

Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission

June 20, 2005

Minutes

The Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting at 4:00 PM, Monday, June 20, 2005, in the Rogers City Administration Building. Commissioners in attendance were Donnie Moore, Donna Warren, Don Kendall, Lon Pepple, and Jerry Pittman. Rogers Water Utilities staff in attendance were Tom McAlister, Mark Johnson, Joyce Johnson, Mike Lawrence, William Evans, Tim House, Stephen Ponder, Earl Rausch, and Buddy Shook. Others in attendance were Jason Kelley, Lori Harrison-Stone, Marie Hausserman, Eric Haussserman, Barbara Miller, E. J. Miller, James Wallace, Derrel Smith, John Sampier, Kyle Weaver, and John Easterling. Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 3:58 PM.

There was a motion by Pittman, second by Pepple, to approve the minutes of the May meeting, as submitted. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized William Evans, Superintendent of Field Operations, who presented Buddy Shook, Heavy Equipment Operator II, with a certificate of appreciation for ten years of service to Rogers Water Utilities.

Moore recognized Mark Johnson, Utilities Engineer. Johnson presented the Commission with a brief report summarizing the several projects in which the Commission had a pecuniary interest. Johnson said that the two contractors hired to do the water system improvements in southeast Rogers were making good progress. He said that the 24-inch water main was installed in Old Wire Road, so that the new elementary school had water, and the pipe laying operation was out of the way of the City's street contractor.

Continuing, Johnson said that Seven Valleys Construction, the contractor for Contract Sections 2 and 3 of the SE Rogers water system improvements, had made good progress, and would soon have a 12-inch looped water system on S. First St. Johnson said that the utility relocations in New Hope Road were complete, and cleanup was on going. He also noted that the ground storage tank/pump station project on Lilac St. was finished.

Johnson reported that the several street bond projects were still waiting final plans from the City's consultants. He said that the relocations on Horsebarn Road at New Hope Road were on federal right-of-way, and negotiations with the Highway Department were very slow.

Continuing, Johnson presented the Commission with a letter, a cost tabulation, and a map of Bellview Residential Addition. Johnson said that the water and sewer system had been built and accepted by the City, and that the developer (Dan Dykema) wanted reimbursement for expenses not related to extension of service to the lots within the addition. The staff at RWU had required a 12-inch main through the addition to McLeod Road, and required that the water and sewer extensions be brought to the edge of the development, to facilitate further expansion. He said that the negotiated difference in cost came to \$145,348.50, which he recommended to the Commission. There was a motion by Pittman, second by Pepple, to approve the cost reimbursement as requested. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Stephen Ponder, Project Facilitation Engineer for RWU. Ponder presented a short report detailing the efforts of his section. Moore asked him how the plan review/approval process was progressing. Ponder said he thought the process was improving, albeit slowly. How many predesign meetings did you take with designers? Moore asked. Ponder replied that there were about a dozen predesign meetings last month.

Moore recognized James Wallace of Parkside Motor Company. Wallace said that he was planning a used car lot in Prairie Creek, and he was told that he would need approval by the Commission and the City Council, before he could get water service. McAlister said that the Council had to approve water service to any development outside the city limits, other than single family homes or duplexes, and that the Council desired Commission approval before setting its approval. McAlister said that he had no problem with the proposed development, since Wallace only wanted water for an employee bathroom. There was a motion Pittman, second by Pepple, to approve the service, pending approval by the Council. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Joyce Johnson, Utilities Controller. Johnson presented the Commission with the latest budget proposal for FY '06. Johnson said that this draft was identical to the previous draft, except for two items: 1. The \$50,000 donation to NACA was deleted, per Donnie Moore's request, and 2. The sludge centrifuge and related expenses were deleted.

Why was the centrifuge deleted? Pepple asked. McAlister said that the centrifuge was added to the budget when he thought that the Rogers Pollution Control Facility (RPCF) would no longer be able to land apply sludge after the first of the year. Now, it looks as though the RPCF may be able to continue to land apply sludge at "protective rates".

Moore said that he thought there should be some money in the budget for the acquisition of a sewer right-of way to the proposed Northwest Arkansas Conservation Authority (NACA) regional wastewater treatment facility, located a few miles south of the regional airport. He said that it would be cheaper to acquire the easements now, than to wait until the area is developed. McAlister said that he would have RWU Engineering staff look at an alignment and estimate costs, and bring the data back to the Commission for its approval. Then, the budget could be amended as necessary, McAlister said.

There was a motion by Pepple, second by Pittman, to approve the budget as submitted. All in favor, budget carried.

Moore recognized John Sampier, Executive Director, Northwest Arkansas Conservation Authority (NACA). Sampier informed the Commission of the history of the formation of NACA, with just two cities (Rogers and Springdale). He said that now there were eight member cities. Sampier told the Commission of the plan to build a regional wastewater treatment plant on land purchased by Bentonville, due east of the City of Cave Springs. He said that NACA had received grants from the state, and several studies had been completed or were underway.

What about Fayetteville? Someone asked. Sampier said that Fayetteville was not a member of NACA, but was interested in sludge hauling/disposal services.

What happens now? Pepple asked. McAlister said that, when NACA was able to offer services that the City was willing to contract for, the entities would enter contracts, and, based on the strength of those contracts, NACA could issue debt to build its facilities.

Tom McAlister, RWU Manager, presented the Commission with a copy of the “water conservation” ordinance that Council had approved at its last meeting. He showed the Commission a Power Point Presentation to recap the issue of water conservation and why it was necessary. He said that tremendous growth in the area plus a long, hot, dry spell could overtax the existing water transmission mains shared by Rogers and Bentonville. McAlister said that the peak usage, caused by outside watering, could exceed the capacity in the system. Therefore, he asked all those with automatic sprinklers, to avoid the peak usage times (5 AM to 8AM)

He said that Bentonville planned to build its own line and sell its interest in the existing transmission lines to Rogers, but that the project would not be ready until Spring 2007. He noted that the two cities had agreed to cooperate on water conservation measures until then.

Where was Bentonville at in terms of right-of-way acquisition? Someone asked. McAlister said that Bentonville said that they had approximately 60% of the necessary easements.

Jason Kelley, Deputy City Attorney, announced that he would be leaving the City Attorney's office to enter law practice with his wife. The Commission thanked Kelley for his service to the City of Rogers and to the Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

File: RWWSC minutes, 6-20-05