

Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission

November 20, 2000

Minutes

The Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting at 4:00 PM, Monday, November 20, 2000. Commissioners Donnie Moore, Jerry Pittman, and Beck Scott were present. Commissioners Dick McLelland and Lon Pepple were absent. Other in attendance were Rogers Water Utilities staff Tom McAlister, Mark Johnson, Joyce Johnson, Don Roberts, Earl Rausch, Mike Lawrence, and Terry Edwards. In the audience were Jim Clark, E. J. Miller, Hal Savage, Andy Jaeger, Roger McGovern, Jim Brewer, Betty Brewer, Tom Lonon, Cecile Bledsoe, Jim Bledsoe, Ashley Kelley, Kevin Thomas, and Rick Buck. Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 4:07 PM.

There was a motion by Scott, second by Pittman, to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2000, meeting as submitted. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Don Roberts, Superintendent of Field Operations. Roberts presented Terry Edwards with a certificate of appreciation for five years of service to Rogers Water Utilities.

Moore recognized Mark Johnson, Water Utilities Engineer. Johnson presented the Commission with a bid tabulation for a project known as the Bent Tree sewer lift station. Johnson said that the developer of Bent Tree addition on West Drive planned a lift station to serve his addition. Since adjacent Ridgecrest Meadows addition also needed a sewer lift station, the Staff had procured pledges totaling \$75,000 from the subject developers to help build one lift station to serve both projects. The lift station was designed in-house and bid. The low bidder was McClelland and Sons Construction, for \$79,453.75. Motion by Scott, second by Pittman, to award the contract to the low bidder. All in favor, motion carried.

Johnson continued with a report detailing the status of the 1998 water and sewer bond issues. Most of the money had been spent, or had already been committed, for both bond issues. The remaining sewer bond projects (Southwest Sewer and Southeast sewer) were projected to totally deplete the sewer bond proceeds. Johnson explained that the Pleasant Grove water line project was much more expensive than originally thought, because of the planned development around the Pollution Control Facility. He said that the water line needed to be a 24-inch main, rather than a 12-inch main as previously planned. He noted that every water customer west of the bypass was being served off a single 12-inch main line coming from town.

Moore asked Johnson about the Prairie Creek water project? Johnson said that the staff had looked at the maps and had ordered an ownership map and property deeds. He said that the original route for the proposed 24-inch main was going to be changed, to

avoid areas that were already developed. There were some questions from the audience at this point. Where was the water going? How much would it cost? Who would pay for it? Johnson answered that the water main was still going to be constructed along Pleasant Ridge Road, and he did not know how much it would cost until the design was done. When would that be? Probably in February or March of next year, he said. Would it be possible to build the line in phases, or turn on the main line after a connection was made on Fairway Drive? Johnson said he was doubtful such a move would help the situation on Highway 12.

Johnson presented the Commission with a map showing the proposed location of the Southeast sewer project (Phase VIII), and a spreadsheet showing the costs associated thereto. The project consisted of a twelve inch main running south along Eighth Street, and North on South First Street and Old Wire Road. The cost was estimated at \$1.1 million. The Commission asked Johnson to come back with a report showing alternatives for the deep sewer construction proposed for South Eighth Street.

Moore recognized Joyce Johnson, Controller for the Utilities. Joyce presented the Commission with a copy of the lone bid received for a new telephone answering system. The bid was from Southwestern Bell, for \$20,867.81. Pittman asked if they staff had seen the system work, and she said that she had, at the Jones Center for Families in Springdale. She said that the system would answer the phones in a more timely manner, and get the calls to the person they were intended faster. Motion by Pittman, seconded by Scott, to approve the bid from Southwestern Bell. All in favor, motion carried.

Joyce introduced Tom Lonon from Scarbrough and Murtishaw, CPA's, the Utilities' auditor. Lonon presented the FY '00 audit reports for the water and sewer departments. The reports noted no reportable weaknesses in financial management. Motion by Pittman, second by Scott, to accept the audit reports as submitted. All in favor, motion carried.

Joyce informed the Commission that, in order to give all the full time employees a \$125 Christmas bonus, that the cost to the Commission would be \$7673. Moore asked what the City of Rogers was doing for its employees? Joyce said that she had called, but had not gotten an answer. There was a motion by Scott, second by Pittman, to give the employees a \$125 Christmas bonus as described by Joyce. All in favor, motion carried. Pittman said that the Commission valued the work done by its employees, and expressed the Commission's appreciation for their efforts.

Joyce Johnson continued, presenting the Commission with the financial sheets for October 2000. No exceptions were taken to the statements.

Moore recognized Mike Lawrence, manager of the Rogers Pollution Control Facility. Lawrence presented the Commissioners with copies of his annual report for FY '00 and showed a PowerPoint presentation of the report. Lawrence said that the staff at the Pollution Control Facility had continued to work to control costs, and the manpower contingent at the PCF had shrunk to nine total employees. Lawrence said that he doubted that manpower could be cut any more.

He showed the Commission a graphic representation of organic loading to the RPCF over time, and estimated that the treatment plant was at 63% of design loading. He estimated that the plant would reach design loading by 2009. He said that the Commission should probably think about retaining a consultant to aid the Commission in their planning efforts for additional treatment plant capacity. Several questions followed the presentation, regarding biosolids and regulations that may constrain out current disposal of biosolids system. The Commission expressed their gratitude to Lawrence in his efforts to keep them current about issues that effect the Sewer Department and the City of Rogers.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

File: Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission minutes, 11—20-00