection equipment for some time, and had found some equipment that he and his people thought would work. He said that the equipment works in high traffic areas and on plastic pipe, both capabilities that he wanted, but his current equipment did not have. Roberts said that the equipment he wanted to buy was slightly used, but it came with a “like new warranty” from Schonstedt Equipment Company, for \$24,300. Pittman asked if it was necessary to waive competitive bidding? McAlister said he did not think so, since only the council had that authority (per Jim Clark, Deputy City Attorney). However, it was the lowest cost equipment available that would do the job. There was a motion by Pittman, second by McLelland, to authorize the Utilities to purchase the equipment as requested, provided all the legal requirements of purchasing are met. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Mark Johnson once again. Johnson said that the Utilities engineers were working on the design of Phase III of the 1998 water bond, in order to complete a hydraulic loop west of the bypass. Recently, Charles Reaves, a developer who owned several acres of property south and east of the intersection of I 540 and Pleasant Grove Road, had expressed the need to get a water main to his property. Johnson said that the recently completed water master plan called for a 24-inch water main to be extended from Highway 71B west to Bellview Road along Pleasant Grove Road. Since Reaves needed at least a twelve-inch main, and had indicated his willingness to pay for a twelve inch main, and since the Utilities needed a 24-inch main, why not build a 24 inch pipe with the help of Reaves, who would pay for a 12 inch pipe? Reaves’ cost would be about \$143,000, and the Commission would have to pay an additional \$117,000 to upsize the water main. Reaves, who was in the audience, said “he did not like it, but he was willing to do it”. There was a motion by Pittman, second by McLelland, to allow the design of an extra 2200 feet of 24-inch water main to continue and be added to the Phase III water bond project, provided Reaves pay for the cost of a twelve inch main. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Joyce Johnson, Controller for the Utilities. Johnson said that the June financial statements were late this month in order to make final, year-ending entries. She did say that preliminary figures indicated the water and sewer departments were tracking very close to budget predictions. Scott asked about the decrease in demand from the month of June 2000? Johnson said that demand was off because of the rather cool, wet weather last month.

McAlister said that he had discussed the possibility of interlocal cooperation with the Director of the Springdale Water Utilities. He said that both cities had similar problems with wastewater treatment and sludge disposal. McAlister said that he wanted to work with Springdale to come up with an agreement whereby the Commissions of both towns could “explore the possibilities” of increased cooperation. He said that there was a lot of unnecessary duplication of effort, and that the cities needed to work more closely together. McAlister said that he wanted to bring a draft agreement to the Commission to the next meeting. The Commission expressed no objections to the idea.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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