

Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission
February 21, 2023
Minutes

The Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting at 4:00 PM Monday, February 21, 2023, in the Rogers Administration Building located at 601 S 2nd Street. Present were Commissioners Roger Surly, Travis Greene, Kathy McClure, and Peter Farmer. Rogers Water Utilities staff present were Jennifer Lattin, Brian Sartain, Aaron Short, Johnny Lunsford, Todd Beaver, Brent Dobler and Jerry Roegner. Also in attendance was Robert Frazier from the Frazier Law Firm. Cory Amos from Specialized Real Estate Group, and Molly Pace and Brahm Driver from Ecological Design Group Inc. of Rogers.

Chairman Farmer called the meeting to order at 4:02PM. And then called for action on the minutes from the January 17, 2023, Water and Sewer Commission meeting. Travis Greene made a motion to approve the minutes, and Roger Surly seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Farmer then recognized Jennifer Lattin for the Financial Reports. Billed revenue was up in both Water and Sewer Departments. The Water Department reported a profit of \$384,000 for January 2023. The Sewer Department reported a profit of \$441,000 in January 2023. Access and impact fees in the Water Department were \$379,000 compared to \$547,000 in 2022 and \$622,000 in 2021. Access and impact fees in the Sewer Department were \$608,000 in January 2023 compared to \$1,002,000 in 2022 and \$1,299,000 in 2021. Total restricted and unrestricted funds are \$45.1M for January 2023, an overall increase of \$2.2M from January 2022. YTD profit in both departments is more than the prior year and ahead of budget.

Chairman Farmer then recognized Brian Sartain for the Engineering Reports. There were 39 total plan reviews and no large projects submitted for review this month. There are eight current projects under construction, most of them are street projects with both water and sewer. RWU received bids this month for two projects that Aaron will bring forward later in the meeting. A change order for Arkansas street is also on the agenda. Commissioner Greene asked about the Walnut widening. Brian informed him that we have been told by the City that it will bid in June of 2023. He also gave the Commission an update on the Solids Handling Project. The next step is for RWU to issue an RFP on the equipment. Commissioner Surly then asked about the maintenance contracts. Sartain answered that we will be inserting a maintenance contract provision in both requests for proposals to insure both contracts are equivalent. The Cityworks program implementation continues to move forward.

Sartain then showed camera footage of the Blossom Way interceptor showing a very large amount of water entering the pipe through cracks in the failed pipe. This project has been awarded and will begin as soon as material arrives and the weather permits. Commissioner Surly asked how old this pipe was, Brian responded 17 years. He also went on to state that he did not believe that this pipe was bedded properly when installed and the water was removing the material from around the pipe that gives it support. Commissioner Greene asked why RWU had installed fiberglass pipe if it was not in our specifications. Brian responded that 17 years ago this pipe was available and was cheaper than the ductile at the time and the decision was made to utilize this pipe. RWU will be performing an additional scan for deflection to see if we can see if this deformation is continuing.

Chairman Farmer then recognized Todd Beaver for the RPCF reports. No treatment issues, we are well below our permit levels. We have yet to see any new permits currently from the DEQ. Todd also stated that PLP has invested in their wastewater treatment. Paul continues to do a good job with the industrial pre-treatment program. It takes a very knowledgeable person to run this program and Todd is very appreciative of Paul's efforts. We did hire a new operations technician, but the plant is still looking for a plant maintenance technician. The RPCF Cityworks implementation is moving forward as well. The RPCF kicked off the engineering capacity study data collection with Freese and Nichols this month. The plant treated 30M gallons of inflow and infiltration over several rain events, this was a typical month for rainfall, but inflow and infiltration were larger than normal.

Chairman Farmer then went on to recognized Jerry Roegner for the IT report. The primary work effort now is Tyler and Cityworks program support. Fine tuning is ongoing with Tyler. Cityworks is just about to kick off implementation. IT is ramping up for this and making sure the hardware environment is up to date. A benefit of these software installations was that RWU was able to modernize its connection with the City of Rogers due to these projects. The IT department is also continuously improving other areas such as the cable management in the utility. Knowledge transfer is still a high priority so that we all understand and own all the duties that Jordan Waterhouse has been responsible for over the last 30 years.

Chairman Farmer then recognized Brent Dobler to present Resolution 23-03 Designating Authorized Signatories, Recommendation by the Depository and Investment Committee. He stated that the Committee had unanimous approval by the Committee and this Resolution simply updates the signatory list for Rogers Water Utilities. Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve, Commissioner Surly seconded. All in favor, Resolution 23-03 passed.

Dobler stated that he would also like to present the list of approved depositories from the Committee as well. The list of depositories is as follows: Arvest, First Western Bank, First National Bank of Fort Smith (First National Bank of Northwest Arkansas), Simmons Bank, Regions Bank, and Bank OZK. Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve this list of depositories, Commissioner McClure seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Farmer recognized Brian Sartain to present Resolution 23-04 Authorizing Development Agreement for the Village at Pinnacle Hills. Brian explained that this was a unique development in that roughly half of the development will tie into existing sewer, but the other half will require a lift station on the north side of the development. This Development Agreement will mandate that the HOA maintain the required lift station until at such time in the future, public sewer is made available and they will be made to connect to this public sewer. At that time, RWU will take over the maintenance of the system. Commissioner Greene asked if the design will be to RWU standards. Brian stated that the contractor will build to RWU standards and that RWU will perform inspection to be sure. Commissioner Surly asked who would be responsible for connecting to the public sewer when made available. Brian stated that that would be the responsibility of the HOA. Chairman Farmer asked how close sewer was and when Brian thought that might be available. Brian stated that it is close, but not yet there. Commissioner McClure made a motion, Commissioner Surly seconded. All in favor, Resolution 23-04 passed.

Chairman Farmer recognized Brian Sartain to present Resolution 23-05 Waiving Competitive Bidding Purchase of Sludge Drying Equipment. This was discussed earlier in this meeting and has been ongoing for quite some time. RWU has extensively vetted out two manufacturers (Huber and Wyssmont) that RWU will be sending bids to. Commissioner Greene asked if the Resolution stated the two companies, and if it needed to. Mr. Frazier said that the Resolution covers this without specifically naming the manufacturers. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve, Commissioner McClure seconded. All in favor, Resolution 23-05 passed.

Chairman Farmer recognized Brian Sartain again to present a Facilities Extension Contract for Rogers First Development. He gave a brief overview of the project and explained RWU's position on a proposed Facilities Extension Contract (FEC) with said project. Sartain explained why the mainline sewer extension proposed in the FEC was in place and what properties it would serve and how this would impact RWU in the future. The cost as proposed by RWU would be \$55,327.88. He stated that this was the Utility's recommendation. Cory Amos then illustrated and explained why he thought RWU should pay \$76,998.24 to install the sewer mainline in a different manner. After much discussion, Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve the original FEC at \$55,327.88. Commissioner McClure seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Chairman Farmer then recognized Aaron Short to present the bid results for the 2023 Large Diameter Sewer Rehab project. After a brief explanation of the exposed sewer line that this project will repair, he advised that RWU had received one bid. The Engineer's estimate was \$3,456,510. The bid from Goins Enterprises was \$3,946,997. Commissioner Surly asked about how many unknowns there were in this contract. Aaron stated they are minimal. Commissioner McClure asked if this was in budget. Brian Sartain said yes. Staff recommended acceptance of the bid from Goins Enterprises. Commissioner McClure made a motion to approve, Commissioner Surly seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Chairman Farmer then recognized Brian Sartain to present the bid results for the RWU Materials Storage Improvements project. The Engineer's estimate for the project was \$284,575. RWU received one bid from J&L Concrete and Excavation for \$301,780. Brian illustrated the project located at the Lilac water tower site and explained why RWU was moving bulk and other material storage to that central location. Commissioner Surly asked if we were going to keep equipment there as well. Johnny Lunsford replied that we already keep some equipment there in the garages. Staff recommends award of the bid to J&L Concrete and Excavation in the amount of \$301,780. Commissioner Greene made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McClure. All in favor, motion passed.

Chairman Farmer recognized Brian Sartain again to present the bid results for the 13th Street Bike Lanes Addition project. This is a City project with a total bid of \$3,252,561.38. This is relatively minor utility work for a pedestrian sidewalk project. The utility portion of the project is \$43,427.65 to be reimbursed to the City of Rogers by RWU. Staff recommends approval. Commissioner Surly made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner McClure. All in favor, motion passes.

Chairman Farmer recognized Brian Sartain again to present a change order for Arkansas Street Waterline Extension North of Chestnut. Brian explained that the project required storm sewer which would require RWU to reroute a water line. This is Nabholz' price to perform the change order. Brian acknowledged that this number seems high, but the work must be done. RWU is supplying the ductile iron pipe and the valves. Commissioners Farmer and Greene commented on several of the high prices. For instance, \$90/ton which is three times as much as it should be. Staff recommends approval of the change order for Arkansas Street for the extension of 12" water main north of Chestnut St. for a total

amount of \$253,769.12. Commissioner McClure made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Surly. All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Farmer recognized Brian Sartain to introduce another Nabholz change order for Arkansas Street for the reconstruction of water and sewer utilities along E. Pine St. for a total amount of \$486,256.37. Brian stated that the only other option is to reject or go out for additional bids which may or may not help RWU based on our recent history. Commissioner Surly made a motion to approve, Commissioner Greene seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

With no further items on the Agenda, Chairman Farmer adjourned the meeting at

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brent Dobler', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brent Dobler, Acting Secretary
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