



Centerton Utilities

(Water/Wastewater Departments) (Franchised Utility Permitting)

May 20, 2025

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

(1) ROLL CALL – Commissioners present: Melvin Coffelt, Robert Anderson, Donald Casteel, Michelle Haverkamp & TJ Wells. Centerton Utilities' present: Malcolm Attwood, Chad Klingler, John Daniels, and Mary Perkins, and Thresia Leimberg. Professional Services present: Jeff Dehnhardt and Tim Mays of ESI and Thomas Kieklak of Harrington Miller. City of Centerton present: Lorene Burns & Kayla Knight.

(2) Pledge of Allegiance

(3) Approval of Consent Agenda: Commissioner Casteel introduced the minutes of Centerton Utilities from May 20, 2025, and asked if anyone had questions or concerns. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Haverkamp seconded the motion. No members were opposed, and the motion was carried.

(4) Old Business:

a. **Attorney report – Harrington Miller Law Firm**

- i. Commercial Deposits: Attorney Kieklak stated the document passes legal review without concerns. He stated he would talk to office staff regarding some examples to take into consideration.
- ii. Service Line Replacement Contract: Attorney Kieklak stated the review was complete, and no revisions are necessary.

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

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

The tower project is currently under construction. The ground construction portion of the steel holding tank will take longer than expected due to the contractor wanting to paint the outside of the holding tank before it is raised. The holding tank is expected to be raised in mid-June, contingent on weather conditions.

Contract Section 1 – Line Work : All off-site linework and vault installations have been completed; however, the area remains on the punch list for cleanup due to weather-related delays over the past two months. Cleanup is currently thirty days overdue as a result.

- ii. **Hwy 102 Widening – Utilities Relocations:** Jeff Dehnhardt with ESI stated they have met with an easement acquisition agent, and the first batch easement documents are anticipated to be submitted to her by late next week. They are currently waiting for her proposal for services. Typically, the easement acquisition agent's fees are around \$1,500 per parcel, plus \$100 for research. The total easement acquisition costs, including agent fees and the cost of the easements themselves, are estimated to be approximately \$100,000. These expenses are reimbursable by ARDOT.
- iii. **Sanitary Sewer – Connection Options:** Jeff with ESI stated they have begun design plans for a potential connection to NACA's system near Shell Road in Bentonville, which will entail the construction of a new lift station.



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- iv. **Decatur WWTP Status:** “Malcolm Attwood”, Centerton Utility Director, stated that Decatur’s consulting engineer submitted a report to ADEQ and ADH on May 1, 2025, requesting a re-rating of the existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) in Decatur. The review of this report is expected to take several months. Meanwhile, Centerton Utilities continues to explore alternative options for managing sanitary sewer flow, should the timeline for Decatur’s necessary improvements become extended.

Mayor Tharp stated that the Trump administration has lowered tariffs to 30% for a 30-day period, representing an additional 5% tariff above the original expectation. He has approved the membranes currently in China to be shipped to California. The membranes are expected to arrive within the next 45 days.

In addition, Mayor Tharp stated that the Headworks project is progressing rapidly and is on target for completing by the end of December 2025. He has applied to the Arkansas Department of Health for a 5.2 MGD upgrade. He feels confident about the upgrade but has not yet received a commitment from the Arkansas Health Department.

There was discussion regarding how Centerton Utilities and Decatur plan to manage the process once the Health Department approves wastewater connections, given the backlog of building permits and existing homes awaiting to connect. Mayor Tharp stated a meeting is needed to be scheduled with the Health Department and both cities to discuss how the process will be handled.

- v. **Sanitary Sewer Collection System Upgrades:** Jeff Dehnhart with ESI stated they are working on a design to improve our current system. They will proceed using the 100 gallons per capita requirement set by the Arkansas Health Department. ESI expects to have plans ready for review within the next two weeks. He stated it would include substantial upgrades to twenty-four-inch pipe and lift stations. Estimated cost to be in the six-million-dollar range. Stated the upgrade is needed due to development in the system and recommended developers should contribute to the cost of the upgrade. Commissioner Anderson asked if flow monitoring is still part of the plan. The Utility Director stated he has a scheduled meeting with a vendor to discuss this. The estimated cost to monitor six locations is \$300,000.

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. Superintendent Klingler stated USG will be here on the 28th to repair the standpipe. In addition, SCADA/LEC update – LEC will be here on 27 – 29th.

(5) New/Other Business:

- a. **Hiring Update – Operations** – Human Resource Manager “Thresia Leimberg” stated we had lost two employees that accepted jobs with large employers in the area. Over the past few months, we have hired two office employees and five field employees. Recruitment efforts are ongoing to fill three wastewater positions and two water construction positions.



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- b. **ACT 812** – Utility Director “Malcolm Attwood” stated that the State of Arkansas has established a grant program for water and sewer facilities. Beginning August 1st, 2025, municipalities will be eligible to apply to funding to support infrastructure improvements. The program is expected to offer an initial \$25 million in funding, with a potential increase to \$50 million in the coming years.
- c. **Sanitary Sewer Flow Monitoring** – See 4b (v).
- d. **Clay Pipe Remediation near Main Office** – Three lots adjacent to the Administration Building have been sold, and each contains clay pipe and a manhole that need to be replaced. Utility Director Malcolm Attwood will obtain a cost estimate to reconstruct the system using PVC pipe. He also noted that additional clay pipes in the surrounding area requires replacement. The commission authorized him to proceed with obtaining a cost estimate for replacing all clay pipe in the area.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to allow the Utility Director to proceed with obtaining a cost estimate for replacing all clay pipes in the area. Commissioner Wells 2nd the motion. All Commissioners were in favor and the motion passed.

- e. **Act 605 Repair Invoices** – Calcon Inc \$2256.00 & 3060.00, and Kennedy Electric for \$3907.00.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to allow the invoices noted above to be paid out of the ACT 605 account. Commissioner Coffelt 2nd the motion. All Commissioners were in favor and the motion passed.

(6) Resolutions – None

(7) Public Comment – There were questions regarding flow monitoring, forecasting capacity and Decatur wastewater issues.

(9) Announcements – None

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