

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ROCKWOOD WATER, WASTEWATER & NATURAL GAS BOARD**

August 24, 2021 @ 6:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at Rockwood City Hall at 6:00 P.M. with Chairman Loren Bone presiding. Commissioners Bobby Anderson, Mark Clem, Joe Moore, and Jeff Penley were present.

Public Comment: Bert Gore, representing Suez who was a bidder on the AMI project, thanked Commissioners for the chance to bid. He stated that he appreciated the process and asked for consideration on any future bidding processes.

Approval of July minutes: Commissioner Moore made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and Commissioner Anderson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of June and July financials: Joan Kerley reported that water and sewer revenues for June were \$374,904; expenses were \$318,788. Year to date, water and sewer revenue exceeded expenses by \$94,540. Gas operating revenues totaled \$138,435; operating expenses not including the cost of gas were \$76,404. Year to date, gas revenue exceeded expenses by \$503,098. Water and sewer revenues for July were \$360,673; operating expenses not including the cost of gas were \$75,001. Year to date, gas expenses exceeded revenues by \$88,374. Commissioner Moore made a motion to accept the June and July financials as presented and Commissioner Penley seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

General Manager's Report: Kim Ramsey Leffew reported that she had a conference call with FEMA last week and the engineers are expected to submit the required information by Friday of this week. The bond issue, effective September 1st, will be at a rate of 1.56% and will save approximately \$500,000 on the old debt. COVID issues are becoming concerning once again and Ms. Leffew asked the Board for guidance. It was agreed that Ms. Ramsey would create an updated policy that follows the CDC guidelines and bring back to them.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **I&I update:** A written report was provided.
- b. **Grand Vista Bay Committee presentation:** Bart Pajor spoke on behalf of property owners regarding concern for water pressure in the area. He had spoken to Erich Webber with TDEC, who confirmed that RWSG is only responsible for providing a minimum of 20 psi at the meter. He circulated a meter profile that was provided to him several years ago that showed several peaks and valleys but rarely falling below the required pressure. He believes that RWSG should be responsible for installing a booster pump to provide better pressure. Chairman Bone replied that developers were made aware in 2007 that individual water boosters would be the responsibility of customers if the pressure into residences became inadequate. He asked that the committee provide the information given to them to the HOA. Susan Peek asked if the booster pump in the Reserve could be “tapped into” to create more pressure. Staff

responded that pump was designed to provide minimum pressure only to the new section and was not designed or capable of providing the problem area. It was explained that the developer installed the pump and then RWSG accepted it as part of their system.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Consideration and Approval of Novatech contract renewal:** The City has signed a contract with Novatech and RWSG has participated in the past contract. The new contract provides for the reduction of lease costs and commits to the installation of new equipment.. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve and Commissioner Clem seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Consideration and Approval of Santek contract change to new owner (Republic):** It was necessary to sign a new contract with the new owners in order to continue waste disposal and licensing. The new contract does not extend the end date nor does it change rates – only a name change. Commissioner Clem made a motion to approve and Commissioner Anderson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. Authorization for health/dental/vision employee benefit renewal:** United Health Care is proposing the same health benefits with a 0.8% increase. Blue Cross/Blue Shield has no increase for dental or vision. The new policies will begin October 1st. Ms. Leffew requested approval. Commissioner Moore made a motion to approve and Commissioner Anderson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- d. Consideration and Ratification of request to Roane County Commission for funding consideration (Resolution 21-91 City Council):** City Council has approved the resolution that includes a \$500,000 request for a sewer line extension to the marina, \$500,000 for gas and water lines to Plateau Park, and \$500,000 for expansion at the WTP and other areas. Commissioner Clem made a motion to approve/ratify and Commissioner Moore seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- e. Consideration and approval of RFP for AMI Project:** The committee, consisting of Chairman Bone, Ms. Leffew, John Skidmore, and Joan Kerley, selected ECCO as the vendor to install the AMI system for both water and gas. The final contract including price will be presented to the Board prior to contract approval. Commissioner Moore made a motion to approve and Commissioner Anderson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

After a brief communication from board members, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 PM by motion of Commissioner Anderson and second by Commissioner Clem.

Loren Bone, Chairman

Joan Kerley, Secretary