

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

City of Rollingwood

Meeting Date: June 12, 2024

Submitted By:

Staff

Agenda Item:

Discussion and possible action regarding a resolution to authorize the hiring of Lloyd Gosselink, approve intervention in the Railroad Commission proceeding, and suspend the rate filing by Texas Gas Service (TGS)

Description:

Texas Gas Service (TGS) has filed a requested rate change. The following report regarding TGS's requested rate change was provided by Thomas Brocato of Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend, P.C. This report provides an overview and an explanation of the resolution sections.

REPORT REGARDING TGS'S REQUESTED RATE CHANGE

OVERVIEW:

On June 3, 2024, Texas Gas Service Company (“TGS” or “Company”) a Division of ONE Gas, Inc. (“ONE Gas”), pursuant to Subchapter C of Chapter 104 of the Gas Utility Regulatory Act, filed its Statement of Intent to change gas rates at the Railroad Commission of Texas (“RRC”) and in all municipalities exercising original jurisdiction within the incorporated areas of the Central-Gulf Service Area (“CGSA”), effective July 8, 2024.

TGS is seeking to increase its revenues in the CGSA by \$25.8 million, which is an increase of 9.83% including gas costs, or 15.59% excluding gas costs. TGS is also requesting: (1) approval of new depreciation rates for certain plant within the CGSA; (2) a finding that expenses for Winter Storm Uri and COVID-19 that are contained in regulatory assets authorized by the RRC are reasonable, necessary, and accurate; (3) a prudence determination for capital investment made in the CGSA through December 31, 2023; (4) approval to include Excess Deferred Income Taxes (“EDIT”) in base rates, with discontinuance of the EDIT Rider to return EDIT to customers; and (5) approval to recover the reasonable rate case expenses associated with the filing through a surcharge.

The Company’s new proposed tariff includes: (1) a new Small and Large Residential rate design and related rate schedules based on customer usage patterns; (2) a new Small and Large Commercial rate design and related rate schedules based on customer usage patterns; (3) a new Renewable Natural Gas Credits program rate schedule; (4) new rate schedules for a rate case expense surcharge; and (5) certain revisions to the Company’s Rules of Service.

The resolution suspends the July 8, 2024 effective date of the Company’s rate increase for the maximum period permitted by law to allow the City, working in conjunction with other similarly situated cities with original jurisdiction served by TGS, to evaluate the filing, to determine whether the filing complies with the law, and if lawful, to determine what further strategy, including settlement, to pursue.

The law provides that the Company’s rate request cannot become effective until at least 35 days following the filing of the application. 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, TGS’s rate request is deemed approved.**

Explanation of “Be It Resolved” Sections:

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 TGS’s request to increase rates by July 8, 2024.

Section 2. This provision authorizes the City to participate in a coalition of cities served by TGS in order to more efficiently represent the interests of the City and their citizens.

Section 3. This section authorizes the hiring of Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend, P.C. to represent the City in matters related to TGS’s application to increase its rates.

Section 4. This section authorizes the City’s intervention in TGS’s application for approval to increase its rates before the Railroad Commission in GUD No. 17471.

Section 5. This section requires the Company to reimburse the cities for their reasonable rate case expenses. Legal counsel and consultants approved by the coalition of cities will submit monthly invoices that will be forwarded to TGS for reimbursement. No individual city incurs liability for payment of rate case expenses by adopting a suspension resolution.

Section 6. 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 7. This section provides that the City will provide a copy of the approved and signed resolution to representatives for TGS and the coalition of cities.

Action Requested:

To adopt the resolution authorizing the hiring of Lloyd Gosselink, approving intervention in the Railroad Commission proceeding, and suspending the rate filing by Texas Gas Service (TGS)

Fiscal Impacts:

No significant fiscal impacts anticipated at this time

Attachments:

- Resolution 2024-06-12-13