

**NORTH LITTLE ROCK
WASTEWATER TREATMENT COMMITTEE**

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2021

A meeting of the North Little Rock Wastewater Treatment Committee was held on Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at the administrative offices located at the Faulkner Lake Treatment Plant.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Matthews at approximately 12:15 p.m. The roll was called and a quorum was present. Those in attendance at the meeting were Mr. K.W. Matthews, Mr. Sylvester Smith, Ms. Karen Bryant and Mr. Gabe Stephens. Also in attendance were Mr. Michael Clayton, Director, Ms. Gina Briley, Ms. Sarah Smith, Mayor's Chief of Staff, with the City of Maumelle, Mr. Scott Hilburn with Hilburn & Harper, Ltd. and Dawn Harmon.

First, the Committee reviewed the minutes of its July 13, 2021 meeting. After review, a motion was made by Mr. Stephens, seconded by Ms. Bryant, to approve the July 13, 2021 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Next, the Committee reviewed the cash disbursements for the month of July 2021. There being no questions or comments, a motion was made by Ms. Bryant, seconded by Mr. Stephens, to approve the cash disbursements for July 2021 reflecting total cash disbursements of \$1,899,893.66 and fund transfers between accounts of \$1,324,000.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Upon motion made by Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Committee unanimously approved the Financial Statement for July 2021.

Director Clayton then submitted the final draft of the Service Line Incentive Program to the Committee. This program is designed to encourage and assist homeowners with the replacement of aging sewer service lines. Since 2012, decreasing and eliminating inflow and infiltration (I/I) has been the number one objective for the NLRW to reduce or eliminate Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs). During the last nine years, 471,182 linear feet of gravity sewer mains have been either rehabilitated or under contract for rehabilitation which is nearly 14% of the collection system for a total cost of \$24 million. In addition to the efforts to reduce I/I, NLRW staff has been aggressively repairing and rehabilitating existing manholes through the collection system. During the same period, 8,988 manholes out of the 17,556 manhole structures have been repaired or rehabilitated. There are three major components of the collection system vulnerable to I/I. The first major

component is the sanitary sewer gravity collection system consisting of 6" through 54" mains. Another major component of the collection system is manholes or structures and the final component is private service lines. NLRW has been working to reduce I/I in two of the three components within the overall collection system. According to the Water Research Federation, 40 - 60% of the total I/I is attributed to decaying private service lines. By implementing a program to incentivize homeowners to modernize their service lines the Utility will have a positive impact reducing long-term I/I. The Service Line Incentive Program (SLIP) will allow up to 100% of the first \$2,500 reimbursement to an eligible customer for replacing the service line for a residential structure. Director Clayton did point out that the exclusion, *if home or residence is less than 10 years old*, has been removed from the program. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Bryant, seconded by Mr. Stephens, to authorize Director Clayton to utilize the services of Hilburn & Harper, Ltd. to develop an ordinance implementing the Service Line Incentive Program with proposed program fee or rate rider and submit a proposed program to the Mayor for approval by the North Little Rock City Council. The motion carried unanimously.

The Committee then discussed the slope failure which occurred during the early part of 2009, along the rear yards of multiple lots on the East side of North Cedar Street. The slope failure was also referenced as the hillside failure behind Hobby Lobby on John F. Kennedy Boulevard. NLRW has a six-inch gravity sewer main near the edge of the drop off. This main was removed from service sometime in 2010. There are six residential homes where NLRW installed above ground service lines and a gravity collection system with a pump station to redirect the sewer to another basin as a temporary solution to provide sewer service while the City determined the best course of action to stabilize the hillside. In 2017, a private improvement district hired a contractor under the direction of a Geotechnical Engineer to install a series of drilled piers to stabilize the area. Residents in the area have been waiting very patiently for a final resolution to restore the gravity sewer system to its original condition. Staff has made numerous attempts to find a contractor willing to take the calculated risk of restoring the sewer system. The most promising solution the staff has found is to pipe burst the existing six-inch concrete pipe and replace it with a six-inch HDPE joint-free pipe and to install new service lines for the six residential homes for \$77,910.00. Horseshoe Construction has agreed to do the work, if approved. After further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Stephens, to authorize the staff to enter into an emergency contract with Horseshoe Construction in the amount of \$77,910.00 to restore the gravity sewer main and sewer services for the North Cedar Street area. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Clayton then reported to the Committee that only 52% of the employees at the Utility were vaccinated. Chairman Matthews asked if the Utility would institute a mask mandate for those employees not vaccinated. After further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Stephens, to offer a \$100 incentive for those employees who have already been vaccinated and the same incentive for those employees who get the vaccination and authorize the Director to institute a mask mandate. Further, all employees will be required to provide a copy of their vaccination card to the Utility. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Clayton then updated the Committee on the following:

- An appraiser has been hired to perform the appraisal on the property owned by Gene Pfeifer.

- Three employees were involved in an accident when hit by a drunk driver. All three employees are recovering and returning to work.

- The Utility is waiting on 37 easements to be acquired for the Maumelle Diversion Project. The project should be ready for bid by the end of the year.

A motion was made by Mr. Stephens, seconded by Ms. Bryant to authorize raising Executive Director's spending authority from \$35,000 to \$50,000. The motion carried unanimously.

- Negotiations are still ongoing with Union Pacific and an Agreed Order has been put in place to increase the GPM from 225 to 350.

- The American Rescue Plan Act has appropriated 1.7 million available for projects. Director Clayton the Committee that the Utility was going to make application and if granted, would use the funds in the East Galloway area to Kerr Road.

A motion was then made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Stephens, to excuse the absence of Mr. Nelson from the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Matthews then presented a plaque to Ms. Gina Briley for her 30 years of service to the Utility.

A motion was then made by Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Stephens, to order lunch from Gadwall's Grill for the September meeting. The motion carried unanimously with Ms. Bryant abstaining.

There being no further action to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Mr. Smith to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:54 p.m.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



K. W. MATTHEWS, CHAIRMAN

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



SYLVESTER SMITH,
VICE-CHAIRMAN/SECRETARY