



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Kent Collins, P.E., Deputy City Manager

Date: September 9, 2025

Reference: Consider approval of a resolution of the city council of the city of Coppell, Texas, approving a negotiated settlement between the Atmos Cities Steering Committee (“ACSC”) and Atmos Energy Corp., Mid-Tex Division regarding the Company’s 2025 rate review mechanism filing; declaring existing rates to be unreasonable; adopting tariffs that reflect rate adjustments consistent with the negotiated settlement; finding the rates to be set by the attached tariffs to be just and reasonable and in the public interest; approving an attachment establishing a benchmark for pensions and retiree medical benefits; requiring the Company to reimburse ACSC’s reasonable ratemaking expenses; determining that this resolution was passed in accordance with the requirements of the Texas open meetings act; declaring an effective date; and authorizing the Mayor to sign.

2040: Sustainable City Government

Introduction:

The proposed resolution declares that existing rates are unreasonable, which is necessary to adopt new tariffs, and approves a negotiated settlement between ACSC cities and Atmos Energy Corporation to adopt tariffs that reflect rate adjustments consistent with the settlement. The effective date for new rates is October 1, 2023. The attachments include the tariff summary, average bill comparisons, and

Background:

The City, along with 181 other Mid-Texas cities served by Atmos Energy Corporation, Mid-Tex Division (“Atmos Mid-Tex” or “Company”), is a member of the Atmos Cities Steering Committee (“ACSC”). In 2007, ACSC and Atmos Mid-Tex settled a rate application filed by the Company pursuant to Section 104.301 of the Texas Utilities Code for an interim rate adjustment commonly referred to as a GRIP filing (arising out of the Gas Reliability Infrastructure Program legislation). That settlement created a substitute rate review process, referred to as Rate Review Mechanism (“RRM”), as a substitute for future filings under the GRIP statute.

Since 2007, there have been several modifications to the original RRM Tariff. The most recent iteration of an RRM Tariff was reflected in an ordinance adopted by ACSC members in 2018. On or about April 1, 2025, the Company filed a rate request pursuant to the RRM Tariff adopted by ACSC members. The Company claimed that its cost-of-service in a test year ending December 31, 2024, entitled it to additional system-wide revenues of \$245.2 million.

Application of the standards set forth in ACSC's RRM Tariff reduces the Company's request to \$225.6 million, \$163.5 million of which would be applicable to ACSC members. After reviewing the filing and conducting discovery, ACSC's consultants concluded that the system-wide deficiency under the RRM regime should be \$185.6 million instead of the claimed \$245.2 million.

After several settlement meetings, the parties have agreed to settle the case for \$205.6 million. This is a reduction of \$20 million to the Company's initial request. This includes payment of ACSC's expenses. The Effective Date for new rates is October 1, 2025. ACSC members should take action approving the Resolution/Ordinance before October 1, 2025.

Atmos generated rate tariffs attached to the Resolution/Ordinance that will generate \$205.6 million in additional revenues. Atmos also prepared a Proof of Revenues supporting the settlement figures. ACSC consultants have agreed that Atmos' Proof of Revenues is accurate.

The impact of the settlement on average residential rates is an increase of \$7.83 on a monthly basis, or 9.27%. The increase for average commercial usage will be \$25.73 or 6.56%. Atmos provided bill impact comparisons containing these figures.

ACSC strongly opposed the GRIP process because it constitutes piecemeal ratemaking by ignoring declining expenses and increasing revenues while rewarding the Company for increasing capital investment on an annual basis. The GRIP process does not allow any review of the reasonableness of capital investment and does not allow cities to participate in the Railroad Commission's review of annual GRIP filings or allow recovery of Cities' rate case expenses. The Railroad Commission undertakes a mere administrative review of GRIP filings (instead of a full hearing) and rate increases go into effect without any material adjustments. In ACSC's view, the GRIP process unfairly raises customers' rates without any regulatory oversight. In contrast, the RRM process has allowed for a more comprehensive rate review and annual evaluation of expenses and revenues, as well as capital investment.

RRM SAVINGS OVER GRIP

While residents outside municipal limits must pay rates governed by GRIP, there are some cities served by Atmos Mid-Tex that chose to remain under GRIP rather than adopt RRM. Additionally, the City of Dallas adopted a variation of RRM which is referred to as DARR. When new rates become effective on October 1, 2025, ACSC residents will maintain an economic monthly advantage over GRIP and DARR rates.

Comparison to Other Mid-Tex Rates (Residential)

Average Bill Compared to RRM Cities

RRM Cities:	\$54.68	-
DARR:	\$58.57	\$3.89
ATM Cities:	\$57.39	\$2.71
Environs:	\$55.96	\$1.28

Benefit to Community:

The proposed resolution will approve Atmos Rate Tariff that reflects negotiated rates that are less than originally requested by Atmos Mid-Tex and are considered to be fair and reasonable.

Legal Review:

The City Attorney has reviewed this item.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of the resolution.