

**NORTH LITTLE ROCK  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2022**

A meeting of the North Little Rock Wastewater Treatment Committee was held on Tuesday, October 4, 2022, in 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 Chairman Matthews, Mr. Sylvester Smith, Mr. Ed Nelson, Ms. Karen Bryant and Mr. Gabe Stephens. Also in attendance were Mr. Michael Clayton, Director, Ms. Gina Briley, Ms. Tangelia Marshall, Human Resources Director, Mr. Sam Hilburn and Mr. Scott Hilburn with Hilburn & Harper, Ltd. and Dawn Harmon.

First, the Committee reviewed the minutes of its September 13, 2022, meeting. After review, a motion was made by Mr. Nelson, seconded by Ms. Bryant, to approve the September 13, 2022, minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

The Committee then discussed the Utility's agreement for audit services which ended with the 2021 audit. The staff presented a proposal received from EGP, PLLC for audit services for the years 2022, 2023 and 2024. Mr. Smith asked the staff about putting this item out for bid or a request for professional services. Ms. Briley informed the Committee that requests for professional services for engineers, accountants, etc. are performed every year in January or February. EGP, PLLC was the only accounting firm that submitted a response to the request for professional services. Therefore, a motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Nelson, to authorize the staff to enter into an agreement with EGP, PLLC for audit services for the years of 2022, 2023 and 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Clayton then advised the Committee that NLRW has been working with the Economic Development Office of the City of North Little Rock for the major development activities at the Highway 70 and Highway 391 area during the last year. The area adjacent to Amazon Fulfillment Complex has three lots with planned developments of major distribution facilities. Due to the topography of the land and high ground water table, extending gravity sewer lines would be extremely difficult and cost prohibitive for the low-density development. Thomas Engineering is currently working with the City coordinating development activities for the area, and NLRW staff is recommending utilization of Thomas Engineering, on behalf of NLRW, to design a force main system to serve the area. The City through its

Economic Development Office has committed to funding of the wastewater force main. The Utility has a proposal from Thomas Engineering, a local firm, to provide the surveying and design services for a force main using the fee schedule consistent with the Arkansas Building Authority Guidelines. The estimated cost of the project is approximately \$2,000,000.00 and using a 7.25% design fee for engineering services for projects of this amount, the projected design services fee is to be \$145,000.00. It was confirmed that the only expense the Utility would be out is for the design phase of the project. A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Nelson to authorize the staff to enter into a design services agreement with Thomas Engineering for design of the force main facilities to serve the City of North Little Rock Economic Development Project located at Tulip Farm. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Clayton informed the Committee that NLRW has partnered with a company working for the CDC to sample wastewater at the four Water Reclamation Facilities as part of the wastewater-based epidemiology analysis. As data becomes available from the testing results, a link to the dashboard will be available to the public. The Committee asked Director Clayton to inquire as to the costs for testing for polio.

Additionally, since a few of the members were absent from the September meeting, Director Clayton has requested that the two engineering firms attend the November meeting to further discuss the White Oak Treatment Plant expansion and the consolidation of the Five Mile Creek and Faulkner Lake facilities.

Director Clayton informed the Committee that there are still some 1.75% monies available for projects which will run out next year. He explained to the Committee that he and Ms. Briley discussed the possibility of using some of the funds, if secured, for the 8 projects the Utility currently has plans for. He further explained that there is an additional program, somewhat more complicated, that deals with projects in economically disadvantaged areas. After discussion, the Committee asked Mr. Clayton and Ms. Briley to secure more information on these 2 issues and bring it back to the Committee at the November meeting.

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 2:15 p.m.

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**



K. W. MATTHEWS, CHAIRMAN

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**



SYLVESTER SMITH,  
VICE-CHAIRMAN/SECRETARY