

# **Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission**

**September 15, 2014**

## **Minutes**

The Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission held its regular meeting at 4:00 PM on Monday, September 15, 2014, in the Rogers Water Utilities Administration Building. Present were Commissioners Don Kendall, Kathy McClure, Roger Surly, Travis Greene and Jene' Huffman-Gilreath. Rogers Water Utilities staff in attendance were Joyce Johnson, Johnny Lunsford, William Evans, Jennifer Lattin, Robert Moore, Brian Sartain, Jordan Waterhouse, Stephen Ponder, Terry Edwards, Dylan Cecil, Rick Schwartz, David Staib and Earl Rausch. Others in attendance were City Attorney Ben Lipscomb, City Planner Derrel Smith and Robert and April Evans. Chairman Kendall called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Chairman Kendall recognized Earl Rausch, Utility Superintendent, for the employee anniversaries. Rausch recognized Robert Moore, Rogers Pollution Control Facility Manager, who presented a certificate and gift to David Staib, Operations Supervisor at the plant, to commemorate twenty years of service to RWU and the citizens of Rogers.

Rausch recognized Joyce Johnson, Utilities Controller, who presented a certificate and gift to Rick Schwartz, Meter Reader, to commemorate ten years of service to RWU and the citizens of Rogers.

There was a motion by Commissioner McClure, second by Commissioner Surly to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2014, regular meeting as submitted. All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Kendall recognized Joyce Johnson, Utilities Controller to present the August 2014 financial reports. Johnson stated water consumption was down from the prior year, but not as much as in the previous month. Access and impact fees are up, and the Water Department had a profit of \$90,000 in August. The Water Department profit in August 2013 was \$185,000. The Sewer Department had a profit of \$372,000. The Sewer Department had strong access and impact fee collections of \$190,000 which had a big impact on the Sewer Department profit. There was a loss in the Water Department in July, but we currently have a profit of \$55,000 year to date. A year ago, we had year to date profit of \$273,000 and two years ago \$523,000. Chairman Kendall asked if we are going to break even for the year. Johnson stated we have budgeted a loss of \$132,000 in the Water Department, and have no reason to update that forecast at this time. We hope to have profit for the next three months before we go into the winter months. We are staying on track with the budget on both the water and sewer side. Johnson asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Chairman Kendall recognized Earl Rausch, Utility Superintendent, for the August Staff report. Rausch stated no issues were reported last month. In the engineering department, the commercial developer side has many projects in all phases. We have been reviewing the Lake wood Subdivision located within the City of Lowell which will require a large sewer lift station. On the city street side, the sanitary sewer evaluation study has come to its end and we will be receiving the final report for our future rehabilitation design. The Monte Ne water and sewer relocation project is complete and now DECCO can begin the street construction phase. The Blossom Way sewer project is under way by the contractor, Fochtman. We have advertised two water replacement projects and the sewer replacement project will be a bid contract. The Pollution Control Facility plant reported good numbers with slightly lower phosphorus. There was no monitoring report for Osage Creek this month. The water department reported 13% unaccounted for water for a 12 month period. The average water usage in August was 12 million gallons per day (MGD) and in September the average water usage was 10 MGD. The sewer department had no over-flows, flushed 82,000 feet of sewer lines and camera inspected 23,000 feet of line. Rausch asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Robert and April Evans - 906 E Kara Lane - water meter issue. Chairman Kendall stated he got a message on August 29, 2014, on his computer in Austin, Texas. The message was from Robert Evans and he had talked with Earl Rausch of the city water. Long story short, the water department had come to his house and Evans was told of a 50,000 gallon leak in less than a month. They used another 900 gallons of water in less than 24 hours. Evans said he had plumbers come out and they told him that he did not have a leak. After much debate, a field person from the utility pulled the water meter. Evans said the field person from the utility said the water meter was faulty. He said Rausch informed him that the water meter was not faulty and that Evans had used 50,000 gallons of water. Evans stated this is ridiculous and he has already missed a day of work on this matter. Chairman Kendall stated he had two to three conversations that evening with Evans. During this conversation Evans asked Chairman Kendall to authorize plumbing payment and was told he would need to appear before the Commission. Chairman Kendall stated he did not have that authority. Chairman Kendall recognized Robert Evans-906 E. Kara Lane. Evans spoke to the Commission. Chairman Kendall stated the water meter was tested at our shop and again by an outside party. The outside testing party was Lanny Johns, Senior Manager of HD Supply Waterworks. An accuracy test was performed on a 5/8"x1/2" Sensus IPerl water meter at Springdale Water Utility on September 5, 2014 and his conclusion was that the meter functioned properly during this period and any inaccuracies in recorded water consumption was in favor of the water customer. There was more discussion. City Attorney, Ben Lipscomb, suggested to the Commission that the leak policy of case by case basis be reviewed by the Commission and in his opinion the only entity with authority to change water rates is the City Council. There was a motion by Commissioner Surly, second by Commissioner McClure not to grant relief of water bill to Robert and April Evans at 906 E Kara Lane. All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Kendall recognized Earl Rausch, Utility Superintendent for the additional adjustment consideration for the catastrophic water leak of Heather Adams-2804 Seminole Court. Rausch

stated Heather Adams is not here and may never come before the Commission; however we want to talk about the catastrophic water leak policy. Rausch asked for guidance from the Commission on the policy that was approved in 2010 but not presented to the City Council for approval. Chairman Kendall asked what the policy says. Rausch stated the policy is for leaks over 50,000 gallons, the water billing is based on the lowest rate tier with a clause of possible additional consideration by the Utility Superintendent or Water & Sewer Commission. City Attorney, Ben Lipscomb, stated the current policy is a microscopic change in water rates. Rausch stated we have about nine customers a year that qualify for the leak policy. Chairman Kendall asked in dollars and cents what kind of money is involved. Rausch stated the amount is approximately \$800. Commissioner Huffman-Gilreath asked did we approve the leak policy. Rausch stated the leak policy was approved by the Commission. Commissioner Surly stated the policy is consistent and is only used when the customer asks. City Attorney, Ben Lipscomb, stated the policy of adjusting a sewer bill when the water did not go down the sewer is not a problem. On the water, I think the City Council can grant the authority to the Commission to provide relief to a customer for a catastrophic water leak. Commissioner Surly stated the leak policy should be adjusted and presented to City Council. Chairman Kendall asked Rausch to provide the Commission an edited catastrophic water leak policy to review for presentation to City Council for approval. Rausch agreed to have the policy ready for the next regular Commission meeting. There was no motion by the Commission.

Chairman Kendall recognized Brian Sartain, Design Engineer, to discuss the award of the Sanitary Sewer Manhole Rehabilitation project. This project is a yearlong contract for the Sewer Department that includes such things as manhole replacement, epoxy lining in areas where we have high hydrogen sulfide, and ring and lid replacements. Sartain stated a bid opening was held last Wednesday September 10, 2014, and the low bidder was Corgill Construction Inc. for \$326,702. The next bidder was Seven Valley Concrete for \$374,900. The engineer's estimate was \$312,695. Commissioner Huffman-Gilreath asked if the Utility has used Corgill Construction before. Sartain stated the Sewer Department has worked with Corgill Construction for several years and is satisfied with their work. There was a motion by Commissioner Huffman-Gilreath, second by Commissioner McClure to award the Sanitary Sewer Manhole Rehabilitation project to Corgill Construction Inc. in the amount \$326,702. All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Kendall recognized William Evans, Water Field Operation Supervisor, who requested the approval of the Commission to purchase a mini excavator for \$38,031.61. This will be like the one we purchased last year. This excavator will be used in yards to do smaller digs. It is in the budget (it will be split 50/50 between the water and sewer departments) and is included in the Arkansas State Bid. Commissioner Surly asked is the other excavator in service. Evans stated the first excavator is in service and now we need two excavators. There was a motion by Commissioner McClure, second by Commissioner Surly to approve the purchase of the Caterpillar mini excavator for \$38,031.61. All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Kendall adjourned the meeting at 4:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Earl Rausch".

Earl Rausch, Secretary  
Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission  
File: RWWSC minutes, 9-15-2014