

Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission

November 21, 2005

Minutes

The Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting at 4:00 PM, Monday, November 21, 2005, in the Rogers City Administration Building. Commissioners present were Donna Warren, Don Kendall, and Donnie Moore. Jerry Pittman and Lon Pepple were absent. Rogers Water Utilities staff in attendance were Tom McAlister, Mark Johnson, Joyce Johnson, William Evans, Mike Lawrence, Tim House, Earl Rausch, Stephen Ponder, Donna Wilson, and Terry Edwards. Others in attendance were Lindi Johnson, Brook Reinhard, Chris Griffin, Lori Harrison-Stone, Debby Weineke, Derrel Smith, and Ben Lipscomb, City Attorney. Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM.

Moore recognized Joyce Johnson, Utilities Controller, who presented Donna Wilson, Customer Service Representative, with a plaque and a gift for ten years of service with RWU. Moore then recognized William Evans, Superintendent of Field Operations, who presented Terry Edwards, Field Operations Tech II, with a plaque and a gift marking ten years of service with RWU.

There was a motion by Warren, second by Kendall, to approve the minutes of the September meeting, as submitted. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Mark Johnson, Utilities Engineer. Johnson said that all the projects in which the Commission had a monetary interest were essentially complete, and had nothing new to report. He presented the Commission with a bid tabulation for the Mt. Hebron Road/Wallis Road/Champions Drive water transmission line project. Seven bids were opened last Friday, and the low bidder was Garney Construction of Kansas City, for \$1,329,247.50. Johnson said that the project consisted of about 7000 feet of 24-inch water main. He said the project was necessary to service the large number of subdivisions planned for the area of extreme southwestern Rogers. He said the engineer's estimate was \$1.7 million. Johnson said that Garney had a good reputation in the industry, and recommended the bid to the Commission.

After a few questions, Kendall moved to approve the low bid from Garney, second by Warren. All in favor, motion carried.

Continuing, Johnson said that Everett Balk, Project Facilitation Engineer, was off to take care of an aging relative, so he would attempt to answer any questions regarding the plan review and approval section. He presented the Commission with a large spreadsheet with all the water and sewer projects on which the employees of RWU spent

time. There were over 100 projects on the list, Johnson said, and he pointed out a few examples that required a significant amount of engineering and technician time.

How many projects are waiting approval? Kendall asked. About fifty, was the reply from Tim House, Review Engineer. Kendall commented that the number was up from last meeting.

Continuing, Johnson presented the Commission with a memo and a sketch depicted a proposed sewer main extension along Honeysuckle Road north of Pleasant Grove Road. Johnson said that the extension was requested by the City of Rogers, since the widening of Pleasant Grove Road would take a septic tank/leach field out of service. Since the extension would serve several properties along Honeysuckle, the City asked that the Commission pay for half the cost, up to \$33,565.

Johnson said that 84 Lumber planned to site a business between the railroad tracks and Honeysuckle, and would need sewer service. He estimated that, with a contribution from 84 Lumber, the Commission's contribution could be lowered to about \$20,000. Tom McAlister, Utilities Manager, suggested that the Commission approve the amount requested by the City's consultant (\$33,565), so that the City's project might proceed without delay. McAlister said that any proceeds coming from 84 Lumber would, in effect, reduce the Commission's contribution. There was a motion by Warren, second by Kendall, to approve the City's request, up to \$33,565. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized John Mack, JKJ Architects, and Debby Weineke, Director, Habitat for Humanity (HH), Benton County. Mack said that his firm was working with HH to develop a budget for a proposed HH "ecological" subdivision on South Old Wire Road. Mack said that HH had purchased five acres, and desired to build fifteen affordable homes. Mack said that the City had always worked with HH, and, HH was asking for a waiver of some or all of the water and sewer access fees and hookup fees.

Kendall said that he would like to help Habitat for Humanity, but the fees for fifteen single-family homes would exceed \$52,000, and he was not sure the Commission could give that much money away legally. Ben Lipscomb, City Attorney, said that he did not think the Commission could give its assets away, no matter how laudable the charity. Moore said that the Commission needed more time to process the request, and asked the City Attorney to investigate the legalities of the request. No action was taken on the request.

Moore recognized William Evans. Evans said that RWU budgeted \$42,000 for the replacement of two trucks. Evans said that RWU could purchase suitable trucks from Bale Chevrolet in Little Rock for \$17,918, through the "state contract", which allowed local governments to pool their purchasing power and buy certain vehicles at a lower rate. He said he had taken the price to a local new car dealer, and was assured that the locals could not even come close to the price from Bale. Therefore, he requested permission to purchase the trucks from Bale Chevrolet, for \$35,836. There was a motion by Kendall, second by Warren, to approve the request. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Joyce Johnson again. Johnson presented the Commission with financial statements for September and October (since there was no October Commission meeting). Johnson said that revenue was up well over budget, due in part to the large demand brought on by a warm, dry autumn, and a twelve percent water rate increase effective last January. She also commented that interest income was up due to the increase in interest rates.

McAlister announced that the RWU Christmas party would be held December 2, 2005, in the Clarion Inn. He said that a public hearing had been held earlier in the day, in compliance with the requirements of the state revolving loan fund, for the purpose of securing up to \$24 million for wastewater treatment plant improvements. McAlister said he expected approval of RWU's application at the Arkansas Department of Natural Resources Commission meeting on December 13.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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