

# **Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission**

**August 23, 1999**

## **Minutes**

The Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting at 4:00 PM, Monday, August 23, 1999, in the Rogers Water Utilities Training Center. Commissioners Beck Scott, Lon Pepple, Jerry Pittman, Dick McLelland, and Don Moore were present. Rogers Water Utilities Staff present were Tom McAlister, Mark Johnson, Joyce Johnson, Earl Rausch, Don Roberts, and Mike Lawrence. There were many in the audience who came to speak or ask questions regarding the sewer improvement project. A copy of the meeting sign-up sheet is attached hereto and is a part of these minutes by reference. Also a part of these minutes are petitions submitted by unknown persons in Cleade Acres and Northland Heights, expressing the signatory's desire to be counted in opposition of the public sewer system in the neighborhoods mentioned. Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

Moore recognized Steve Womack, Mayor of Rogers. The Mayor spoke briefly to the Commission, lauding their efforts to bring sewer service into unserved areas in Rogers. He specifically addressed the concern about charging new sewer customers a \$150 "impact fee". Womack asked the Commission to waive the fee, in order to lessen the financial impact on the consumers, and make the project more palatable to those affected.

Several of the Commissioners voiced concerns over precedents, which might be set, if the connection fee was waived. The Commission thanked the Mayor for his comments, and vowed to hold a special-called meeting in the near future to discuss the issue of the connection fee.

Several citizens in the audience asked questions about the sewer improvement project. Mr. Haskins, 3805 N. Second Street, said that his property was north of Northland Heights, but he was included in the project, according to the Utilities engineers. He wanted to know a: Why was his property included? b: Was the sewer line big enough and deep enough if the surrounding property was developed? and c: Why could he not get his property rezoned for anything but agricultural? Moore referred Mr. Haskins to Mark Johnson and the Planning Commission.

Someone asked about "digging their own sewer line" to connect to the sewer. Scott said that you could be your own plumber on your own property. She wanted to know about the fall, or grade, in the sewer service? Scott said that the folks in the water department would be glad to help her get her service in right.

One lady said that she was very glad to see the sewer coming after so many years, and apologized for comments made by her neighbor at an earlier meeting.

One woman asked, "Is there any way the sewer system would not get built?" Moore and Scott answered in the negative. There were several other questions of a technical nature that were directed to the Utilities staff.

Moore recognized Mark Johnson, Water Utilities Engineer. Johnson presented the Commission with a bid tabulation for a sewer project south of Poplar and East of Arkansas St. One bid had been received, and the bid was 25% higher than the engineer's estimate. Therefore, he asked the Commission for permission to throw out the bid and to rebid the project. Motion by McLelland to allow the staff to rebid the project, second by Pittman. All in favor, motion carried.

Johnson gave a brief update on some of the projects in which the Commission was involved. He said that the Old Wire Road Sewer was basically finished. He said that the Walgreen sewer project was finished. McAlister asked Johnson about the status of the Harris Baking sewer project? Johnson said that the contractor, McClinton-Anchor, was busy on the PGI sewer project, and that the contractor would then move on Harris after that.

Moore recognized Don Roberts, Field Operations Superintendent. Roberts asked permission to advertise for bids for three replacement trucks. Motion by McLelland, second by Pittman, to allow the staff to bid three truck replacements. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Everett Balk, an engineer with Crafton, Tull, and Associates. Balk presented the Commission with a proposed contract to perform certain engineering functions in the effort to extend sewer service to the area of the City of Rogers consisting of Acres Escondidos, Osage Reservation, Cherokee Strip, Southern Trace, Buckridge, Prestwick, and Montefiori. The contract called for a \$360,000 fee to be paid over the life of the project. The fee covered the preparation of easements, he said. Motion by McLelland, second by Pittman, to approve the contract. The vote was three to one, with Scott casting the lone "No" vote. Motion carried.

McAlister presented the Commission with a preview of the Consumer Confidence Rule mandatory water quality report for 1998. He said that report would be mailed to all our customers, in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

