



Centerton Utilities

(Water/Wastewater Departments) (Franchised Utility Permitting)

February 25, 2025

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting of the Centerton Waterworks & Sewer Commission called to order by Commissioner Melvin Coffelt.

(1) ROLL CALL – Commissioners present: Melvin Coffelt, Robert Anderson, Donald Casteel, Michelle Haverkamp & Joshua Hagan. Centerton Utilities' present: Malcolm Attwood, Chad Klingler, John Daniels, and Mary Perkins, and Thresia Leimberg. Professional Services present: Tim Mayes and Jeff Dehnhardt of ESI. City of Centerton present: Mayor Bill Edwards, Kayla Knight and Lorene Burns.

(2) Pledge of Allegiance

(3) Approval of Consent Agenda: Commissioner Coffelt introduced the minutes of Centerton Utilities from January 21, 2025 and asked if anyone had questions or concerns. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented with a second from Commissioner Casteel. No members were opposed, and the motion was carried.

(4) Old Business:

a. **Attorney report – Harrington Miller Law Firm** – Attorney not present. Utility Director Attwood stated the EEOC response had been submitted.

b. **Project Updates – Engineering Services, Inc.**

i. **Hwy 102 Water Tower #4:** Jeff Dehnhardt with ESI stated the following:

Line Project: The pressure reducing vault is at ninety-six percent completion on the contract. The master meter is at ninety-five percent completion. The total cost of the project is ninety-six percent of the job. All the pipes have been laid and the contractor is in the clean-up and testing phase of the project. The project has a March 4th, 2025, substantial completion date dependent on the weather. The contractor has a few change orders that will need to be reviewed.

Tank Project: The contractor is continuing to work on the steel portion of the tank, they are welding the bowl. They continue working on the installation of the yard piping on site. The plan is to raise the bowl and place it on the column the first week of April. They are fifty percent complete on this project. The expected substantial completion date is December 2025.

ii. **Hwy 102 Widening – Utilities Relocations:** Jeff Dehnhardt with ESI stated they are working through the Health Department comments and plan to review and submit their response this week.

iii. **McKissic Swale Sewer Main Repair:** Utility Director Attwood stated the contractor has essentially completed the work. They are in the testing phase of the project.

iv. **Sanitary Sewer – Connection Options:** Utility Director Attwood stated that Bentonville is concerned about capacity issues so they are not a connection option at this time. NACA is a connection possibility. They charge connection fees upwards of eight figures. They will continue to discuss with them and get some actual numbers.

517 North Main ♦ Centerton, Arkansas 72719-9400
www.centertonutilities.com ♦ admin@centertonutilities.com
Office: (479)795-0222 ♦ After Hours Emergency: (479)633-1421



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- v. **Decator WWTP Status:** James with Decatur stated they plan to move the Centerton line over for the headworks project which would shut us down for part of the day. They expect substantial completion of the headworks project is December 31st, 2025. Their biological capacity study is almost done and they will share that information with our engineers as the information becomes available. Mayor Tharp stated they are currently permitted at 3.8 mgd. The study shows with very little cost within the confines of the building they could expand to 5.25 mgd. They have already purchased membranes to support the 5.25 mgd. They are currently working on the estimated cost to bring the plant to 6+ mgd. Commissioner Anderson stated they should meet to discuss which option should be pursued. Utility Director Attwood stated he would include Decatur in their long-range plan meeting.

c. **Director's Report:**

- i. **Project Planning Worksheet (attached):** Utility Director Attwood reviewed the "Project Planning Worksheet" with the commission.
- ii. **Field Operations & Customer Service Report:** Superintendent Klingler & Office Manager Perkins' reports are in the packet for the commission to review. Mary introduced a new service representative to the commission. Asked the commission if an installment agreement date could be changed to reinstate a past due customer payment agreement. The commission stated that the option seemed to be an appropriate solution. Commissioner Anderson asked Superintendent Klingler if the McKissic Creek Sewer Project had been camaraed to document before construction started. Also, he asked if the SCADA alarm system works as expected since it has been switched over to another provider. Superintendent Klingler stated the installation of this project has been pushed back by the provider to March. Also, there were some pump issues due to the cold weather.

(5) **New/Other Business:**

- a. **Commercial Deposits:** Commissioner Anderson stated the customer service staff had approached him regarding an issue with Commercial User Security deposits. Meters that serve multiple user connections do not provide an appropriate level of payment security. The commission needs to look at an appropriate security deposit policy for multiple unit business or residential property served with a single meter. In addition, a policy to establish prior notice for transfer of ownership or management for properties with subdivide units needs to be established. See draft handout provided.
- b. **February ADH Meeting:** Utility Director Attwood attended meeting in Little Rock. He was unable to get a direct response to the flow numbers they had provided to the health department during the meeting. He received a letter regarding the flow data yesterday and plans to review with ESI and formulate a response.
- c. **Act 605 Repair Account Invoices:** Accountant Daniels requested the Consolidated Pipe & Supply Company invoice #AR0911306 for \$8,795.75 and Cooper Smith Excavation invoice for \$3,000 to be paid out of the Act 605 accounts.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to authorize the above invoices to be paid out of the Act 605 repair accounts and Commissioner Wells 2nd the motion. All Commissioners were in favor and the motion passed.



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- d. **Long Range Planning Meeting:** Utility Director Attwood will send out an email to schedule this meeting.
- e. **BWRPWA Proposed Rate Plan:** Utility Director Attwood provided a proposed draft of BWRPWA rate plan in the commissioner packet to review. He needs comments from the commissioner's by 9:00 AM on Thursday.

(6) Resolutions – 2025-01 Waive the Competitive Bidding Process for a New Work Truck.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve resolution 2025-01 as presented and Commissioner Casteel 2nd the motion. All Commissioners were in favor and the motion passed.

(7) Public Comment – There was robust conversation regarding issues with Decatur capacity issues and its impact to Centerton Utilities.

(9) Announcements – None

(10) Adjournment - Commissioner Coffelt asked the attendees if there were any questions. With no further business, Commissioner Wells made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Casteel 2nd the motion. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned.