

**Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission**  
**May 15, 2023**  
**Minutes**

The Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting at 4:00 PM, May 15, 2023, in the Rogers Administration Building located at 601 S 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.

Present were Commissioners Roger Surly, Travis Greene, Kathy McClure, Jerry Carmichael, and Chairman Peter Farmer. Rogers Water Utilities staff present were Todd Beaver, Johnny Lunsford, Aaron Short, Dana Daniel, Brian Sartain, Matt Savell, Jerry Roegner, Mark Landis, and Mario Morales. Bill Watkins, Bob David, and Julie Vaught all representing 3 Flags Investment, were also in attendance as well as Robert Frazier from the Frazier Law Firm. Brent Dobler and Jennifer Lattin both joined the meeting virtually.

Chairman Farmer called the meeting to order at 4:00PM.

Employee Recognitions:

Todd Beaver recognized Amber Owens for her award at Hot Springs AWWEA Annual Conference.  
Johnny Lunsford recognized Adam Peterson for his award at Hot Springs.  
Johnny also recognized Mark Landis for his award at the Hot Springs.

Chairman Farmer then called for an action on the minutes from the April 17, 2023, Water and Sewer Commission meeting. Commissioner McClure made a motion to approve the minutes, and Commissioner Greene seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Farmer then recognized a request to be heard from Three Flags Investment. Bill Watkins presented on their behalf. The request was for two items. 1) Approve extension of water service to the property, and 2) for RWU to not oppose any attempts by Three Flags for sewer service to the affected property. The first motion was to deny water service to the property. Commissioner Carmichael made a motion to deny water service to the property. Commissioner Greene seconded. Surly, Greene, McClure and Carmichael voted in favor to deny water service to the property. Chairman Farmer voted to allow water service to the property since the property resides in the Rogers Water Utilities Service Area. Commission voted to deny water service to the property 4-1. When it came to the second item, Watkins stated that if they cannot get water, there is no point to ask for support for the sewer. Commissioner Carmichael stated to Watkins that this process really needs to start at City Council, not RWU. Full audio available on website.

Chairman Farmer then recognized Brent Dobler for the Financial Reports. Billed revenue in the Water department was up 19.52% from April 2022. Water consumption was up 4.51%. The Water department reported a profit of \$335,500 for April 2023. A profit of \$65,500 was reported for April 2022. Revenues increased by \$264,500, expenses decreased by \$5,000. Fiscal YTD impact and access fee revenue for FY23 are \$639,300. This compares to YTD fees of \$803,300 in FY22 and \$1,018,000 in FY21. Year to date profit is more than the prior year and ahead of budget.

The Sewer department billed revenue was up 10.29% from April 2022. Sewer consumption was up 2.20% from April 2022. The Sewer department reported a profit of 492,500 for April 2023. A profit of \$178,000 was reported for April 2022. Revenues increased by \$314,500 over March 2022, expenses increased by \$500. Fiscal YTD collections of impact and access fees are \$1,085,100 for 2023. This

compares to YTD access and impact fee revenue of \$1,512,200 in FY22 and \$2,094,900 in FY21. Year to date profit is less than the prior year and less than budget.

Total restricted and unrestricted funds are \$48.4 million for April of 2023. This is an overall increase of \$4.4 million from April 2022. \$6.2 million of the \$48.4 million total funds are restricted for specific use such as debt service, meter deposits, access and impact fees, and depreciation.

Chairman Farmer then recognized Brian Sartain for the Engineering Reports. Brian stated we have over 40 plan reviews in process. He also gave updates on our ongoing projects behind Mercy Hospital (Blossom Way Creek) and the 24<sup>th</sup> & Olive Street sewer projects. He stated that the CMAR contract for the Solids Handling project at the RPCF has been approved by the ANRC and we are finalizing the RFP for the two dryer manufacturers at this time. Ken Mitchell will be retiring in July. We are continuing rollout of Cityworks GIS program to Field Ops and they are using this map for the lead and copper investigating right now. Commissioner Carmichael asked if the public could see this. Sartain said yes, but they will see layers that do not show the same detail. Chairman Farmer asked if we have standards for the layers. Brian said we do not currently have one, but after discussion with Peter, we will reach out to other Cities and look at instituting a new standard.

Chairman Farmer then recognized Todd Beaver for the RPCF report. A small spike from last month while we were still dealing with high inflows to the plant. Struggled with capacity during the month. Industrial pre-treatment program continues. RWU has extended an offer to a new maintenance technician. RWU crews attempted to repair the headworks screen that failed. They were not able to accomplish this, so we will be reaching out to a third-party contractor for the expertise required. The plant treated 446 million gallons in April. This was an average of 8.5MGD. 38 million gallons were from inflow and infiltration.

Chairman Farmer then recognized Johnny Lunsford for the Field Ops report. RWU is down to a week on service request. Commissioner Surly asked about the boring program. Johnny informed him that we are about to have many more boring companies in the area for Ritter. We have informed all new boring contractors of our program and what is expected. Johnny hopes these crews are more professional than some of them that we have had in the past. He then showed photos of a main line break we had on New Hope Rd. He commended the crews that completed the repair quickly and efficiently under the public eye due to the high traffic count in that area. RWU has determined our suspected lead and copper service area and we are investigating services now. We should have the inventory list required by the EPA completed roughly a year in advance. Johnny went on to describe the new 811 regulations that apply to RWU as well as all other excavating contractors. RWU will be purchasing a new vacuum excavator due to these regulations.

Chairman Farmer then recognized Brent Dobler to elaborate on the policy changes in Old Business. He informed the Commission that we are actively reviewing policies, but many of them refer to other policies in place and we need to ensure that we make accurate changes to all of them at the same time. We will be presenting these changes at a future Commission meeting.

Chairman Farmer then recognized Jennifer Lattin to present the 2024 RWU Budget. She went over the Water budget first and then the Sewer Budget. She mentioned that due to a few large sewer projects, RWU was forced to remove other planned sewer projects from the budget to maintain our minimum reserve level. If these projects were started, we may need to have another Depository and Investment Committee come back to the Commission to allow RWU to utilize reserves since they were not in the current budget. Commissioner Surly asked Jennifer about the Sewer projects that had to be taken out of

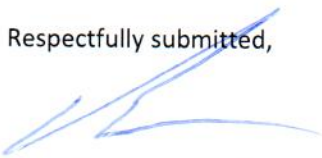
the budget and what would be at risk. A couple of City street projects are on this list. Jennifer commented that these projects are not moving quickly at this time, and historically, we have budgeted for these projects and not been able to utilize the funds to improve the system due to the City projects being delayed. Brian Sartain commented that we are essentially playing "catch up" since we have received our sewer master plan. The Pinnacle sewer rehab is required before any new development can begin. RWU has no option other than to proceed with the Blossom Way sewer repair due to the condition of the pipe and the criticality of the location. These two projects alone are over \$10 million dollars, so they precluded some of the other, although critical, less critical than the funded sewer projects in the budget. Commissioner Surly made a motion, Commissioner McClure seconded. All in favor, budget passed.

Chairman Farmer then recognized Brian Sartain to present a change order request for RJN Engineering for inspection for the Pinnacle sewer rehabilitation project. The bid was awarded to Goodwin and Goodwin and the pre-construction meeting has already occurred. This change order with the engineer (RJN) will address resident inspection services, construction administration and record drawings required for the project in an amount not to exceed \$154,330. This is for a year of work with a minimum of three hours per day. Commissioner Greene made a motion, Surly seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Chairman Farmer replied that he was not happy with the existing service area and requested that Brian and RWU address our service area issues as soon as possible. Commissioner Carmichael concurred.

With no further items on the Agenda, Chairman Farmer adjourned the meeting at 5:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Brent Dobler, Acting Secretary  
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