

Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission

September 19, 2022

Minutes

The Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission held its scheduled meeting at 4:00 PM Monday, September 19, 2022 in the Rogers Administration Building located at 601 S 2nd Street. Present were Commissioners Roger Surly, Travis Greene, Kathy McClure, Mike Watkins and Peter Farmer. Rogers Water Utilities staff present were Todd Beaver, Dana Daniel, Jennifer Lattin, Johnny Lunsford, Brian Sartain, Jerry Roegner, Stephen Ponder, Aaron Short, Tony Kinion, Matt Savell, Debbie Putnam, Mark Landis and Donna Wilson. Others in attendance were Robert Frazier of the Frazier Law Firm. Chairman Watkins called the meeting to order at 4:00PM.

Commissioner McClure made a motion, seconded by Roger Surly to approve the minutes from the August 22, 2022 meeting as submitted. All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Watkins recognized Jennifer Lattin for the Financial Reports. Jennifer stated that she did not have the full reports completed due to our ongoing software conversion/implementation but would send them immediately upon completion. Revenues were up due to the very dry weather. Water revenues were up over \$500,000 and sewer revenues were up over \$300,000. She stated that we experienced very favorable numbers for the month of August. She also gave an update on the software implementation with Tyler Technologies and some of the obstacles RWU has been facing during this implementation.

Chairman Watkins recognized Brian Sartain to present the Engineering Report. Plan review had 39 total reviews for August and 10 new projects. We continue to see higher density projects. Travis Greene asked where the Blue Barn project was located, and Brian replied that it was a City parks project just down the street on 2nd. Brian then went over the smoke testing report from the first street corridor. During the testing, RWU found 145 defects, only 8 were on the public side. Most were broken/missing caps on cleanouts and a couple of downspout connections. An estimated 600gpm of inflow and infiltration can be eliminated by repairing these defects. Further discussion continued on what methods are available to RWU to deal with repairing defects on private property. RWU will follow up on the possible remedies and report in the future. Brian then gave an update on several of our ongoing projects and how they are coordinated with our Wastewater Master Plan.

Chairman Watkins recognized Todd Beaver to present the RPCF reports. Plant treatment struggled when they had to shut down one of the trains to replace a piece of equipment that had been backordered, but all limits were met. Amber is doing a good job with the FOG inspections and the identification of broken grease interceptors. Train II is back in service and doing well after cleaning out of all off-spec sludge dryer material. Street department and RWU Field Operations helped with this process. Metal tipping dumpsters with lids will be utilized to handle this material from now on. Todd stated that two of the three selected and approved bidders for hauling solids were now in operation, with the third awaiting approval from the AR Secretary of State to do business in AR. We received 3.9 inches of rain over 7 events resulting in 60.2 million gallons of of inflow and infiltration treated.

Chairman Watkins recognized Brent Dobler to present Resolution 22-27 A Resolution Regarding Remedies and Fees for Unauthorized Use of Water. The largest tamper fee increase deals with

homebuilders and their subcontractors. We have noticed an increase in subcontractors using “jumpers” or taking meters from other homes under construction to provide water at a jobsite. This can result in a high hazard cross connection and put public safety at risk. The fee for a commercial “tamper” including the above is to be raised from \$50 to \$500 and builders will ultimately be responsible for their subcontractors adherence to safe water practices on a jobsite. Roger Surly commented that we send out this info to the homebuilders.

Dobler also presented Resolution 22-28 A Resolution Requiring and Encroachment Agreement When an Encroachment is Allowed to Remain on a Utility Easement. Dobler explained that when we are made aware of an encroachment situation during a change in ownership or other circumstances, RWU prefers to have an agreement in place before any potential main break requires RWU to demolish a masonry or other permanent structure in an easement. This Resolution requires that an agreement be signed before water service is provided. Roger Surly asked whether this agreement would run with the land, and Robert Frazier answered that yes it would and would be filed and recorded with the title. Commissioner Surly made a motion, seconded by McClure, Resolution 22-28 passed unanimously.

Chairman Watkins recognized Dana Daniel to present Resolution 22-29 Amending the Employee Policy for the Rogers Water Utilities concerning Information Technology policies such as new hire passwords, technology agreements, and remote access policies. Travis Greene made a motion, Roger Surly seconded. Resolution 22-29 passed unanimously.

Chairman Watkins recognized Brent Dobler to present Resolution 22-30 Disposal of IT Equipment. Dobler state that we would prefer to do this on a more regular basis to cut down on the amount of obsolete equipment taking up space in the office. Roger Surly asked where we would dispose of the material, and Debbie Putnam responded that we would take it to ESCO recycling. Surly made a motion, McClure seconded, Resolution 22-30 passed unanimously.

Chairman Watkins recognized Brian Sartain to discuss improvements to Centennial Park sanitary sewer. Brian explained that RWU received only one bid and it was from Nabholz. Although the unit price was high, the risks are also high and we have an agreement to value engineer the project for savings. Brain made a motion to accept the bid for \$115,038.72 for the reimbursement of utility costs to the City of Rogers. Roger Surly asked what the engineer’s estimate was, and Brian replied that although we had requested this, we had not received that information at this time. Surly asked if we could re-bid this project and Brain replied that the City would really like this project to move forward as soon as possible. He also asked about the portion paid for by RWU. Brian replied that this sewer project does serve multiple entities and therefore is a public sewer project. McClure asked if there was a timeline for Nabholz to complete the project, Brian replied he could get that information for her. Greene asked what he thought the actual price should be, and Brian responded \$60-\$70K. Brian will work with Nabholz to value engineer the project. Greene made a motion, Surly seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Brian continued with the bid tabulation for the Mills Farm, JB Hunt and 2nd Street water and sewer projects. RWU received one bid for \$369,040.00, but that bid amount was below the engineer’s estimate of \$375,650.00. Surly asked if we were familiar with the contractor and Brian responded that we were and currently have no issues with them. McClure made a motion to accept the bid, seconded by Surly. All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Watkins recognized Aaron Short to present the Banz Sewer Bid results. Aaron stated that RWU received two bids for this project. NEC was the low bidder at \$3,407,444.07. The engineer's estimate was \$3,775,745.00. Surly asked if this was included in the budget, Jennifer stated that yes it was. Greene made a motion, seconded by Surly. All in favor, motion carried.

Aaron continued with a motion to approve Allgeier, Martin & Associates to provide survey and design services for the Blossom Way Tributary 2 Sanitary Sewer Improvements not to exceed \$394,000. The project consists of approximately 4,300lf of 24", 4,200lf of 21", 4,800lf of 18", and 300lf of 15" diameter gravity sewer main. McClure made a motion, seconded by Surly. All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Watkins recognized Brian Sartain to approve Engineering Services, Inc. to design the Highway 12 East Water Main Replacement. This consists of approximately 4,700lf of 8" ductile iron pipe. The contract is a not to exceed \$262,000. Greene asked why we needed to replace this pipe. Brian responded that the pipe was old and was most likely not installed correctly and simply laid on top of the rock before being backfilled. These failures have been on the bottom of the pipe and may also be due to in part to existing groundwater being in the trench as well. Greene made a motion, McClure seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Brian continued to the next item, Selection of Engineer for the RPCF Capacity Improvement Project. Staff selection committee consisted of David Staib, Todd Beaver, Brent Dobler and Brian Sartain. The committee evaluated annual SOQ's on file and eventually settled on and solicited an amendment for this specific project from 4 firms. Two of the four firms presented proposals conveying that each firm had an exceptional amount of knowledge of the project. They approached it in slightly different ways, but in the end Freese & Nichols had the best detailed set of refinements, and team, outlined for the plant. Ultimately, although it was very close, the highest scoring firm was Freese & Nichols. Surly made a motion, seconded by Greene. All in favor, motion carried.

With no further business, Chairman Watkins adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brent Dobler', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brent Dobler, Secretary

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