

# **Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission**

**October 16, 2000**

## **Minutes**

The Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting at 4:00 PM, Monday, October 16, 2000, in the Rogers Water Utilities Training Center. Commissioners present were Donnie Moore, Lon Pepple, Beck Scott, and Jerry Pittman. Dick McLelland was absent. Rogers Water Utilities staff in attendance were Tom McAlister, Mark Johnson, Joyce Johnson, Don Roberts, Mike Lawrence, and Donna Wilson. There were about seventy people in the audience; most were from the Highway 12 East water service area. A list of those who signed in is attached hereto and by reference a part of these minutes. Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 4:07 PM.

There was a motion by Pittman, second by Scott, to approve the September 2000 minutes as submitted. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Mark Johnson, Utilities Engineer for RWU. Johnson presented the Commission with a short report, prepared by McGoodwin, Williams, and Yates, on the water system needs in the area of Prairie Creek. Johnson said that the staff had asked McGoodwin for help with the hydraulic modeling part of the planning process, since that firm had the model and the software, and they were proficient with the software. Johnson said that, after spending several days with the engineers, it became apparent that, in order to move more water to the Highway 12 East area, it would be necessary to bring a transmission main into the area.

The ultimate solution called for in the report included the extension of a 24-inch main from the existing 24-inch water main line, near Pleasant Grove Road and South Eighth Street, running north and east, to Pleasant Ridge Road, near the south side of Highland Park subdivision. From there, a twelve inch main would run approximately three miles east along Pleasant Ridge to the intersection of Linville Road and Highway 12 near the bridge, he said. Johnson said that the project had been broken up into three phases, each costing about \$2.6 million.

The first phase would be a water main extension from New Hope Road and Monte Ne Road to Pleasant Ridge Road, and then east to the highway. The second phase would include a transmission main to the existing 24-inch main. Phase three would include some additional storage in the area. Depending on the weather and the rate of growth in the area, phase one should supply adequate water for a few years. The last two phases could be put off until required by system demand, he said.

There followed a long discussion, including questions from the Commission and people in the audience. What was the demand in the area? Pepple asked. About 400,000

gallons per day, Roberts answered. Johnson said that the absolute capacity was about one million gallons per day. What size would the proposed tank be? Moore asked. Johnson said that the bigger the tank, the longer the system would last without another improvement. E. J. Miller, president of the Prairie Creek Property Owners Association, said that the residents needed relief now.

Would it be less expensive to do phases one and two now? Pittman asked. Johnson said, from the standpoint that the project would never be cheaper to build than now, the answer would be yes. How long would the project take to complete? About six months to design and about six months to build phase one, if all went well, Johnson answered.

How was the project going to be paid for? Someone asked. Pittman answered that he thought a bond issue was necessary, and asked Joyce Johnson, Utilities Controller, for affirmation. Joyce said she had not seen the report, and could not say what she would recommend.

Someone asked who would pay? McAlister said that part of the project was intended to increase the hydraulic capacity in eastern Rogers. Some part of the project was for the benefit of the users in the Highway 12 East area, and it was reasonable for those users to pay for that portion of the project, he said. There followed a lot of questions and comments about water rates and how they were determined. The rates are set by ordinance, McAlister said. One man stood up and said that they (the water users) just wanted a fair shake. Moore answered that the Commission always tried to be fair to everyone.

The question of fire protection came up. Would there be enough pressure? Johnson answered in the affirmative, and recognized Andy Yeager, Beaver Lake Fire Chief. Yeager said that the plan to build a large diameter line, and to get rid of dead end mains, was a good idea. Finally, Pittman motioned that the staff of RWU be directed to begin engineering design work on Phase One and Phase Two of the project, with the emphasis on Phase One, in order to get some relief to the customers as soon as possible. Second by Scott. All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Moore announced that the City of Rogers had received word from the ISO that the City was now a "Class Three", meaning that some industries and businesses should see a decrease in their fire insurance rates. He praised the staff for their good work on the City's behalf, since part (40%) of the fire insurance rating was based on the water system.

Utilities Manager Tom McAlister recognized Donna Wilson, Customer Service Representative, with a certificate of appreciation for five years of loyal service to the Rogers Water Utilities and the Commission.

Mark Johnson presented the Commission with a spreadsheet showing the status of some of the projects in which Utilities funds were being used. He said that the sewer

main project to serve the Wendell Vines property on West Olrich was finally underway after a hiatus of two years. Moore asked about the water relocations at the intersection of Eighth and New Hope. Johnson said that one easement was still lacking. Scott said that he would be glad to contact the landowner in question, if needed.

On the meeting agenda was Lindell Mabry, who was not present. Mark Johnson gave the Commission a brief history of Mabry's subdivision on Pleasant Grove Road. Maby had been to the Commission before, and had been turned down in a request for help to extend water across his development. The cost of the project was estimated at \$31,800, and Mabry was asking the Commission to pay for half. There was no action on the request.

Also on the meeting agenda was Amber Eckert. She was seen at the meeting earlier but had left without leaving word. No action was taken on her request.

Moore recognized Joyce Johnson, Utilities Controller. Johnson said that the telephone system at the RWU office was often overloaded with calls, since there were only four customer service representatives to handle all the calls. She said she had been looking into alternative phone answering systems for over a year, and she thought that a workable solution could be found for approximately \$20,000, which was budgeted for FY '01. She asked for permission to seek proposals for a new system. Motion by Scott, second by Pittman, to grant the request. All in favor, motion carried.

Joyce continued by presenting the Commission with financial statements for September 2000. She pointed out that the Utilities had a very good month. There were no exceptions taken to the reports.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom S. McAlister, Acting Secretary  
Rogers Water Utilities