

Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission

July 16, 2007

Minutes

The Rogers Water and Sewer Commission held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting at 4:00 PM, Monday, July 16, 2007, in the Rogers City Hall. Commissioners in attendance were Donnie Moore, Don Kendall, Travis Greene, Lon Pepple, and Donna Warren. Rogers Water Utilities staffers in attendance were Tom McAlister, Mark Johnson, Joyce Johnson, Everett Balk, Mike Lawrence, Earl Rausch, William Evans, and Michelle Williams. Others in attendance were Asa Hutchinson III, Evie Blad, Daniel Ellis, and Matthew Castor. Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

There was a motion by Warren, second by Greene, to approve the June minutes as submitted. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Joyce Johnson, Utilities Controller. Johnson presented Michelle Williams, RWU Office Manager, with a gift and a certificate acknowledging Williams' twenty years of dedicated service to RWU and its customers.

Moore recognized Mark Johnson, Utilities Engineer. Johnson presented a brief report detailing the status of the several projects in which the Commission had a pecuniary interest. He noted that the Dogwood St./Osage Creek water project was nearly complete, with about 300 ft of pipe left to bury. Johnson said the contractor was waiting to coordinate with the bridge construction on S. 45th St. Kendall asked when 45th St. would be done. Johnson guessed that the roads from the north would be built in the near future.

Johnson said that the proposed elevated tank at S. 24th at Lilac was still under design. He said that the water line extension along the new Pauline Whitaker Parkway was about 45 percent complete. He said that the widening of Pleasant Grove Road from Interstate 540 west to Bellview Road was ready to bid. The City's consultant was also designing the utility relocations, Johnson said.

Johnson said that the S. 26th St. widening project was a priority again, and that he expected a notice from the City shortly to move utilities south of Perry Road. Moore asked if the Utilities' plans were complete. Johnson answered in the affirmative.

Continuing, Johnson said that the widening of the Pleasant Grove overpass at I 540 was starting soon, but thought that the impact on existing facilities would be minimal. He said that the proposed Price Lane extension from S. First St. to S. 8th St. was on hold, pending receipt of additional CDBG monies.

Greene asked if the Staybridge Hotel had adequate water to open in August. Johnson said that decision would need to be made by the Fire Marshall, but he thought there was adequate pressure and capacity.

Continuing, Johnson addressed the proposed water transmission main alignment in the area of the Staybridge Inn and Holiday Inn. He told the Commission of his efforts to gain an easement from the property owner to the south, and how the efforts had eventually proved fruitless. He recounted the history of the project and the status of the project now. He said that he had investigated an alignment by microtunneling through the hotel property under the existing retaining wall. He said that this option would cost an additional \$900,000. He also presented two more options that would entail new crossings of I 540. Option No. 3 would entail a jack and bore under I 540 approximately 800 ft north of the existing sleeve. No. 4 would entail an aerial crossing on a proposed bridge to be built in two to three years.

There followed many questions regarding the different options and who or what was the cause for the delay or cost overruns. Kendall wanted to know if the retaining wall on the hotel property had caused the need to spend additional money. Johnson said that the wall was evidently approved by the City of Rogers. Warren wanted to know why the pipeline did not go north along the wall, then west. Johnson said that that was the original plan, but he did not think the pipeline could be constructed without compromising the integrity of the wall, and thus the hotel foundations.

Kendall asked if there was adequate pressure for the intended use. Johnson said that he thought there was adequate pressure and capacity at present, but the transmission main was part of the overall plan to build transmission loops around the southwest part of the City. Moore asked if there were cost share agreements. Johnson said that the Utilities had three partners to help pay for the water main and the sewer main. He said the contracts called for the partners to pay for their pro-rata share of any additional expense. He said that their cost would be about half of the additional cost. Are the partners aware of the problem? Someone asked. Johnson said that the partners knew about the construction delay, but were unaware of the potential cost to be bourn, mainly because he did not know the cost himself. Moore opined that the third option was the best, since there would be a need for water in that area. Warren wanted to know how long it would take. Johnson estimated 90 days. Asa Hutchinson, the Commission's attorney, said the contracts with the partners were broadly written with no caps on the potential costs.

Greene asked if the Staybridge Hotel was good to go. Johnson said he thought it was. What about the Holiday Inn? McAlister said that he thought the Holiday Inn would need a fire pump to meet the fire protection criteria. Kendall said that it would have been

less expensive (\$350,000) to build the line across Simmons to the south. Warren said she did not think it was an option, unless the Holiday Inn partners could secure an easement. Finally, the Commission agreed to pursue Option No. 3, and to talk to the partners about the additional expense.

Moore recognized Everett Balk, Project Facilitation Engineer. Balk presented the Commission with a brief summary of the activities of his section. He noted that the no of plans submitted for approval was very steady over the past few months.

Moore recognized Daniel Ellis of Crafton Tull Sparks. Ellis said that his client, Charles Reaves, desired to move the Rogers/Springdale water service boundary to include two parcels totaling over fifty-six acres south of Reaves' Pleasant Crossing. He said that the parcels were contingent to Rogers' water and sewer mains, and that the properties could be serviced by gravity sewer. Moore asked if Springdale knew about this proposal. Ellis said that the Director of Springdale Water Utilities said that, if Rogers did not want it, then Springdale would not release it. There was a motion by Pepple, second by Warren, to approve the boundary, subject to the approval of the Rogers, Lowell, and Springdale City Councils, and the Springdale Water Commission. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Mike Lawrence, Rogers Pollution Control Facility Manager. Lawrence said that the existing forklift used by the operators to move the new sludge roll-off containers was inadequate, and he needed permission to advertise for bids for a new, 6000 lb capacity forklift. There was a motion by Kendall, second by Greene, to approve the request. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized William Evans, Superintendent of Field Operations. Evans said that he desired to purchase a new backhoe to replace an existing '93 Case Super K backhoe. The price of a new Case from Scott Equipment Co. of Springdale was \$64,983.77. The trade-in allowance was \$11,000, for a net of \$53,987.77. Evans said that this was a "state bid" item, meaning the state of Arkansas had already bid for prices for backhoes, so the requirement of competitive bidding had been met. There was a motion by Kendall, second by Greene, to approve the purchase of a backhoe from Scott Equipment Co. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Joyce Johnson, Utilities Controller. Johnson presented the Commission with financial sheets for June, which were also year-end statements. She said that demand for water was off for the same period last year due to the cool, rainy weather. Johnson said that consumption was up only one percent from the previous year. She pointed out several items that impacted the budget. No exceptions were taken to the financial sheets.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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