



AGENDA MEMO
8/1/2017 Agenda

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Dale Harwell, Director of Information Services

SUBJECT: Consider Resolution to Deny Proposed Oncor Rate Increase

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Resolution is to deny the rate application and consolidation proposed by Oncor.

DISCUSSION

The City, along with 158 other cities served by Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (“Oncor” or “Company”) is a member of the Steering Committee of Cities Served by Oncor (“Steering Committee”). The Steering Committee has been in existence since the late 1980s. It took on a formal structure in the early 1990s when cities served by the former TXU gave up their statutory right to rate case expense reimbursement in exchange for higher franchise fee payments. Empowered by city resolutions and funded by *per capita* assessments, the Steering Committee has been the primary public interest advocate before the Public Utility Commission, the Courts, and the Legislature on electric utility regulation matters for the last 30 years.

On March 17, 2017, Oncor filed an application to change rates with cities retaining original jurisdiction. In the filing, the Company seeks to increase system-wide transmission and distribution rates by \$317 million or approximately 7.5% over present revenues. The Company asks the City to approve an 11.8% increase in residential rates and a 0.5% increase in street lighting rates. If approved, a residential customer using 1000 kWh per month would see a bill increase of about \$6.68 per month.

In March, the Steering Committee engaged the services of three consultants, Mr. Lane Kollen, Mr. Richard Baudino, and Mr. Karl Nalepa, to review the Company’s filing. The consultants identified numerous unreasonable expenses and propose significant reductions to the Company’s request. Accordingly, the Steering Committee’s attorneys recommend that all members adopt the Resolution denying the rate change. Once the Resolution is adopted, Oncor will have 30 days to appeal the decision to the Public Utility Commission of Texas where the appeal will be consolidated with Oncor’s filing (i.e. PUC Docket No. 46957) currently pending at the Commission.

Under the law, cities with original jurisdiction over this matter have 125 days from the initial filing to take final action on the application. By the agreement of the parties, this deadline was suspended until August 19, 2017. As such, all cities with original jurisdiction will need to adopt the resolution no later than August 19.

EXPLANATION OF "BE IT RESOLVED" PARAGRAPHS:

Section 1. This paragraph finds that the Company's application is unreasonable and should be denied.

Section 2. This section states that the Company's current rates shall not be changed.

Section 3. The Company will reimburse the cities for their reasonable rate case expenses. Legal counsel and consultants approved by the Cities will submit monthly invoices that will be forwarded to Oncor for reimbursement.

Section 4. 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 5. This section provides Oncor and counsel for the cities will be notified of the City's action by sending a copy of the approved and signed resolution to counsel.