

## MODEL STAFF REPORT

**\*\*\*ACTION MUST BE TAKEN TO SUSPEND THE EFFECTIVE DATE  
BEFORE APRIL 4, 2024\*\*\***

### **PURPOSE:**

AEP Texas Inc (“AEP Texas” or “Company”) filed an application on February 29, 2024 with cities retaining original jurisdiction seeking to increase system-wide distribution rates by \$110.4 million per year (an increase of 13.1%) and increase system-wide transmission rates by \$63.1 million (an increase of 9.29%). According to AEP Texas, the impact of this approval on an average residential customer would be an increase of about \$4.59 per month.

The resolution suspends the April 4, 2024 effective date of the Company’s rate change for the maximum period permitted by law to allow the City, working in conjunction with other Cities served by AEP Texas to intervene in the Public Utility Commission Docket No. 56165 to evaluate the filing, determine whether the filing complies with law, and if lawful, to determine what further strategy, including settlement, to pursue.

The law provides that a rate request made by an electric utility cannot become effective until at least 35 days following the filing of the application to change rates. The law permits the City to suspend the rate change for 90 days after the date the rate change would otherwise be effective. **If the City fails to take some action regarding the filing before the effective date, AEP Texas’s rate request is deemed approved.**

### **Purpose of this Resolution:**

The purpose of this Resolution is to suspend the Statement of Intent to Change Rates proposed by AEP Texas and authorize the City to intervene in the Company’s rate case proceeding before the Public Utility Commission in Docket No. 56165.

### **Explanation of “Be It Resolved” Paragraphs:**

Section 1. The City is authorized to suspend the rate change for 90 days after the date that the rate change would otherwise be effective for any legitimate purpose. Time to study and investigate the application is always a legitimate purpose. Please note that the resolution refers to the suspension period as “the maximum period allowed by law” rather than ending by a specific date. This is because the Company controls the effective date and can extend the deadline for final city action to increase the time that the City retains jurisdiction if necessary to reach settlement on the case. If the suspension period is not otherwise extended by the Company, the City must take final action on AEP Texas’ request to change rates by July 3, 2024.

Section 2. This provision authorizes the City to participate in a coalition of Cities served by AEP Texas (“Cities”) in order to more efficiently represent the interests of the City and their citizens and authorizes the hiring of Lloyd Gosselink and consultants to review the filing, negotiate with the Company, and make recommendations to the City regarding reasonable

rates. Additionally, it authorizes Cities to direct any necessary administrative proceedings or court litigation associated with an appeal of this application filed with the PUC.

Section 3. This section authorizes the City to intervene in and participate with Cities Served by AEP Texas as a party in the Company's filing, PUC Docket No. 56165.

Section 4. The Company will reimburse the cities for their reasonable rate case expenses. Legal counsel and consultants approved by Cities will submit monthly invoices that will be forwarded to AEP Texas for reimbursement. No individual city incurs liability for payment of rate case expenses by adopting a suspension resolution.

Section 4. This section merely recites that the resolution was passed at a meeting that was open to the public and that the consideration of the Resolution was properly noticed.

Section 5. This section provides that both AEP Texas' counsel and counsel for the Cities will be notified of the City's action by sending a copy of the approved and signed resolution to certain designated individuals.

**RESOLUTION NO. R-031124-4**

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PORT LAVACA SUSPENDING THE April 4, 2024 EFFECTIVE DATE OF AEP TEXAS INC.'S REQUESTED RATE CHANGE TO PERMIT THE CITY TIME TO STUDY THE REQUEST AND TO ESTABLISH REASONABLE RATES; APPROVING COOPERATION WITH THE CITIES SERVED BY AEP TEXAS AND AUTHORIZING INTERVENTION IN AEP TEXAS INC.'S REQUESTED RATE CHANGE PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE COMMISSION; HIRING LLOYD GOSSELINK ATTORNEYS AND CONSULTING SERVICES TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE COMPANY AND DIRECT ANY NECESSARY LITIGATION AND APPEALS; REQUIRING REIMBURSEMENT OF CITIES' RATE CASE EXPENSES; FINDING THAT THE MEETING AT WHICH THIS RESOLUTION IS PASSED IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AS REQUIRED BY LAW; REQUIRING NOTICE OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE COMPANY AND LEGAL COUNSEL**

**WHEREAS**, on or about February 29, 2024, AEP Texas Inc. (“AEP Texas” or “Company”), pursuant to Public Utility Regulatory Act (“PURA”) §§ 33.001 and 36.001 filed with the City of Port Lavaca (“City”) a Statement of Intent to change electric delivery rates in all municipalities exercising original jurisdiction within its service area, effective April 4, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is an electric utility customer of AEP Texas and a regulatory authority with an interest in the rates and charges of AEP Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is a member of the Cities Served by AEP Texas (“Cities”), a membership of similarly situated cities served by AEP that have joined together to efficiently and cost effectively review and respond to electric issues affecting rates charged in AEP Texas’ service area; and

**WHEREAS**, PURA § 36.108 grants local regulatory authorities the right to suspend the effective date of proposed rate changes for ninety (90) days after the date the rate change would otherwise be effective; and

**WHEREAS**, the City retains its rights as a city with original jurisdiction including the right to suspend the application; and

**WHEREAS**, PURA § 33.023 provides that costs incurred by Cities in ratemaking activities are to be reimbursed by the regulated utility; and

**WHEREAS**, the City’s consultants and attorneys recommend that the City suspend the application for further review.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORT LAVACA, TEXAS:**

SECTION 1. That the April 4, 2024, effective date of the rate request submitted by AEP Texas on or about February 29, 2024, be suspended for the maximum period allowed by law to permit adequate time to review the proposed changes and to establish reasonable rates.

SECTION 2. That the City joins other Cities Served by AEP Texas in this proceeding and, subject to the right to terminate employment at any time, hereby authorizes the hiring of Thomas Brocato of Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle and Townsend, P.C, and consultants to review the Company's filing, negotiate with the Company, make recommendations regarding reasonable rates and to direct any necessary administrative proceedings or court litigation associated with an appeal of city action.

SECTION 3. That the City shall work with Cities Served by AEP Texas in the review and evaluation of whether the proposed rates are appropriate, fair, just, and reasonable; and, intervene as a necessary party in the Public Utility Commission of Texas' consideration of AEP Texas' rate filing in Docket No. 56165 as it affects the customers in the unincorporated areas of AEP Texas' service territory.

SECTION 4. That the City's reasonable rate case expenses shall be reimbursed by AEP Texas.

SECTION 5. That it is hereby officially found and determined that the meeting at which this Resolution is passed is open to the public as required by law and the public notice of the time, place, and purpose of said meeting was given as required.

SECTION 6. A copy of this Resolution shall be sent to AEP Texas, care of Jennifer Frederick, American Electric Power Company, 400 West 15th Street, Suite 1520, Austin, Texas 78701 (aepaustintx@aep.com), and to Thomas Brocato at Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend, P.C., 816 Congress Avenue, Suite 1900, Austin, Texas 78701 (tbrocato@lglawfirm.com).

PASSED AND APPROVED this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

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Mayor Jack Whitlow

**ATTEST:**

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City Secretary Mandy Grant

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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City Attorney Anne Marie Odefey