

REGULAR MEETING

May 12, 2015

7:00 p.m.

There being a quorum present, Mayor Saunders called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Council members present: Rick Neumayer, Greg Allen, Ann Fessenden and Bruce Franklin.

Absent: Brandon Blue

Franklin made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda to include the Minutes to the last meeting and budget review and payment of bills. Fessenden seconded the motion. Votes:

For – Neumayer, Allen, Fessenden and Franklin

Against – None

Passed – 4-0

Public Comment:

- None

After some discussion concerning the requirement for brick facades on any new building in the downtown area, Council agreed to table any further discussion or consideration until the next regular meeting.

The City Council, acting as Planning and Zoning Commission heard a request to extend a zoning designation from SF-2 Residential to C-2 Commercial on property located at 401 NE Second Street.

Neumayer made a motion to approve the C-2 Commercial designation on property located at 401 NE Second Street for an addition 12 months. If substantial construction has not begun on the project by June 10, 2016 the zoning of the property shall automatically revert to its previous zoning of SF-2 Residential. Fessenden seconded the motion. Votes:

For – Neumayer, Allen, Fessenden and Franklin

Against – None

Passed – 4-0

The following Resolution was read for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. 2015 0512-1

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTINUED PARTICIPATION WITH THE ATMOS CITIES STEERING COMMITTEE; AND AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF FIVE CENTS PER CAPITA TO THE ATMOS CITIES STEERING COMMITTEE TO FUND REGULATORY AND REALTED ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION.

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WHEREAS, The City of Kerens is a regulatory authority under the Gas Utility Regulatory Act (GURA) and has exclusive original jurisdiction over the rates and services of Atmos Energy Corporation, Mid-Tex Division (Atmos) within the municipal boundaries of the city; and

WHEREAS, the Atmos Cities Steering Committee (ACSC) has historically intervened in Atmos rate proceedings and gas utility related rulemakings to protect the interests of municipalities and gas customers residing within municipal boundaries; and

WHEREAS, ASCS is participating in Railroad Commission dockets and projects, as well as court proceedings and legislative activities, affecting gas utility rates; and

WHEREAS, the City is a member of ACSC; and

WHEREAS, in order for ACSC to continue its participation in these activities which affects the provision of gas utility service and the rates to be charged, it must assess its members for such costs;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KERENS, TEXAS:

- I. That the City is authorized to continue its membership with the Atmos Cities Steering Committee to protect the interest of the City of Kerens and protect the interests of the customers of Atmos Energy Corporation, Mid-Tex Division residing and conducting business within the City limits.
- II. The City is further authorized to pay its 2015 assessment to the ACSC in the amount of five cents (\$0.05 per capita).
- III. A copy of this Resolution and approved assessment fee payable to "Atmos Cities Steering Committee" shall be sent to:

David Barber
Atmos Cities Steering Committee
c/o Arlington City Attorney's Office, Mail Stop 63-0300
Post Office Box 90231
Arlington, Texas 76004-3231

Allen made a motion to pass and approve the Resolution as read. Fessenden seconded the motion. Votes:

For – Neumayer, Allen, Fessenden and Franklin

Against – None

Passed – 4-0

The following Resolution was read for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. 2015 0512-2

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KERENS, TEXAS, APPROVING A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT BETWEEN THE ATMOS CITIES STEERING COMMITTEE (“ACSC”) AND ATMOS ENERGY CORP., MID-TEX DIVISION REGARDING THE COMPANY’S 2014 AND 2015 RATE REVIEW MECHANISM FILINGS; APPROVING A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH ATTACHED RATE TARIFFS AND PROOF OF REVENUES; DECLARING EXISTING RATES TO BE UNREASONABLE; ADOPTING TARIFFS THAT REFLECT RATE ADJUSTMENTS CONSISTENT WITH THE NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT; FINDING THE RATES TO BE SET BY THE SETTLEMENT TARIFFS TO BE JUST AND REASONABLE AND IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST; REQUIRING THE COMPANY TO REIMBURSE ACSC’S REASONABLE RATEMAKING EXPENSES; DETERMINING THAT THIS RESOLUTION 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 RESOLUTION TO THE COMPANY AND THE ACSC’S LEGAL COUNSEL.

WHEREAS, the City of Kerens, Texas (“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; and

WHEREAS, the City is a member of the Atmos Cities Steering Committee (“ACSC”), a coalition of similarly-situated cities served by Atmos Mid-Tex (“ACSC Cities”) 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; and

WHEREAS, ACSC and the Company worked collaboratively to develop a new Rate Review Mechanism (“RRM”) tariff that allows for an expedited rate review process by ACSC Cities as a substitute to the Gas Reliability Infrastructure Program (“GRIP”) process instituted by the Legislature, and that will establish rates for the ACSC Cities based on the system-wide cost of serving the Atmos Mid-Tex Division; and

WHEREAS, the initial RRM Tariff was in effect for four (4) years; and

WHEREAS, ACSC Cities and Atmos Mid-Tex entered into another settlement agreement and revised the RRM Tariff; and

WHEREAS, ACSC Cities and Atmos Mid-Tex compromised and reached agreements on the amount of the rate increases to be in effect for the RRM Tariff filings for 2012 and 2013; and

WHEREAS, ACSC Cities and Atmos Mid-Tex were unable to reach an agreement on the 2014 RRM Tariff filing, resulting in the ACSC Cities’ rejection of the 2014 RRM filing; and

WHEREAS, Atmos Mid-Tex appealed the ACSC Cities’ actions rejecting its 2014 RRM filing to the Railroad Commission of Texas (“Commission”), pursuant to the provisions of the RRM Tariff; and

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WHEREAS, Atmos Mid-Tex and ACSC litigated the appeal of the 2014 RRM filing at the Commission; and

WHEREAS, on February 27, 2015, Atmos Mid-Tex filed its 2015 RRM Tariff filing, requesting to increase natural gas base rates system-wide by \$28.762 million; and

WHEREAS, ACSC coordinated its review of Atmos Mid-Tex RRM filing through its Executive Committee, assisted by ACSC's attorneys and consultants, to resolve issues identified in the Company's RRM filing; and

WHEREAS, Atmos Mid-Tex has agreed to withdraw its appeal of ACSC's rejection of its 2014 RRM Tariff rate increase; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee, as well as ACSC's counsel and consultants, recommend that ACSC Cities approve the attached Settlement Agreement (Attachment A to this Resolution) as well as the tariffs attached thereto, resolving both the 2014 and the 2015 RRM Tariff filings, which together will increase the Company's revenues by \$65.7 million over the amount allowed under City-approved rates set in 2013; and

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

WHEREAS, the RRM Tariff should be renewed for a period of time commencing in 2016 and continuing until the RRM Tariff is suspended by ordinance of the City; and

WHEREAS, the RRM Tariff contemplates reimbursement of ACSC's reasonable expenses associated with RRM applications;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KERENS, TEXAS:

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

Section 2. That the City Council finds that the Settlement Agreement (Attachment A to this Resolution) represents a comprehensive settlement of gas utility rate issues affecting the rates, operations, and services offered by Atmos Mid-Tex within the municipal limits arising from Atmos Mid-Tex's 2014 and 2015 RRM filings, is in the public interest, and is consistent with the City's authority under Section 103.001 of the Texas Utilities Code.

Section 3. That the existing rates for natural gas service provided by Atmos Mid-Tex are unreasonable. The new tariffs attached hereto and incorporated herein as Attachment C, are just and reasonable, and are designed to allow Atmos Mid-Tex to recover annually an additional \$65.7 million in revenue over the amount allowed under currently approved rates, or \$21 million over currently-billed rates, as shown in the Proof of Revenues attached hereto and incorporated herein as Attachment B; such tariffs are hereby adopted.

Section 4. That the ratemaking treatment for pensions and other post-employment benefits in Atmos' next RRM filing shall be as set forth on Attachment D, attached hereto and incorporated herein.

Section 5. That in an effort to streamline the regulatory review process, the Atmos Mid-Tex RRM Tariff is renewed for a period commencing with the Company's March 1, 2016 RRM filing for calendar year 2015, effective June 1, 2016, and

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continuing thereafter until such time as the City adopts an ordinance suspending operation of the RRM Tariff.

Section 6. That Atmos Mid-Tex shall reimburse the reasonable ratemaking expenses of the ACSC in processing the Company's RRM application.

Section 7. That to the extent any resolution previously adopted by the Council is inconsistent with this Resolution, it is hereby repealed.

Section 8. That the meeting at which this Resolution was approved was in all things conducted in strict compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551.

Section 9. That if any one or more sections or clauses of this Resolution is adjudged to be unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remaining provisions of this Resolution and the remaining provisions of the Resolution shall be interpreted as if the offending section or clause never existed.

Section 10. That consistent with the City ordinance that established the RRM process, this Resolution shall become effective from and after its passage with rates authorized by attached tariffs to be effective for bills rendered on or after June 1, 2015.

Section 11. That a copy of this Resolution shall be sent to Atmos Mid-Tex, care of Chris Felan, Vice President of Rates and Regulatory Affairs Mid-Tex Division, Atmos Energy Corporation, 5420 LJB Freeway, Suite 1862, Dallas, Texas 75240, and to Geoffrey Gay, General Counsel to ACSC, at Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend, P.C., 816 Congress Avenue, Suite 1900, Austin, Texas 78701.

Neumayer made a motion to pass and approve the Resolution as read. Franklin seconded the motion. Votes:

For – Neumayer, Allen, Fessenden and Franklin

Against – None

Passed – 4-0

RESOLUTION NO. 2015 0512-3

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF KERENS, TEXAS ("CITY"), APPROVING A CHANGE IN THE RATES OF ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION, MID-TEX DIVISION ("ATMOS") AS A RESULT OF A SETTLEMENT BETWEEN ATMOS AND THE ATMOS TEXAS MUNICIPALITIES ("ATM") UNDER THE RATE REVIEW MECHANISM; FINDING THE RATES SET BY THE ATTACHED TARIFFS TO BE JUST AND REASONABLE; FINDING THAT THE MEETING COMPLIED WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT; DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND REQUIRING DELIVERY OF THE RESOLUTION TO THE COMPANY AND LEGAL COUNSEL.

WHEREAS, the City of Kerens, Texas ("City") is a regulatory authority under the Gas Utility Regulatory Act "GURA") and under § 103.001 of GURA has exclusive

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original jurisdiction over Atmos Energy Corporation – Mid-Tex Division (“Atmos”) rates, operations, and service of a gas utility within the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the City has participated in prior cases regarding Atmos as part of a coalition of cities known as the Atmos Texas Municipalities (“ATM”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Rate Review Mechanism (“RRM”) for 2015 filed with the City on or around February 27, 2015 for a proposed system-wide increase of \$28.7 million; and

WHEREAS, experts representing ATM have been analyzing data furnished by Atmos and interviewing Atmos’ management regarding the RRM; and

WHEREAS, in May 2015, ATM and Atmos entered into a Settlement Agreement which resolved the 2014 RRM and 2015 RRM; and

WHEREAS, the settlement agreement permits Atmos to implement an increase of \$21.87 million increase over the current interim rates Atmos is charging, which when combined with the increase under the 2014 RRM produces an increase of \$65.7 million increase over Atmos’ 2013 revenues; and

WHEREAS, as part of the settlement agreement, Atmos will dismiss its pending appeal at the Railroad Commission of Texas, Atmos will not seek to recover rate case expenses over and above the agreed rate increase; and

WHEREAS, the Steering Committee of ATM and its counsel recommend approval of the attached tariffs, set forth as Attachment A, along with the proof of revenues set forth as Attachment B, and Attachment C, setting forth the beginning balance for purposes of determining pension and other post-employment benefits to be recovered in the next RRM filing.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KERENS, TEXAS THAT:

Section 1. The findings set forth in this Resolution are hereby in all things approved.

Section 2. The amended tariffs in Attachment A are hereby adopted to become effective on June 1, 2015.

Section 3. To the extent any Resolution previously adopted by the City Council is inconsistent with this Resolution, it is hereby superseded.

Section 4. The meeting at which this Resolution was approved was in all things conducted in strict compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551.

Section 5. If any one or more sections or clauses of this Resolution is judged to be unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remaining provisions of this Resolution and the remaining provisions of the Resolution shall be interpreted as if the offending section or clause never existed.

Section 6. This Resolution shall become effective from and after its passage.

Section 7. A copy of this Resolution shall be sent to Atmos Mid-Tex, care of Christopher Felan, Vice President of Rates and Regulatory Affairs, Atmos Energy Corporation, 5420 LBJ Freeway, Suite 1600, Dallas, Texas 75240 and to Mr. Alfred R. Herrera, Herrera & Boyle, PLLC, 816 Congress Avenue, Suite 1250, Austin, Texas 78701.

Neumayer made a motion to pass and approve the Ordinance as read. Franklin seconded the motion. Votes:

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For – Neumayer, Allen, Fessenden and Franklin
Against – None
Passed – 4-0

Operations

- **Code Enforcement** – Officer Covey reported 3 occupancy inspections, 4 vehicles abated, 1 lot cleaned and the downtown buildings belonging to Kevin Jackson have been demolished and clean-up has begun. He also reported that Oakgrove Crossing Apartments are continuing with their major rehab project.
- **Water Dept.** – No major problems.
- **Sewer Dept.** – We experienced electrical problems at the east lift station and the WWTP during Sunday’s storm.
- **Street Dept.** – working as weather allows.
- **Police Dept.** – Chief Miers reported that they have no major cases working at this time. Mayor Saunders thanked all officers, along with Marcus and Armando from Public Works for coming to work the severe flooding event on Sunday night.
- **Animal Control** – No new problems.
- **Court** – No problems.
- **Tax Dept.** – Russell Hudson’s report shows 90.03% of current taxes collected as of April 30, 2015.
- **Office** – No problems.
- **Grants** – Chief Miers reported that he is applying for a Department of Justice Grant to fund a school recourse officer through the Kerens PD. Scott reported that the TxDot grant application was completed and sent in.
- **Economic Development** – There may be a grant opportunity for the EDC to acquire JAK Fields.
- **Long Range Planning** – No new information.

Neumayer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Fessenden seconded the motion.
Votes:

For – Neumayer, Allen, Fessenden and Franklin
Against – None
Passed – 4-0

With no further business to transact, Mayor Saunders adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Jeffrey Saunders, Mayor

Attest:

Cindy Scott, City Secretary