



## REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

**AGENDA DATE:** July 24, 2023

**AGENDA ITEM:** Consider approving a joint powers agreement with Harris Township and Blackberry Township to regulate utility rates

**PREPARED BY:** Matt Wegwerth

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### **BACKGROUND:**

The City previously passed an ordinance granting Gorhams', Inc (Northwest Natural Gas) a non-exclusive right to erect and maintain a gas system in Grand Rapids. Harris and Blackberry Townships likewise have entered into similar agreements.

The City previously entered into a JPA with Harris Township for the regulation of rates and Blackberry Township has requested to be included in the agreement.

Harris Township, Blackberry Township and Grand Rapids believe it is in their best interest that they act in concert and unity regarding their regulation of the rates and other activities of Northwest Natural Gas and the Gas System. By establishing a joint board, the entities believe that this will yield a consistent rate within all three jurisdictions whose residents will share in the benefits of this utility.

The current Joint Powers Gas Board recommends adding Blackberry Township. This JPA replaces the previous agreement by and between the City and Harris Township

### **REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION:**

Make a motion approving a joint powers agreement with Harris Township and Blackberry Township to regulate utility rates.