

**ORDINANCE NO. 20140522-037**

**AN ORDINANCE SUSPENDING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERIM RATE ADJUSTMENT UNDER SECTION 104.301 OF THE TEXAS UTILITIES CODE BY CENTERPOINT ENERGY, SOUTH TEXAS DIVISION, WITHIN THE CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS; REQUESTING REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE CITY'S EXPENSES FOR HIRING CONSULTANTS TO ASSIST THE CITY IN ITS REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF THE RATE ADJUSTMENT; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

**PART 1.** On March 31, 2014, CenterPoint Energy ("CenterPoint") filed with the City of Austin, Texas (the "City") an interim rate adjustment that would allow CenterPoint to recover the incremental costs of the new investment it has made within its South Texas Division. The same request was filed by CenterPoint with the other municipalities it serves for a collective increase of the fixed monthly base charge by a total of \$15,855,203 for its South Texas Division.

**PART 2.** CenterPoint proposed an effective date of May 30, 2014 for the interim rate adjustment.

**PART 3.** Pursuant to Texas Utilities Code § 104.301(a), the City is authorized to suspend the implementation of the interim rate adjustment for a period not to exceed 45 days beyond the effective date proposed by CenterPoint.

**PART 4.** The City Council finds that it requires additional time to review and consider CenterPoint's interim rate adjustment and supporting documentation.

**PART 5.** The City requests that CenterPoint reimburse the City for its reasonable and necessary costs to engage rate consultants, accountants, auditors, attorneys, and engineers to conduct investigations, present evidence, advise, and represent the City regarding the interim rate adjustment.

**PART 6.** The implementation of the IRA filed by CenterPoint and the proposed effective date of May 30, 2014, shall be and hereby are suspended within the City pursuant to Section 104.301(a) of the Texas Utilities Code for 45 days (that is, through July 15, 2014), or until adoption by the City Council of a final ordinance addressing the implementation of the IRA, whichever shall first occur.

**PART 7.** This ordinance takes effect on June 2, 2014.

**PASSED AND APPROVED**

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   Lee Leffingwell  
   Mayor

APPROVED: Karen M. Kennard      ATTEST: Jannette S. Goodall  
   Karen M. Kennard      Jannette S. Goodall  
   City Attorney      City Clerk