

ORDINANCE NO.

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. In accordance with Chapters 103 and 104 of the Texas Utilities Code, the City has exclusive original jurisdiction over gas rates charged for natural gas utility services provided in the City.

PART 2. On March 31, 2015, 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 \$29,222,571 for its South Texas Division.

PART 3. CenterPoint proposed an effective date of May 30, 2015 for the interim rate adjustment.

PART 4. 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 5. The City Council finds that it requires additional time to review and consider CenterPoint's interim rate adjustment and supporting documentation.

PART 6. 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 during its consideration of the interim rate adjustment.

PART 7. The implementation of the interim rate adjustment filed by CenterPoint proposed to take effect on May 30, 2015, is hereby suspended until the sooner of : (a) the 45th day from the proposed effective date, or (b) the date acted upon by the City Council, whichever shall first occur.

PART 8. This ordinance takes effect on _____.

PASSED AND APPROVED

_____, 2014 §
 §
 § _____
 Steve Adler
 Mayor

APPROVED: _____ **ATTEST:** _____
 Anne L. Morgan Jannette S. Goodall
 Interim City Attorney City Clerk