

ORDINANCE NO. 2011-08-___

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MCKINNEY, TEXAS, ("CITY") APPROVING A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT BETWEEN THE ATMOS CITIES STEERING COMMITTEE ("ACSC" OR "STEERING COMMITTEE") AND ATMOS ENERGY CORP., MID-TEX DIVISION ("ATMOS MID-TEX" OR "COMPANY") REGARDING THE COMPANY'S FOURTH ANNUAL RATE REVIEW MECHANISM ("RRM") FILING IN ALL CITIES EXERCISING ORIGINAL JURISDICTION; DECLARING EXISTING RATES TO BE UNREASONABLE; ADOPTING TARIFFS THAT REFLECT RATE ADJUSTMENTS CONSISTENT WITH THE NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT AND FINDING THE RATES TO BE SET BY THE ATTACHED TARIFFS TO BE JUST AND REASONABLE; REQUIRING THE COMPANY TO REIMBURSE CITIES' REASONABLE RATEMAKING EXPENSES; REPEALING CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS OR ORDINANCES; DETERMINING THAT THIS ORDINANCE WAS PASSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT; ADOPTING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND REQUIRING DELIVERY OF THIS ORDINANCE TO THE COMPANY AND THE STEERING COMMITTEE'S LEGAL COUNSEL

WHEREAS, the City is a gas utility customer of Atmos Energy Corp., Mid-Tex Division "Atmos Mid-Tex" or " Company"), and a regulatory authority with an interest in the rates and charges of Atmos Mid-Tex; and

WHEREAS, the City is a member of the Atmos Cities Steering Committee ("ACSC" or "Steering Committee"), a coalition of approximately 154 similarly situated cities served by Atmos Mid-Tex that have joined together to facilitate the review of and response to natural gas issues affecting rates charged in the Atmos Mid-Tex service area (such participating cities are referred to herein as "ACSC Cities"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the terms of the agreement settling the Company's 2007 Statement of Intent to increase rates, ACSC Cities and the Company worked collaboratively to develop a Rate Review Mechanism ("RRM") tariff that allows for an expedited rate review process controlled in a three-year experiment by ACSC Cities as a substitute to the current GRIP process instituted by the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the City took action in 2008 to approve a Settlement Agreement with Atmos Mid-Tex resolving the Company's 2007 rate case and authorizing the RRM Tariff; and

WHEREAS, the 2008 Settlement Agreement contemplates reimbursement of ACSC Cities' reasonable expenses associated with RRM applications; and

WHEREAS, the Steering Committee and Atmos Mid-Tex agreed to extend the RRM process in reaching a settlement in 2010 on the third RRM filing; and

WHEREAS, on or about April 1, 2011, the Company filed with the City its fourth annual RRM filing, requesting to increase natural gas base rates by \$15.7 million; and

WHEREAS, ACSC coordinated its review of Atmos Mid-Tex's RRM filing by designating a Settlement Committee made up of ACSC representatives, assisted by ACSC attorneys and consultants, to resolve issues identified by ACSC in the Company's RRM filing; and

WHEREAS, independent analysis by ACSC's rate expert concluded that Atmos Mid-Tex is unable to justify an increase over current rates except for undisputed costs of \$6.6 million to cover the steel service line replacement program initiated in 2010; and

WHEREAS, the ACSC Settlement Committee, as well as ACSC attorneys and consultants, recommend that ACSC Cities approve the attached rate tariffs ("Attachment A" to this Ordinance), which will increase the Company's revenue requirement by \$6.6 million to extend current recovery of incremental direct costs of the steel service line replacement program authorized by ACSC Cities in ordinances passed in 2010; and

WHEREAS, the attached tariffs implementing new rates are consistent with the negotiated resolution reached by ACSC Cities and are just, reasonable, and in the public interest.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MCKINNEY, TEXAS:

Section 1. That the findings set forth in this Ordinance are hereby in all things approved.

Section 2. That the City Council finds the existing rates for natural gas service provided by Atmos Mid-Tex are unreasonable and new tariffs, which are attached hereto and incorporated herein as Attachment A, are just and reasonable and are hereby adopted.

Section 3. That Atmos Mid-Tex shall reimburse the reasonable ratemaking expenses of the ACSC Cities in processing the Company's rate application.

- Section 4. That to the extent any resolution or ordinance previously adopted by the Council is inconsistent with this Ordinance, it is hereby repealed.
- Section 5. That the meeting at which this Ordinance was approved was in all things conducted in strict compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551.
- Section 6. That if any one or more sections or clauses of this Ordinance is adjudged to be unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remaining provisions of this Ordinance and the remaining provisions of the Ordinance shall be interpreted as if the offending section or clause never existed.
- Section 7. That this Ordinance shall become effective from and after its passage with rates authorized by the attached Tariffs to be effective for customer bills rendered on or after September 1, 2011.
- Section 8. That a copy of this Ordinance shall be sent to Atmos Mid-Tex, care of David Park, Vice President Rates and Regulatory Affairs, at Atmos Energy Corporation, 5420 LBJ Freeway, suite 1862, Dallas, Texas 75240, and to Geoffrey Gay, General Counsel to ACSC, at Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend, P.C. P.O. Box 1725, Austin, Texas 78767-1725.

DULY PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MCKINNEY, TEXAS ON THE 16TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2011.

CITY OF MCKINNEY, TEXAS

BRIAN LOUGHMILLER
Mayor

CORRECTLY ENROLLED:

SANDY HART, TRMC, MMC
City Secretary
BLANCA I. GARCIA
Assistant City Secretary

DATE: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

MARK S. HOUSER
City Attorney