

# **Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission**

**September 17, 2001**

## **Minutes**

The Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting at 4:00 PM, Monday, September 17, 2001, in the Rogers Water Utilities Training Center. Commissioners Dick McLelland, Beck Scott, Jerry Pittman, Donnie Moore, and Lon Pepple were present. Rogers Water Utilities staff present were Tom McAlister, Mark Johnson, Earl Rausch, Stephen Ponder, Joyce Johnson, Don Roberts, Shawn McCarty, Dan Grelle, and Mike Lawrence. Others in attendance were Jim Clark, Gene Bland, Kevin Thomas, Lori Harrison-Stone, Charles Reaves, Joe Harner, and Mike Krupka. Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

There was a motion by Pittman, second by Scott, to approve the August 20, 2001 minutes as submitted. All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Moore recognized Mark Johnson, P. E., Utilities Engineer. Johnson recognized Dan Grelle, Engineer Technician, for ten years of dedicated service to RWU.

Continuing, Johnson presented the Commission with a spreadsheet depicting the status of the many projects in which the Commission had an interest. Johnson said that the Prairie Creek/Highway 12 water project was well underway and showing progress. He said that the Olrich Street water line relocation project was finished. Johnson informed the Commission that he had invited the residents in Osage Reservation to a meeting to inform them of the Commission's intent to construct water lines in their neighborhood.

Johnson told the Commissioners that 5000 feet of twelve-inch water main would need to be relocated for the widening of Highway 62 North, from the intersection of Highway 94 North and Hudson Road to the Wal-Mart hanger at the Rogers Airport. He estimated the cost at about \$240,000. Johnson said that the state highway department had informed him that the West New Hope Road widening project was scheduled to begin next fall, so that utility relocations would need to start next spring. How much will that cost the Utility? Donnie Moore asked. Johnson said that he did not want to hazard a guess, but said he thought that three and a half miles of eight-inch water main would need to be moved. Dick McLelland commented that the water line might need to be upgraded to a larger size in any case. McAlister said that the Utilities had considered a twenty-four inch main in New Hope Road when the 1998 water revenue bonds were issued.

Johnson reminded the Commission that, about a year ago, he had presented the Commission with a plan to extend sewer into the southeast part of the City of Rogers (Phase VIII sewer project), and had been instructed to rethink the project with a mind toward cost cutting. He said that he had cut down the amount of pipe and reduced the proposed depth, and made the sewer smaller, saving about \$150,000 from the original estimate of \$1.1 million. Johnson asked for the Commission's permission to bid the work. Moore asked if this sewer would extend north to S. First Street to Harris Baking Company? Johnson answered that Harris was on the north slope of the hill, and that this sewer would serve the area of S. First at Nursery Road, and south along S. Eighth Street to the city limits, serving Fellowship Bible Church, possibly. Pittman asked if there were any developers willing to share the cost? Johnson said that Vernon Schmiegelow, a landowner at S. First Street and Post Road, was very interested in getting services to his property, but had not volunteered to share in the cost. Johnson introduced Gene Bland, a landowner on S. 8<sup>th</sup> St. Bland said that he was grateful for the Commission's interest in the project. Beck Scott said that he wanted to see those benefiting from such sewer extension pay for their share. There was a motion by McLelland, second by Pittman, to allow the staff to advertise for bids for Phase VIII sewer project. All in favor, motion carried.

McLelland asked about the status of Phase VI-B sewer project? Johnson said that, given the status of Phase VI-A, he could not recommend that the Commission proceed. He said that property owner resistance had been much higher than expected in the area. McLelland said that, if property owners in specific area requested a sewer extension, and if those affected were to give the necessary easements up front, then the Commission might consider a sewer extension project based on its own merits. Moore said that Phases V and VI-B should be deleted from Johnson's report in the future.

There followed a long discussion of the contract situation with the engineer for Phase VI sewer project, but no decision was reached.

Continuing, Johnson updated the Commission with the latest version of the Phase III water bond project. In order to accommodate growth in the far south and west areas of Rogers, a transmission main was necessary along the Pleasant Grove corridor, McAlister said. The original intent of the Phase III water project was to make a twelve inch loop on the southwest side of the City. However, the City now extended west across Highway 112 and the City's planning boundaries had shifted accordingly, McAlister said. Now, he recommended that part of the twelve-inch water main be upgraded to twenty-four inch, and extended straight across the intersection at Pleasant Grove and I 540, across the north side of Charles Reaves property to his eastern boundary. Reaves was willing to pay the cost of a twelve-inch main, he said, for a total contribution of \$261,564, approximately. Pittman remarked that the water main was needed in any case. Someone suggested that an improvement district might be formed to recoup expenses. There was a motion by McLelland, second by Pittman, to allow the staff to design the desired change (option no. 2 on the memo from Mark Johnson). All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Don Roberts, Superintendent of Field Operations. Roberts recognized Shawn McCarty, Field Operations Technician II, for five years of service to RWU.

Continuing, Roberts presented the Commission with a bid tabulation for the replacement of the warehouse forklift. Roberts recommended that the low bid from Shaw Equipment Co., Lowell, be accepted, for \$16,053. Motion by Scott, second by Pittman, to approve the bid from Shaw. All in favor, motion carried. Roberts said that the Utility would try to sell the old forklift, because none of the bidders were interested in a trade.

Moore recognized Mark Johnson again, because Tim Sorrey, the engineer for Bill Schwyhart, did not come to the meeting. Schwyhart, the owner of several parcels of property on the west side of S. 8<sup>th</sup> St., desired that the Commission help pay for the cost of an eight inch water main extension from Laurel Road to Jimmy Houston's Marine Center. McAlister said that the loop would benefit the City, and suggested a fifty-fifty cost share, not to exceed \$40,000. The project had been bid, and Sanders Construction had submitted the lone bid for \$76,973.50. There was a motion by McLelland, second by Pittman, to cost share in the project on a fifty-fifty basis, not to exceed \$40,000. All in favor, motion carried.

McAlister had one late addition to the agenda. He said that he had been approached by Dr. Mike Krupka, a Rogers dentist, to get water and sewer service for his proposed dental office at 3207 West New Hope Road. The existing home on the property was on a well and a septic tank. McAlister said that the Commission had recently contracted with Golden Sun Excavation to extend water into nearby Osage Reservation addition, and that Krupka could be served by a 300 feet extension of eight inch water main, for about \$10,000. McAlister said that, since the highway department was currently designing the widening and relocation (perhaps) of W. New Hope Road, that sewer service to the property might be possible in the future. McAlister said that it was in the City's best interest to extend a main line past Krupka's place to form a loop with the existing main at Prestwick Place. McAlister asked Krupka if he would be willing to give the City easement and right-of way (if required for the road widening) in exchange for water service? Krupka said that he would. There was a motion by McLelland, second by Pittman, to allow the extension of water service to Krupka, in exchange for the necessary easements and rights-of-way. All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Moore recognized Joyce Johnson, Utilities Controller, who presented the Commission with copies of the August 2001 financial sheets. McLelland asked how much water bond money remained? Johnson said that about \$1.38 million remained. No exceptions were taken to the financial sheets.

McAlister announced that the Beaver Water District Board of Directors was set to hear an update to their master plan at their next meeting, Thursday, September 27, 12:30 PM. McAlister said that Alan Fortenberry, CEO of Beaver Water District, would be glad to reprise the report for the Commission at their convenience.

McLelland asked why petitions to serve property outside the City came to the Commission before they came before the Council? Jim Clark, Deputy City Attorney, said that there was no formal requirement, except that the Rogers City Council desired and valued the Commission's opinion.

McAlister failed to announce that the October meeting would be set back one week, to October 22, to allow him to attend the Water Environment Federation meeting in Atlanta.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Cc: Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission minutes, 9-17-01