

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

June 24, 2025 @ 6:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at Administrative Building at 6:00 P.M. with Chairman Mark Clem presiding. Commissioners Harold Holloway, Larry Davis, James Nuckols and Ronnie Thompson were present.

Public Comment: Mr. Rick Crawford, 317 & 315 Tarwater, spoke about why he was charged sewer for his garage. He claims it is not currently hooked to sewer but has the ability to in the future. Mr. Crawford doesn't think he should pay for sewer since he is not hooked to it. Mr. Clem and GM Leffew informed Mr. Crawford of the current law and policy that says anyone that has sewer in front of their property is to be charged regardless of being connected or not. They also informed him the potential policy change was on the agenda and encouraged he stay for the remainder of the meeting to address his concerns at that time.

Approval of May Regular Minutes: Commissioner Holloway made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and Commissioner Thompson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of May Financials: Tausha Bruneel reported that water and sewer revenues for May were \$339,039 expenses were \$331,889. Month to date, water and sewer expenses exceeded revenues by \$64,484. Year to date, water and sewer expenses exceeded revenues by \$355,491. Gas operating revenues totaled \$222,629; operating expenses not including the cost of gas were \$88,953. Month to date, gas expenses exceeded revenues by \$9,814. Year to date, gas revenue exceeds expenses by \$462,880. Commissioner Davis made a motion to accept the financials as presented and Commissioner Thompson seconded. The motion passed unanimously

General Manager's Report: Bonnie Fugate received the Water Operator of the Year award and we are extremely proud of her for this huge accomplishment. Our Sanitary Survey score was a 98 and the primary reason was because of the older equipment at the water plant that will be changed out during the current project.

The water plant project has a change order of a decrease of \$153,323 to the total contract. Commissioner Nuckols made a motion to approve the change order. Commissioner Holloway seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The City and REU will be taking July 3rd in addition to July 4th for a paid holiday. Asking the Board if they would like to follow suit and close as well. Commissioner Davis made a motion to waive the 5-day rule and Commissioner Thompson seconded. Motion was made to give July 3rd in addition to July 4th as a paid holiday by Commissioner Holloway and seconded by Commissioner Nuckols. The motion passed unanimously.

The City is hosting their yearly Rockin the Ramp event for Labor Day and asked us to be a sponsor again this year. Commissioner Nuckols made a motion to waive the 5-day rule and Commissioner Holloway seconded. Commissioner Nuckols made a motion to do the same donation as the last 2

years of \$1,000 and Commissioner Clem seconded. The motion failed. Commissioner Thompson made a motion to donate \$500 and Commissioner Nuckols seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Operation Report:** Presented May reports with no questions.
- b. **Consideration and Approval of FY 25-26 Budget:** Commissioner Nuckols made a motion to approve the 4% pay increase with \$1000 Bonus and Commissioner Clem seconded. The motion failed. Commissioner Thompson made a motion to approve a 3% pay increase with \$1000 Bonus and Commissioner Nuckols seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the FY 25-26 Budget and Commissioner Nuckols seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Consideration and Approval of Resolution 25-06 Water and Sewer Rates:** We are proposing a 4-year plan to increase water and sewer rates to get sewer where it needs to be self-sufficient and water back on the right track. There has been no sewer increases since 2017. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve and Commissioner Nuckols seconded. Commissioner Thompson passed. The motion passed.
- b. **Consideration and Approval of Rate Schedule FT-01-Natural Gas:** Commissioner Holloway made a motion to approve and Commissioner Thompson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. **Consideration and Approval of FT-01 Contract with Befesa:** Befesa has requested we allow them to go back on an FT-01 contract for their gas usage since they are back in operation. Commissioner Nuckols made a motion to approve and Commissioner Thompson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- d. **Consideration and Approval of Resolution 25-07- Change of banking services from First Financial to One Bank:** Commissioner Nuckols made a motion to defer to allow our attorney, Sharon, to see if it is possible we break our Loomis contract to stay with First Financial and to have time to check with USBank to see if they have a relationship with Loomis and what their fees would be. Commissioner Holloway seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- e. **Consideration and Approval of collection offer Victorian Square LLC:** We received a letter to settle the remaining debt of \$24,400 for 20%. Commissioner Holloway made a motion to have our attorney, Sharon Clark file suit for the entire amount. Commissioner Davis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- f. **Consideration and Approval of tap fee schedule:** Recommend approval of tap fee schedule to cover the costs of our taps. Commissioner Holloway made a motion to approve and Commissioner Thompson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- g. **Discussion for sewer billing for non-connected customers:** Currently if our sewer line runs in front of a property regardless if the customer is connected or not, the customer is required to pay for sewer. With the recent changes at City of Kingston Water we would like to re-consider this policy and have a policy similar to City of Kingston Water. Commissioner Holloway made a motion to turn over to our attorney,

Sharon Clark, and have her make it similar to City of Kingston Water and Commissioner Nuckols seconded. The board advised Mr. Crawford from public comment to pay the water portion of his bill until we get a formal ruling from our attorney and late fees assessed from the sewer portion would be waived.

- h. Discussion for revision of Purchasing Policy:** Commissioner Holloway would like to lower the amount to \$5000 to be more in line with what REU and the City has. It was discussed our operational purchases can be significantly larger than that of REU or the City and that most our chemical orders alone are over the \$5000 on any given order. Commissioner Holloway made a motion to lower the Purchasing Policy from \$25,000 to \$15,000 and Commissioner Thompson seconded. Commissioner Clem voted no with the remaining Commissioners voting yes. Motion passed.
- i. Discussion of Board approval for hiring and firing personnel:** Commissioner Holloway would like to have a committee for hiring and firing of personnel. He would like the Board to have control in those decisions. It was brought out that the Board serves in the Appeal process for grievances with the new Civil Service procedures. Commissioner Holloway made a motion for a committee to bring applicants or resumes to the Board for hiring and firing and was seconded by Commissioner Davis. Commissioner Clem, Nuckols, and Thompson voted no and Commissioner Davis and Holloway voted yes. Motion fails.
- j. Consideration and Approval of Board review required for Public Awareness expenditures:** Commissioner Holloway requested a report of all "donations" made by the utility. We do not make donations but we do however contribute in the form of advertising for various events such as school athletics, etc. under our Natural Gas Public Awareness Program. If the Board chooses we can present these requests at the following meeting from the requested month. Commissioner Holloway made a motion to have the board make all the approvals for Public Awareness and Commissioner Davis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Holloway requested that we have our attorney, Sharon, prepare a letter to the customer at 209 S Church that needs to take their fence down so we can repair our leak.

After a brief communication from Board the meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM by motion of Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Thompson. The motion passed unanimously.



Mark Clem, Chairman



Tausha Bruneel, Secretary