

## **Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission**

**January 21, 2025**

### **Minutes**

The Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting at 4:00 PM Tuesday, January 21, 2025, in the Rogers Administration Building located at 601 S 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Present were Commissioners Jerry Carmichael, Kathy McClure, Travis Greene, Paige Sultemeier and Jene' Huffman-Gilreath. Rogers Water Utilities staff present were Jered Sigmon, Brian Sartain, Todd Beaver, Johnny Lunsford, Dana Daniel, Jennifer Hoffman, Debbie Putman, David Ingram and Brent Dobler. Also in attendance was Robert Frazier with the Frazier Law Firm.

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

Chairman Carmichael asked for a motion to approve the December 16, 2024, meeting minutes. Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve, and Commissioner Huffman-Gilreath seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Carmichael then recognized Mr. Sigmon to present the financial reports. Jered informed the Commission that billed revenue for the Water Department was \$1,383,118 for December 2024, a 7% YOY change. Water consumption was 231,289,730 gallons, representing a 5% YOY change. In the Sewer Department, billed revenue was \$1,603,620 for December 2024, an 11% YOY change. Sewer consumption was 185,368,600 gallons representing a 3% YOY change. He went on to state that RWU collected \$178,580 in Access and Impact Fees in December bringing the total YTD amount to \$1,489,880. In the Water Department, YTD Income for the month was \$229,704 and the total income for the year is currently at \$3,712,656.72. In the Sewer Department, YTD income for the month was \$477,921.76 and the total income for the year is currently at \$4,702,921.76. RWU has \$54.2M total in unrestricted and restricted funds. These funds were at \$50.3M in December 2023. The twelve-month rolling average of lost water is at 6%. He went on to show the annualized monthly consumption of water totals for the preceding three years. He pointed out that seasonality is certainly illustrated in these graphs, but overall, the annualized amounts show that our revenue stream is very consistent.

Chairman Carmichael then recognized Brian Sartain to present the Engineering Reports. Brian went over the Development Plan Review, the types of reviews, and also the Project Status list. He then informed the Commission of other notable events. Tristan James will be transferring from Field Ops to Engineering, starting a new position as Construction Inspection Technician. Brian went on to say that he had attended a January 6 meeting with state lawmakers, ADEQ, ADH, NWA Regional Planning, local consultants and surrounding municipalities to discuss regional issues regarding sewer capacity. Further discussions are expected with regard to sewer design guidelines from state agencies. Sewer capacity is becoming or is already an issue with a few NWA cities. Warranty repair work was done on the 11<sup>th</sup> Steet elevated tank. This involved minor touch up work on the tank coatings and required the tank to be drained. The tank was placed back in service during the week of January 20, 2025.

Chairman Carmichael then recognized Todd Beaver to present the RPCF reports. He went over the DMR Summary and then the FOG Inspection Report. Work continues on the new solids handling facility and staff have begun qualifying polymer vendors for bidding. Mr. Beaver also spoke to the recent 303.d impaired waterways designation by EPA Region 6. This is still in litigation. The RPCF treated 310.2 MG

in December, therefore, the plant treated about 31.2 MG of I & I. The average daily flow for the month was 10 MG. These flows included 2.04" of rain over 10 events. The historical average rainfall for December is 2.85".

Chairman Carmichael then recognized Jered Sigmon to present RESOLUTION 25-01 AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF A CONTRACT FOR PRINTING AND MAILING SERVICES FOR THE ROGERS WATER UTILITIES: AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Mr. Sigmon explained that RWU is currently in an agreement with Data Forms Inc. RWU has already given a first renewal, and the contract allows RWU to enter into a second renewal of the contract for an additional one-year period beginning February 22, 2025, and ending on February 21, 2026. Data Forms has done an excellent job for RWU, and staff recommend renewing this contract renewal. Commissioner Huffman-Gilreath made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner McClure. All in favor, RESOLUTION 25-01 AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF A CONTRACT FOR PRINTING AND MAILING SERVICES FOR THE ROGERS WATER UTILITIES: AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES passes.

Chairman Carmichael then recognized Robert Frazier to present RESOLUTION 25-02 A RESOLUTION INCREASING THE PURCHASING AUTHORITY OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF ROGERS WATER UTILITIES: AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Mr. Frazier explained that as of January 1, 2025, the amount for which competitive bidding is required under Ark. Code. Ann. 14-58-303 has been raised from \$35,000 to \$42,921 as determined by the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration to adjust for inflation. This resolution will bring the RWU Superintendent's purchasing authority in line with the State thresholds. Commissioner Huffman-Gilreath made a motion to approve, Commissioner Greene seconded. All in favor, RESOLUTION 25-02 A RESOLUTION INCREASING THE PURCHASING AUTHORITY OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF ROGERS WATER UTILITIES: AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES passes.

Chairman Carmichael then recognized Mr. Lunsford to present an RWU sewer damage claim. Johnny went over the details of this sewer overflow and its possible causes. The Memorial Day tornado more than likely played a part in damaging this sewer line. Very large root balls connected to the large trees that were felled by the tornado more than likely caused a lot of unseen damage to buried utilities. He then gave the estimates (provided by RWU's third party appraiser) to the Commission. He then also went over what RWU is doing to prevent this from occurring in the future. At 4:46pm, Commissioner McClure had to dismiss herself due to a cough. At 4:49PM, Commissioner Sultemeier had to excuse herself for her other obligation to the School Board. Commissioner Huffman-Gilreath made a motion to approve \$65,777.71 for the property damage claim, \$817.60 for appraisal services, and rent of up to \$16,800 without waiver of tort immunity and a signed release of RWU liability. Commissioner Greene seconded the motion. All in favor, (Greene, Carmichael, Huffman-Gilreath), motion carried. Johnny then went over what operational procedures RWU is performing to prevent this type of damage in the future such as data-mining of our GIS information and further smoke testing.

With no other items of business, Chairman Carmichael then adjourned the meeting at 5:17 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brent Dobler

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