

Office of the City Manager

City of Richland Hills, Texas

Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor Bill Agan and members of the Richland Hills City Council
From: Eric Strong, City Manager
Date: April 19th, 2016
Subject: Oncor Electric

City Council Action Requested:

Consider resolution directing Oncor Electric Delivery Company to file certain information with the City of Richland Hills.

Background Information:

Recent Public Utility Commission of Texas (“Commission”) proceedings related to approval of conversion of Oncor into a Real Estate Investment Trust (“REIT”) resulted in the Commissioners’ desire to share \$200 million to \$250 million in annual federal income tax (“FIT”) savings with Oncor ratepayers. Since the proceeding involving a change of ownership and control of Oncor was not a rate case, the Commission had no jurisdiction to order a reduction in rates. The new owners of Oncor indicated an intent to file a rate case in mid-2017 to become effective in 2018. Believing that a two year wait to factor FIT savings into rates was too long to wait, the Steering Committee of Cities Served by Oncor decided to initiate a rate case against Oncor. The resolution is broken down and explained by each section below.

Whereas Clauses Explained

Cities have original rate making jurisdiction over Oncor’s rates and services within their municipal limits. The Commission has original jurisdiction over the environs outside municipal limits and appellate jurisdiction over city rate mailing orders.

As a regulatory authority, Cities that retain original jurisdiction may initiate rate making proceedings by filing a resolution requiring a public utility to show cause why rates should not be reduced.

The City works with other similar Oncor Cities on regulatory issues through the Steering Committee of Cities Served by Oncor which has functioned continuously since 1988.

The Executive Committee of the Steering Committee recommends that member Cities pass show cause resolutions to initiate a rate case so that Oncor rates may be reduced.

Resolved Sections Explained

Section 1, provides notice to Oncor that it is compelled to file information that would otherwise be required if the Company filed a request to increase rates at the Commission by September 1, 2016. This Section requires that historic data from calendar year 2015 be filed to demonstrate that its rates should not be reduced.

Section 2 authorizes Cities' representatives to file requests for information which shall be answered by Oncor within 15 days of receipt.

Sections 3 and 4 set other dates critical to the procedural process for rate setting. Cities' report will be due on October 13, 2016 and the Oncor rebuttal will be due November 10, 2016.

Section 5 establishes that a hearing will occur and final order will be issued between November 15, 2016 and December 15, 2016.

Section 6 provides that the procedural schedule may be amended by the City and that other orders may be extended. For example, once the REIT conversion is finalized, Cities may enter interim orders requiring a sharing of tax savings that benefit ratepayers.

Section 7 authorizes the hiring of legal counsel and authorizes the Executive Committee to hire consultants.

Section 8 confirms that Cities will seek reimbursement of their rate making expenses from Oncor.

Section 9 confirms that the resolution was passed in compliance with Open Meeting laws.

Board/Citizen Input: N/A

Attachments: Resolution

Financial Impact: N/A

Staff Contacts:

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RESOLUTION NO. _____

DIRECTING ONCOR ELECTRIC DELIVERY COMPANY, LLC TO FILE CERTAIN INFORMATION WITH THE CITY OF RICHLAND HILLS, TEXAS; SETTING A PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE FOR THE GATHERING AND REVIEW OF NECESSARY INFORMATION IN CONNECTION THEREWITH; SETTING DATES FOR THE FILING OF THE CITY'S ANALYSIS OF THE COMPANY'S FILING AND THE COMPANY'S REBUTTAL TO SUCH ANALYSIS; RATIFYING THE HIRING OF LEGAL COUNSEL AND CONSULTANTS; RESERVING THE RIGHT TO REQUIRE THE REIMBURSEMENT OF THE CITY OF RICHLAND HILLS RATE CASE EXPENSES; SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PURPOSES OF DETERMINING IF THE EXISTING RATES OF ONCOR ELECTRIC DELIVERY COMPANY ARE UNREASONABLE OR IN ANY WAY IN VIOLATION OF ANY PROVISION OF LAW AND THE DETERMINATION BY THE CITY OF RICHLAND HILLS OF JUST AND REASONABLE RATES TO BE CHARGED BY ONCOR ELECTRIC DELIVERY COMPANY, LLC.

WHEREAS, the City of Richland Hills is a regulatory authority under the Public Utility Regulatory Act ("PURA") and has original jurisdiction over the rates of Oncor Electric Delivery Company, LLC ("Oncor") to determine if such rates are just and reasonable; and

WHEREAS, Sections 33.021, 36.003 and 36.151 of PURA empower a regulatory authority, on its own motion or on a complaint by any affected person, to determine whether the existing rates of any public utility for any service are unreasonable or in any way in violation of any provision of law, and upon such determination, to determine the just and reasonable rates; and

WHEREAS, the City of Richland Hills has reason to believe that Oncor is over-earning and its rates are excessive; and

WHEREAS, the City of Richland Hills is a member of the Steering Committee of Cities Served By Oncor; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee of the Steering Committee of Cities Served by Oncor has recommended that cities pass a resolution that requires Oncor to show cause why its transmission and distribution rates should not be reduced; and

WHEREAS, the City of Richland Hills, and the City Council of the City of Richland Hills desires, on its own motion, to exercise its authority under Sections 33.021, 36.003 and 36.151 of PURA; and

WHEREAS, a procedural schedule should be established for the filing of certain information by Oncor, procedures to be followed to obtain and review information from Oncor, the filing of an analysis of such information by the City, the filing of rebuttal information from

Oncor, and a public hearing at which time the City shall make a determination whether the existing rates of Oncor are unreasonable or are in any way in violation of any provision of law, and if such rates should be revised, and just and reasonable rates determined for Oncor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF Richland Hills, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. This resolution constitutes notice of the City's intent to proceed with an inquiry into the transmission and distribution rates charged by Oncor. On or before September 1, 2016, Oncor shall file with the City of Richland Hills information that demonstrates good cause for showing that Oncor's transmission and distribution rates should not be reduced. Specifically, Oncor shall file with the City of Richland Hills information for the test year beginning January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2015, regarding Oncor's cost of service elements, including, but not limited to, the elements detailed by the Public Utility Commission as necessary for the filing of a Statement of Intent to Change Rates. The test year may be updated for more current data and shall be adjusted for known and measureable changes.

SECTION 2. City's designated representatives shall have the right to obtain additional information from Oncor through the filing of requests for information, which shall be responded to within fifteen (15) days from the receipt of such request for information.

SECTION 3. City's designated representatives shall file their analysis of Oncor's filing and information on or before October 13, 2016.

SECTION 4. Oncor shall file any rebuttal to the analysis of City's representatives on or before November 10, 2016. With its rebuttal, Oncor may present whatever additional information it desires to defend its current rates.

SECTION 5. A public hearing shall be conducted by the City Council for the City of Richland Hills during a regular council meeting scheduled between November 15 and December 15. At such hearing a representative of Oncor and a representative of the City of Richland Hills consultants will each be allowed to address the City Council and summarize previously filed reports for no more than 15 minutes. Based upon such hearing, a determination of the reasonableness of the existing rates of Oncor shall be made by the City Council and, if necessary, just and reasonable rates shall be determined to be thereafter observed and enforced for all services of Oncor within the City of Richland Hills, Texas.

SECTION 6. The City Council may, from time to time, amend this procedural schedule and enter additional orders as may be necessary in the public interest and to enforce the provisions hereof.

SECTION 7. Subject to the right to terminate employment at any time, the City of Richland Hills hereby ratifies the Steering Committee's selection of Geoffrey Gay with the law firm of Lloyd, Gosselink, Rochelle & Townsend as legal counsel to assist the City of Richland Hills in its ratemaking and to prosecute any appeals to the Texas Public Utility Commission or

court. The Executive Committee of the Steering Committee of Cities Served by Oncor shall retain appropriate consultants to prepare a report and make rate recommendations.

SECTION 8. Fees and expenses of attorneys and consultants assisting the City in the Steering Committee’s review of the reasonableness of Oncor’s rates will be processed through the Steering Committee but the City reserves the right to seek reimbursement from Oncor pursuant to the PURA Section 33.023.

SECTION 9. That it is hereby officially found and determined that the meeting at which this resolution was passed was open to the public as required by law, and that public notice of the time, place, and purpose of said meeting was given all as required by Section 551.041, Texas Government Code.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

The above and foregoing resolution was passed and approved on this the ____ day of _____, 2016, by the following vote:

- Ayes:
- Nays:
- Abstentions:

At regular meeting _____, 2016.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

City Secretary

APPROVED:

City Attorney