

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: July 5th, 2016
Subject: Continued membership in the Atmos Cities Steering Committee.

Council Action Requested:

Approval of Resolution authorizing continued membership in the Atmos Cities Steering Committee.

Background Information:

Most municipalities have retained original jurisdiction over gas utility rates and services within municipal limits. The Atmos Cities Steering Committee (“ACSC”) is composed of municipalities in the service area of Atmos Energy Corporation, Mid-Tex Division regardless of whether original jurisdiction has been retained. Atmos is a monopoly provider of natural gas. Because Atmos has no competitors, regulation of the rates that it charges its customers is the only way that cities can ensure that natural gas rates are fair. Working as a coalition to review the rates charged by Atmos allows cities to accomplish more collectively than each city could do acting alone. Cities have more than 100 years experience in regulating natural gas rates in Texas.

ACSC is the largest coalition of cities served by Atmos Mid-Tex. There are 168 ACSC member cities, which represent more than 60 percent of the total load served by Atmos-Mid Tex. ACSC protects the authority of municipalities over the monopoly natural gas provider and defends the interests of residential and small commercial customers within the cities. Although many of the activities undertaken by ACSC are connected to rate cases (and therefore expenses are reimbursed by the utility), ACSC also undertakes

additional activities on behalf of municipalities for which it needs funding support from its members.

The ACSC Membership Assessment Supports Important Activities:

ACSC is actively involved in rate cases, appeals, rulemakings, and legislative efforts impacting the rates charged by Atmos within the City. These activities will continue throughout the calendar year. It is possible that additional efforts will be necessary on new issues that arise during the year, and it is important that ACSC be able to fund its participation on behalf of its member cities. A per capita assessment has historically been used, and is a fair method for the members to bear the burdens associated with the benefits received from that membership.

Board/Citizen Input: N/A

Financial Impact: \$208.75

Staff Contacts

Eric Strong
City Manager
estrong@richlandhills.com

Attachments: Resolution
List of ACSC Cities

ACSC Cities (168 Total)

Abilene	Fairview	Oak Leaf
Addison	Farmers Branch	Ovilla
Allen	Farmersville	Palestine
Alvarado	Fate	Pantego
Angus	Flower Mound	Paris
Anna	Forest Hill	Parker
Argyle	Fort Worth	Pecan Hill
Arlington	Frisco	Petrolia
Aubrey	Frost	Plano
Azle	Gainesville	Ponder
Bedford	Garland	Pottsboro
Bellmead	Garrett	Prosper
Benbrook	Grand Prairie	Quitman
Beverly Hills	Grapevine	Red Oak
Blossom	Groesbeck	Reno (Parker County)
Blue Ridge	Haltom City	Rhome
Bowie	Harker Heights	Richardson
Boyd	Haskell	Richland
Bridgeport	Haslet	Richland Hills
Brownwood	Hewitt	River Oaks
Buffalo	Highland Park	Roanoke
Burkburnett	Highland Village	Robinson
Burleson	Honey Grove	Rockwall
Caddo Mills	Hurst	Roscoe
Canton	Hutto	Rowlett
Carrollton	Iowa Park	Royse City
Cedar Hill	Irving	Sachse
Celeste	Justin	Saginaw
Celina	Kaufman	Sansom Park
Centerville	Keene	Seagoville
Cisco	Keller	Sherman
Clarksville	Kemp	Snyder
Cleburne	Kennedale	Southlake
Clyde	Kerens	Springtown
College Station	Kerrville	Stamford
Colleyville	Killeen	Stephenville
Colorado City	Krum	Sulphur Springs
Comanche	Lakeside	Sweetwater
Commerce	Lake Worth	Temple
Coolidge	Lancaster	Terrell
Coppell	Lewisville	The Colony
Copperas Cove	Lincoln Park	Trophy Club
Corinth	Little Elm	Tyler
Corral City	Lorena	University Park
Crandall	Madisonville	Venus
Crowley	Malakoff	Vernon
Dalworthington Gardens	Mansfield	Waco
Denison	McKinney	Watauga
DeSoto	Melissa	Waxahachie
Duncanville	Mesquite	Westlake
Eastland	Midlothian	Westover Hills
Edgecliff Village	Murphy	Whitesboro
Emory	Newark	White Settlement
Ennis	Nocona	Wichita Falls
Eules	North Richland Hills	Woodway
Everman	Northlake	Wylie

RESOLUTION NO. 468-16

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTINUED PARTICIPATION WITH THE ATMOS CITIES STEERING COMMITTEE; AND AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF TWO AND ONE-HALF CENTS PER CAPITA TO THE ATMOS CITIES STEERING COMMITTEE TO FUND REGULATORY AND RELATED ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION

WHEREAS, the City of Richland Hills, Texas is a regulatory authority under the Gas Utility Regulatory Act (GURA) and has exclusive original jurisdiction over the rates and services of Atmos Energy Corporation, Mid-Tex Division (Atmos) within the municipal boundaries of the city; and

WHEREAS, the Atmos Cities Steering Committee (ACSC) has historically intervened in Atmos rate proceedings and gas utility related rulemakings to protect the interests of municipalities and gas customers residing within municipal boundaries; and

WHEREAS, ACSC is participating in Railroad Commission dockets and projects, as well as court proceedings and legislative activities, affecting gas utility rates; and

WHEREAS, the City is a member of ACSC; and

WHEREAS, in order for ACSC to continue its participation in these activities which affects the provision of gas utility service and the rates to be charged, it must assess its members for such costs,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHLAND HILLS, TEXAS:

I.

That the City is authorized to continue its membership with the Atmos Cities Steering Committee to protect the interests of the City of Richland Hills and protect the interests of the customers of Atmos Energy Corporation, Mid-Tex Division residing and conducting business within the City limits.

II.

The City is further authorized to pay its 2016 assessment to the ACSC in the amount of two and one-half cents (\$0.025) per capita.

III.

A copy of this Resolution and approved assessment fee payable to “*Atmos Cities Steering Committee*” shall be sent to:

David Barber
Atmos Cities Steering Committee
c/o Arlington City Attorney’s Office, Mail Stop 63-0300
101 S. Mesquite St., Suite 300
Arlington, Texas 76010

PRESENTED AND PASSED on this the 5th day of July , 2016, by a vote of _____ ayes
and _____ nays at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Richland Hills,
Texas.

ATTEST:

Signature
Mayor

Signature
City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
City Attorney

BY _____