

Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission

September 2, 1999

The Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission held a special-called meeting at 4:00 PM, Thursday, September 2, 1999, in the Rogers Water Utilities Training Center. Commissioners Lon Pepple, Donnie Moore, Beck Scott, Dick McLelland, and Jerry Pittman were present. Rogers Water Utilities Staff in attendance were Tom McAlister, Mark Johnson, Don Roberts, Joyce Johnson, Earl Rausch, and Judy Bridges. There were many people in the audience, and a copy of the sign-up sheet is attached and a part of these minutes. Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Moore began the meeting by stating that the purpose of the special meeting was to discuss the issue of connection fees for the residences that will be added to the sewer system as a result of the 1998 Sewer Bond Improvement Project. Moore said that the Commission started to collect connection fees from new development in 1993. Pittman said that, after discussing the matter with the city attorney, he had changed his opinion, and thought that the connection fees could be waived for the residents in the areas where the City had decided to build sewer collection lines, without affecting the connection fee policy for new development. Scott said that, since there were many customers in the targeted areas that would have to connect to sewer, some against their will, "the Commission should probably pay their connection fee". McLelland agreed, and said that he did not think a precedent would be set if the fees were waived. Motion by Pittman, second by McLelland, to waive the connection fees in those cases where a septic tank was taken out of service, and the house was connected to the sanitary sewer, and to allow the Sewer Department to pump the septic tanks for those customers, at no charge. All in favor, motion carried.

There were several questions and comments from members of the audience. Most were of a technical nature. One woman wanted to know how much her sewer bill would increase her water bill? McAlister explained how to calculate her sewer bill. One man wanted to know why the sewer was being constructed, and why was he being required to connect? Several of those in attendance from Clead Acres Addition mentioned problems with drainage ditches in the area. These inquiries were directed to the City Planner's office. One woman actually thanked the Commission for waiving the \$150 connection fee.

Moore recognized Mark Johnson, Utilities Engineer. Johnson presented the Commission with a map showing the location of the Pleasant Acres subdivision near Bellview and Pleasant Grove Road. Johnson explained that the owner of the adjacent property was Gil Brooks. He said the property was now in Lowell, but Brooks had petitioned to annex to Rogers under Act 779. The City Council was in favor of the annexation, but wanted the

Commission to commit to serve the property with water and sewer service before the annexation was complete. Johnson said that Brooks had not asked for any financial aid for water/sewer extensions. Motion by Pittman, second by McLelland, to serve the property subject to the usual conditions. All in favor, motion carried.

Johnson showed the Commission a map of the western part of the City of Rogers, specifically the Dodson Road area. Johnson showed a preliminary design to serve the areas of Rainbow Road, Dodson Road, Stoney Brook Road, and Horsebarn Road. He estimated the cost to do the work at about \$700,000. There were several Dodson Road residents in the audience who spoke about having problems with their wells. McAlister said that the Commission needed to “protect its service area” by extending water into these areas. McLelland said that the water line need not extend all the way to the Bentonville city limits. Motion by Pittman, second by Pepple, to allow the Rogers Water Utilities staff to design a water system for the subject area and bid the project. All in favor, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Sincerely,

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

File: RWWSC minutes, 9-2-99