

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the City of Austin owns and operates three municipal utilities: Austin Energy, Austin Water, and Austin Resource Recovery; and

WHEREAS, according to the Fiscal Year 2017/18 Taxpayer Impact Statement, the services provided by those three utilities will cost the average Austin resident approximately \$2,475; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the City of Austin, by benchmarking residential, commercial, and industrial electric bills across the State, was able to calculate how affordable utility bills were when compared to other cities; and

WHEREAS, through that analysis, the City Council adopted Austin Energy's Affordability Goals which set a goal for Austin Energy to keep rates in the lowest 50% of Texas utilities and limit annual rate increases to no more than two percent for any customer class; and

WHEREAS, those Affordability Goals have been utilized when considering annual budgets as well as when deciding to make long-term investments for the utility; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is committed to protecting the long-term viability and competitiveness of all of its municipally-owned utilities as well as ensuring affordable utility bills for all customers; and

WHEREAS, affordable utility bills are a critical part of all resident's personal monthly budgets and are an impactful piece of managing the rising cost of living in Austin; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has not established Affordability Goals or other standards for Austin Water or Austin Resource Recovery; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public's interest for the City to establish Affordability Goals for Austin Water and Austin Resource Recovery; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Council directs the City Manager to conduct a comprehensive, data-driven benchmarking study of public and private water and solid waste utilities in Texas.

Utilizing the findings of this review, the City Manager shall make recommendations to the City Council for "Affordability Standards" for Austin Water and Austin Resource Recovery. The presentation of the recommendations should include:

- Methodology for how each recommendation was determined.
- Affordability Standards that apply to all customer classes.
- Capability for the City to track the benchmarks over time and see long-term trends.
- Annual public disclosure of compliance with the Affordability Standards.

The recommendations for the Affordability Standards shall be presented to the City Council for consideration and approval prior to August 10, 2018.

ADOPTED: _____, 2018 **ATTEST:** _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk