

ORDINANCE NO. 2360

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TERRELL, TEXAS, ("CITY") APPROVING A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ATMOS CITIES STEERING COMMITTEE AND ATMOS ENERGY CORP., MID-TEX DIVISION ("ATMOS MID-TEX" OR "THE COMPANY") REGARDING THE COMPANY'S STATEMENT OF INTENT TO CHANGE GAS RATES IN ALL CITIES EXERCISING ORIGINAL JURISDICTION; DECLARING EXISTING RATES TO BE UNREASONABLE; ADOPTING TARIFFS THAT REFLECT RATE ADJUSTMENTS CONSISTENT WITH THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND FINDING THE RATES TO BE SET BY THE ATTACHED TARIFFS TO BE JUST AND REASONABLE; ADOPTING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; DETERMINING THAT THIS ORDINANCE WAS PASSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT; DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND REQUIRING DELIVERY OF THIS ORDINANCE TO THE COMPANY AND LEGAL COUNSEL.

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

WHEREAS, on or about September 20, 2007, Atmos Mid-Tex, pursuant to Gas Utility Regulatory Act § 104.102 filed with the City a Statement of Intent to increase system-wide gas rates by approximately \$52 million, such increase to be effective in all municipalities exercising original jurisdiction within its Mid-Tex Division service area effective on October 25, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the City took action to suspend the October 25, 2007 Effective Date and to coordinate a response to Atmos' filing with more than 150 other similarly situated municipalities through the Atmos Cities Steering Committee ("ACSC") (such participating cities are referred to herein as "ACSC Cities"); and

WHEREAS, Atmos has agreed to extend the October 25, 2007, Effective Date such that the City's jurisdiction over this matter ends March 1, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Railroad Commission of Texas ("RRC" or the "Commission") in GUD No. 9670, issued an Order approving new system-wide rates for customers of Atmos Energy's Mid-Tex Division in March 2007, which increased residential base rates by approximately \$10 million annually; and

WHEREAS, ACSC and Atmos have each appealed the RRC's decision in Atmos' most recent system-wide rate increase as well as the decision rendered in GUD No. 9400 to the Travis County District Court; and

WHEREAS, Atmos and ACSC have been in continuing disagreement, dispute, and litigation over the application of Section 104.301 of the Texas Utilities Code and the resulting rate increases ("GRIP surcharges") established by the RRC; and

WHEREAS, Atmos filed its application for its fourth GRIP surcharge in four years on May 31, 2007, seeking to increase the rates of all customers by approximately \$12 million annually; and

WHEREAS, the ACSC Cities desire to avoid the litigation expense that would result from another lengthy contested rate case proceeding before the RRC as well as the prosecution of the appeals in various courts of the GRIP surcharges and the two previous system-wide rate decisions; and

WHEREAS, ACSC desires to recoup certain costs it previously incurred in connection with GRIP-related proceedings (costs which Atmos contends are not reimbursable rate case expenses under the Texas Utilities Code), as well as costs incurred in connection with this proceeding; and

WHEREAS, on October 18, 2007, more than 60 ACSC members met in Arlington with officers and executives of Atmos to discuss various issues, including rate making, resulting in a mutual pledge to work toward settlement; and

WHEREAS, ACSC members designated a Settlement Committee made up of ACSC representatives to work with ACSC attorneys and consultants to formulate and review reasonable settlement positions to resolve outstanding matters with Atmos, including the pending rate increase request; and

WHEREAS, the Settlement Committee and lawyers representing ACSC met several times with the Company to negotiate a Settlement Agreement resolving the issues raised in the Company's Statement of Intent filing as well as all outstanding appeals of the two prior rate cases and various GRIP filings; and

WHEREAS, the Settlement Committee, as well as ACSC lawyers and consultants believe existing rates are unreasonable and should be changed; and

WHEREAS, the ACSC Executive Committee recommends ACSC members approve the negotiated Settlement Agreement and attached tariffs; and

WHEREAS, the attached tariffs provide for an expedited rate review process as a substitute to the current GRIP process instituted by the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the expedited rate review process as provided by the Rate Review Mechanism Tariff eliminates piecemeal ratemaking, the ACSC's major objection to the current GRIP process; and

WHEREAS, the attached tariffs implementing new rates are consistent with the Settlement Agreement and are just, reasonable, and in the public interest; and

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the parties that ACSC Cities receive the benefit of any Settlement Agreement that Atmos enters into with other entities arising out of its Statement of

Intent or any associated appeals of a decision entered by the Railroad Commission regarding the Company's request to increase rates; and

WHEREAS, the Settlement Agreement as a whole is in the public interest.

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

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

Section 2. That the City Council finds that the Settlement Agreement, **which is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Attachment A**, is in the public interest and is hereby endorsed in all respects.

Section 3. That 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 B**, are just and reasonable and are hereby adopted.

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 if ACSC Cities determine any rates, revenues, terms and conditions, or benefits resulting from a Final Order or subsequent Settlement Agreement approved in any proceeding addressing the issues raised in Atmos' Statement of Intent would be more beneficial

to the ACSC Cities than the terms of the attached Settlement Agreement, then the more favorable rates, revenues, terms and conditions, or benefits shall additionally accrue to the ACSC Cities. However, approval of the attached Rider RRM, Rider CEE, Rider GCR and the Rider WNA shall not be affected by the application of the provisions contained in this section, it being the understanding and the intent of the parties hereto that such tariffs shall continue according to their terms.

Section 8. That this Ordinance shall become effective from and after its passage with rates authorized by attached Tariffs to be effective for customer bills delivered on or after March 1, 2008.

Section 9. That a copy of this Ordinance shall be sent to Atmos Mid-Tex, care of Joe T. Christian, Director of Rates, at Atmos Energy Corporation, 5420 LBJ Freeway, Suite 1800, Dallas, Texas 75240, and to Geoffrey Gay, General Counsel to ACSC, at Lloyd Gosselink Blevins Rochelle & Townsend, P.C., P.O. Box 1725, Austin, Texas 78767-1725.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 22nd day of January, 2008.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 5th day of February, 2008.

Hal Richards, Mayor

ATTEST:

John Rounsavall, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Mary Gayle Ramsey, City Attorney