

# **Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission**

**August 20, 2001**

## **Minutes**

The Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting at 4:00 PM, Monday, August 20, 2001, at the Rogers Water Utilities Training Center. Commissioners in attendance were Beck Scott, Lon Pepple, Jerry Pittman, Dick McLelland, and Donnie Moore. Rogers Water Utilities staff present were Tom McAlister, Mark Johnson, Joyce Johnson, Earl Rausch, Don Roberts, Mike Lawrence, and Luanne Diffin. Others in the audience included E. J. Miller, Shawki Al Madoun, Glenn Kelley, Arnold Lehman, H. F. McAllen, Kevin Thomas, Laurie H. Stone, Ted Carroll, Skip Lauder, Roger Golden, Tim Sorrey, Jim Clark, and Ken Booth. Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

There was a motion by Scott, second by McLelland, to approve the minutes of the July meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Mark Johnson, P. E., Utilities Engineer. Johnson presented the Commission with a spreadsheet showing the status of the several projects in which the Commission was involved. Johnson said that the construction of the water line project commonly known as the Prairie Creek project had started. Scott remarked that, "Now all we need is to find a way to pay for it."

Johnson said the contractor for Phase VIA sewer bond project (southwest Rogers) was bogged down in Southern Trace Addition. Johnson said that the contractor (H. Epps Construction of Branson, Missouri) was going very slow. Someone asked when the project period would expire? Earl Rausch said the contract ran through "about Christmas". Johnson said that it was possible for the contractor to be finished before the deadline.

McLelland asked, "What about the Phase VIB sewer project?" Johnson said that utilities were involved in a "friendly" contract dispute with the project engineers (Crafton, Tull, and Associates). Crafton claimed that the original contract amount (\$360,000) was almost used up, and estimated that they needed an additional \$180,000 to finish the entire Phase VI project (southwest Rogers). "Why?", someone asked? Johnson again alluded to the problems the contractor was having, and he said that several design changes were necessary. McLelland asked Johnson if the Utilities Engineers could finish the job if Crafton was unable or unwilling to do so? Johnson said that would be his recommendation if the occasion arose.

Pittman asked about the Phase VIII sewer bond project (southeast Rogers)? Johnson said that he hoped to bid the project next month.

What about the Highway 62 North waterline relocation project? Someone asked. Johnson said that it looked like a mile of 12-inch pipe laid in 1986 would have to be relocated to make way for the widening of the highway. He said that the water main, paid for by the City of Rogers, was built when Wal-Mart moved its air facilities to Rogers. The waterline was constructed in the highway right-of-way, and must now be moved at the Commission's expense, Johnson said.

Continuing, Mark Johnson said that bids had been taken for Phase VI (Osage Reservation) of the water bond project. He presented a bid tabulation, showing a low bid of \$149,894.75 from Golden Sun Excavation. Pittman asked if the Utilities had used the contractor before? Johnson said that Golden Sun had been used several times to perform pavement repair services. There was a motion by Scott, second by McLelland, to approve the low bid. All in favor motion carried.

Moore recognized Glenn Kelley, an attorney representing Rick Warren, 414 Laurel Road, and Don Speer, 412 Laurel Road. Kelley reminded the Commission that Warren and Speer had been before the Commission previously, expressing their desire for sewer service from Rogers Water Utilities. Warren and Speer had offered to contribute \$1500 each toward a sewer main estimated to cost about \$22,000. That offer had been turned down, Kelly said. Now, they were prepared to offer \$3000 each, or \$6000 total toward the project. Someone asked if the sewer main could be extended into unsewered areas to the south? McAlister said that it was possible. Motion by McLelland, second by Pittman, to approve the offer and build the necessary sewer main. Pittman, Pepple, and McLelland voted "Aye". Scott voted "No". Motion carried.

Continuing on another matter, Kelley introduced Shawki Al Madoun, P. E., Northstar Engineering, who represented Arnold Lehman. Shawki said that Lehman had built a strip commercial center at 6208 Stoneybrook Road. Now, Lehman was trying to secure water and sewer service for his project, Shawki said. He admitted that there was some controversy surrounding the project, since Lehman had tried and failed to annex the property into the City of Rogers. Moore reminded Shawki that all such extensions must be approved by the City Council. There was a motion by Pittman, second by McLelland, to approve water and sewer extensions to the property, subject to approval by the Rogers City Council. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Tim Sorrey, P. E., of Sand Creek Engineering. Sorrey said that his client, the developer of Emerald Heights Addition, had been asked by the staff at RWU to extend a sewer main across the last lot in his addition and across Pleasant Grove Road at S. 43<sup>rd</sup> St. The cost for the extension was set at \$9760, Sorrey said. He asked the Commission to pay for the extra cost. There was a motion by McLelland, second by Pittman, to approve the proposal. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Don Roberts, Superintendent of Field Operations. Roberts asked for permission to advertise for bids to replace a warehouse forklift. Motion by Scott, second by McLelland, to allow the Utilities to go out for bids. All in favor, motion carried.

Continuing, Roberts asked for permission to advertise for bids for the purchase of a boring machine. Roberts said that he had put \$35,000 in the capital budget for such a purchase. There was a motion by Scott, second by McLelland, to approve the advertisement of bids for a boring machine. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Luanne Diffin, Laboratory Director for the Rogers Pollution Control Facility. Diffin asked for permission to purchase two pieces of sole-source analytical equipment from Lachat Corporation, for \$14,500. There was a motion by Scott, second by Pittman, to allow the purchase. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Joyce Johnson, CPA. Utilities Controller. Johnson presented the Commission with financial statements for July 2001. No exceptions were taken to the statements.

Tom McAlister, Utilities Manager, said that he had been contacted by the state revolving loan fund people at the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ASWCC) regarding the balance of about \$350,000 in our account, unspent from the Sewer Department's 1997 bond issue. The letter from ASWCC said that, if the Utilities was interested in using the money, it must so indicate not later than August 31, 2001. McAlister said that money had already been approved, and that all the front-end costs had been absorbed. The cost of the money was set at 3.5 APR for twenty years, he said. Mark Johnson indicated that the money might well be spent on sewer rehabilitation. The Commission agreed that it was cheap money. McAlister said that the staff would bring back a sewer rehab project for action at another meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM.

Sincerely,

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