

Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission
March 18, 2024
Minutes

The Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission held its monthly meeting at 4:00 PM, March 18, 2024, in the Rogers Water Utilities Administration Building located at 601 S 2nd Street.

Present were Commissioners Paige Sulzemeier, Travis Greene, Kathy McClure, Jerry Carmichael, and Chairman Peter Farmer. Rogers Water Utilities staff present were Dana Daniel, Johnny Lunsford, Todd Beaver, Aaron Short, Debbie Putman, Jered Sigmon, and Brent Dobler. Others in attendance were Robert Frazier with the Frazier Law Firm, Brett Peters, and Josh Durham from Hawkins-Weir Engineers. Eric Covington with Crossover Trail, and Aaron Nickell with ANH were also in attendance.

Chairman Farmer called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM. He recognized Eric Covington to present to the Commission in a Public Forum. Mr. Covington spoke about a sewer capacity issue he is experiencing with property next to his home. He requests that RWU continue to try to find a way to serve this property after the Department of Health deemed no sewer capacity was available due to sewer main already in the area being at capacity. Full discussion on audio.

Chairman Farmer then called for an action on the minutes from the February 20, 2024, Water and Sewer Commission meeting. Commissioner McClure made a motion to approve the February 20, 2024, minutes, Commissioner Greene seconded. All in favor, minutes were approved.

Chairman Farmer then recognized Jered Sigmon to present the financial reports. Mr. Sigmon then presented the financial reports to the Commission. Billed revenue in the Water department for February 2024 was up 7.1% from February 2023 at \$1,230,155. Water consumption was up 2.0% from February 2024 at 219,798,400 gallons. The Water department reported a net income of \$294,388.85 for February 2024 and YTD income of \$4,166,010.11. The percentage of Fiscal Year Passed is at 67%. Water revenues are 72% of budget and expenses are at 62% of budget.

The Sewer department billed revenue for the month of February 2024 is up 4.4% from February 2023 at \$1,408,087. Sewer consumption was up 0.4% from January 2024 at 181,753,700 gallons. The Sewer department reported a net income of \$440,563.77 for February 2024 and a YTD income of \$4,637,326.49. The percentage of Fiscal Year Passed is at 67%. Sewer revenues are at 74% of budget and expenses are at 60% of budget.

Water and Sewer YTD income exceeds FY23 income through the same period.
Water and Sewer YTD income exceeds FY24 budgeted income for each company.

Total restricted and unrestricted funds are \$48.07 million for February 2024 compared to \$47.22 million as of February 2023. This is an overall increase of \$850,000 from February 2023.

Chairman Farmer then recognized Aaron Short. Mr. Short went over the Development Plan Review and highlighted a few projects. The Mt. Hebron Interconnection with Bentonville and the Walnut St Widening project. He also gave an overview of the progress on the Pinnacle Golf Course sewer installation. He also discussed the status of the sewer capacity policy and recognized Brandon Ives and David Ingram for helping him present to the Northwest District AWEA meeting that was held in Rogers earlier in the month.

Chairman Farmer then recognized Todd Beaver to present the RPCF reports. Todd when over the DMR and FOG reports. He then gave a brief status of the dryer operation and our hauling of excess solids to Springdale. Black and Veatch has been made aware of some of the issues that the Springdale Huber had with Roger's solids. The plant treated 286.8MG in February. Approximately 40.3 from I and I. These flows included 1.08" of rain over six events.

Chairman Farmer then recognized Dana Daniel to give an HR report. Mr. Daniel presented a turnover report for RWU that showed turnover for the utility since 2015. He stated that this trend was cyclical until just lately. Interviewing is proactive and involves many referrals as well. RWU actively seeks out candidates. The first interview is online and then forwarded to the supervisor for further action. Second interviews are face to face. Onboarding and mentoring continue to be strong, and the benefits provided by the City certainly help with the hiring process.

Chairman Farmer then recognized Todd Beaver and Brent Dobler to present the Solids Handling Facility Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) to the Commission. Mr. Beaver presented a GMP of \$24,522,472.00 from Crossland Heavy Contractors. Mr. Beaver explained that the primary differences between the prior GMP and this one had to do with existing infrastructure (building on top of old foundations), and the maintenance building. Instead of a new maintenance building, RWU will refurbish the existing building. The rest is due to more detailed plans and code changes to the HVAC in the new solids building. Contingencies are still in this number. Commissioner Carmichael made a motion to accept the proposed GMP of \$24,522,472.00 from Crossland Heavy Contractors for the construction of the proposed Phase 2 Solids Handling Improvements at the Rogers Pollution Control Facility. Commissioner McClure seconded the motion. All in favor, 5-0 motion passed.

Chairman Farmer then recognized Brent Dobler to present RESOLUTION 24-09, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT FOR TEMPORARY PROVISION OF UTILITY SERVICES PERTAINING TO A PROPOSED BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF ROGERS AND THE CITY OF CAVE SPRINGS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. The City of Rogers and the City of Cave Springs have proposed a simultaneous annexation and de-annexation (land swap). Currently, the City of Rogers area is being served by RWU. This resolution authorizes RWU, in coordination with the City of Rogers, to provide a temporary means of serving the existing water and sewer customers located in the proposed annexation area and for, potentially, resolving any existing litigation. Commissioner McClure made a motion to approve RESOLUTION 24-09, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT FOR TEMPORARY PROVISION OF UTILITY SERVICES PERTAINING TO A PROPOSED BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF ROGERS AND THE CITY OF CAVE SPRINGS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Commissioner Greene seconded. All in favor, 5-0, Resolution 24-09 passed.

Chairman Farmer then recognized Jered Sigmon to update a recommendation from the Investment and Depository Committee meeting earlier in the day. Mr. Sigmon submitted the additional Depository institutions: BOK Financial, Cadence Bank, Centennial Bank and Chambers Bank. Staff reviewed these institutions as well as the Investment and Depository Committee and recommend all for approval. Commissioner Greene made a motion, Commissioner Carmichael seconded. All in favor, 5-0 motion carries.

Chairman Farmer then recognized Aaron Short to present a project change order on the Banz Rd project. After explaining how the original project that was to complete this section was never started due to a change in ownership that will affect the timing of the sewer installation, RWU

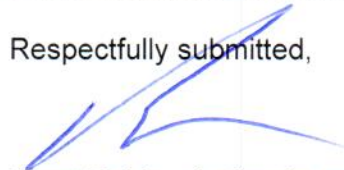
was forced to complete the sewer connection, but the future developer contributed the easement. Aaron showed an illustration showing the original coordination between the two projects. Aaron then stated that staff recommends approval of the change order from NEC for \$109,930.00 bringing the new total project cost to \$3,517,374.07. Commissioner Carmichael made a motion to approve the change order, Commissioner McClure seconded the motion. All in favor, 5-0 motion passed.

Mr. Short went on to present the bid for the 24" I-49 sanitary sewer project. RWU cannot get our cameras to this area due to blockages. This is a critical area that serves a high number of Roger's residents. RWU received two bids and the apparent low bidder is Humbard Contracting. There are two bids in case cleaning is not an option and replacement is the only way to move forward. We need to be prepared before the project starts, but our goal is to clear the blockage and replace it with a liner if that is an option. Staff recommends approving the bid from Humbard Contracting Inc. for the price of \$426,500.00. Commissioner Carmichael made a motion to approve the bid from Humbard Contracting Inc. for the price of \$426,500. Commissioner McClure seconded the motion. All in favor, 5-0, motion passed.

Mr. Short went on to present the last item on the agenda. Authorizing funds to provide a connection to Benton Washington Regional Water Authority. This will be a future emergency connection that would help RWU improve its resiliency. It consists of a 54" x 18" tee, 18" gate valve and 18" plug. Commissioner McClure made a motion to approve authorization of fund for reimbursement to Benton Washington Regional Water Authority in the amount of \$45,000. Commissioner Greene seconded the motion. All in favor, 5-0 motion passed.

With no further items on the Agenda, Chairman Farmer adjourned the meeting at 5:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Brent Dobler, Acting Secretary
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