

RESOLUTION NO. R-2023-52

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BASTROP, TEXAS RESPONDING TO THE APPLICATION OF CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP., D/B/A CENTERPOINT ENERGY ENTEX AND CENTERPOINT ENERGY TEXAS GAS – SOUTH TEXAS DIVISION (CENTERPOINT), TO INCREASE RATES UNDER THE GAS RELIABILITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM; SUSPENDING THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS RATE APPLICATION FOR FORTY-FIVE DAYS; AUTHORIZING THE CITY’S PARTICIPATION IN A COALITION OF CITIES KNOWN AS THE "ALLIANCE OF CENTERPOINT MUNICIPALITIES (ACM); REQUIRING THE REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS; DETERMINING THAT THE MEETING AT WHICH THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED COMPLIED WITH THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT; MAKING SUCH OTHER FINDINGS AND PROVISIONS RELATED TO THE SUBJECT; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, on or about March 2, 2023, CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., d/b/a CenterPoint Energy Entex and CenterPoint Energy Texas Gas – South Texas Division (CenterPoint or Company) filed for an increase in gas utility rates under the Gas Reliability Infrastructure Program ("GRIP"), resulting in a requested increase in the monthly customer charges as shown in the table below:

Rate Schedule	Current Customer Charge	Proposed 2023 Interim Rate Adjustment	Adjusted Charge	Increase Per Bill
R-2097-I-GRIP 2023; R-2097-U-GRIP 2023 Residential	\$27.03 per customer per month	\$3.72 per customer per month	\$30.75 per customer per month	\$3.72 per customer per month
GSS-2097-I-GRIP 2023; GSS-2097-U-GRIP 2023 General Service Small	\$41.42 per customer per month	\$7.51 per customer per month	\$48.93 per customer per month	\$7.51 per customer per month
GSLV-628-I-GRIP 2023; GSLV-628-U-GRIP 2023 General Service Large Volume	\$210.33 per customer per month	\$59.85 per customer per month	\$270.18 per customer per month	\$59.85 per customer per month

and

WHEREAS, the City has a special responsibility to exercise due diligence with regard to rate increases of monopoly utilities who operate within its boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the application to increase rates by CenterPoint is complex; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to suspend the effective date for the increase in rates for forty-five days, so that the City can assure itself that the data and calculations in CenterPoint’s rate application are correctly done, and whether CenterPoint’s application otherwise conforms to the requirements of Texas Utilities Code § 104.301, commonly referred to as the GRIP statute; and

WHEREAS: the effective date proposed by CenterPoint is May 1, 2023, but a suspension by the City will mean that the rate increase cannot go into effect prior to June 15, 2023.

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

Section 1. That the statements and findings set out in the preamble to this resolution are hereby in all things approved and adopted.

Section 2. The City suspends the requested effective date by CenterPoint for forty-five days pursuant to the authority granted the City under Section 104.301 of the Texas Utilities Code. The City finds that additional time is needed in order to review the data and calculations that provide the basis for the rate increase application, and to determine whether CenterPoint's application otherwise conforms to the requirements of the GRIP statute.

Section 3. The City shall continue to act jointly with other cities that are part of a coalition of cities known as the Alliance of CenterPoint Municipalities (ACM).

Section 4. The City authorizes the law firm of Herrera Law & Associates, PLLC, to act on its behalf in connection with CenterPoint's application to increase rates.

Section 5. CenterPoint is ordered to reimburse the City's reasonable rate case expenses incurred in response to CenterPoint's rate increase application within 30 days of receipt of invoices for such expenses to the extent allowed by law.

Section 6. The meeting at which this resolution was approved was in all things conducted in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551.

Section 7. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage.


DULY RESOLVED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Bastrop this 28th day of March, 2023.

APPROVED:




Connie B. Schroeder, Mayor

ATTEST:



Ann Franklin, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Alan Bojorquez, City Attorney