

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

**In the Matter of the Application of The Meadows)
Water Company, North Suburban Public Utility)
Company and the City of Willard, Missouri, for)
An Order Authorizing the Sale, Transfer and)
Assignment of Water and Sewer Assets to the)
City of Willard and in Connection Therewith)
Certain Other Related Transactions.)**

Case No. WO-2007-0424

**CITY OF WILLARD, MISSOURI'S RESPONSE TO
ORDER DIRECTING FILING DATED FEBRUARY 4, 2008**

Comes now the City of Willard (hereinafter "the City"), by and through counsel, and for its response to the Commission's Order Directing Filing dated February 4, 2008 states the following to the Commission:

1. In its "Order Directing Filing", the Commission requests input from the City regarding 1) the notice customers of The Meadows received regarding the proposed transfer, and 2) any plans of the City of Willard to annex The Meadows service territory.

Notice to Customers

2. After the parties entered the agreement for transfer of the assets identified in the application, the proposed transfer was the subject of numerous articles in local newspapers and media reports.

3. Informally, the City fielded several inquiries from customers of The Meadows regarding the proposed transfer.

4. On April 25, 2007, The Meadows Homeowner's Association and the City jointly held a meeting at Willard South Elementary School to discuss the transfer. Approximately 100 people from the service area attended the meeting. A presentation about the transaction was made by City officials at that time. A lengthy question and answer session followed the

presentation. Frank and open discussions between the city officials and residents of The Meadows service area ensued. Representing the City at the meeting were Mayor, Jamie Schoolcraft; then City Administrator, Fred Gress; Chief Financial Officer, Karen Robson; Public Works Director, Charlie Jones; and Planning Director, Randy Brown. Representatives of the City left the meeting with the understanding that while residents of the service area had questions regarding the logistics of the transfer, there was no organized or substantial opposition to the proposed transfer. Many residents seemed to welcome the stability the transfer could provide.

Annexation

5. It is the intent of the City to pursue annexation of The Meadows service area. This issue was, in part, relevant to the issues which the City has now resolved with the City of Springfield.

6. The most direct path by which the City would annex the service area in The Meadows requires the City to annex property which is located within the Springfield Airport Zone. The terms under which Willard would annex property located in the Springfield Airport Zone, and in particular, resolution of future zoning issues pertaining to property in the Airport Zone, have now been resolved. The City of Springfield and City of Willard have agreed to support and work for a minor statutory change which would allow the City of Willard to annex property which is in the Airport Zone of the City of Springfield. Legislation is presently pending to make the necessary change.

7. Even if the needed legislative authority to annex The Meadows by direct route of the Springfield Airport Zone is not obtained, it is still the City's intent to pursue annexation of The Meadows service area. That would require a more sizeable annexation effort through a less direct route.

8. Between the time that the transfer may be approved and the time that the annexation process can be completed, it is the intent of the City to create a Utility Board which includes customers from The Meadows service area to supervise utility services and to make recommendations to the Board of Aldermen concerning utility policy.

BAIRD, LIGHTNER, MILLSAP & HARPOOL, P.C.

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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document was sent via e-mail on this 13th day of February, 2008, to General Counsel's Office at gencounsel@psc.mo.gov; Office of Public Counsel at opcservice@ded.mo.gov ; Charles Brent Stewart at Stewart499@aol.com; Howard C. Wright, Jr., at hwright@ci.springfield.mo.us.; and Mark W. Comley at comleym@ncrpc.com .

/s/ M. Douglas Harpool