

RESOLUTION NO. 20210225-

WHEREAS, on February 12, 2021, Governor Greg Abbott issued a Declaration of State of Disaster for all 254 counties in Texas due to severe winter weather posing an imminent threat of widespread and severe property damage, injury, and loss of life due to prolonged freezing temperatures, heavy snow and freezing rain statewide; and

WHEREAS, in the early hours of February 15, 2021, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas issued a Level 3 Energy Emergency Alert (“EEA3”) requiring electric utilities across the state, including Austin Energy, to implement mandatory controlled outages of prolonged duration;

WHEREAS, on February 14 and 19, 2021, Mayor Steve Adler, acting in accordance with authority granted to him under the Charter and under Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code, declared a local state of disaster for the City due to concerns related imminent threat of widespread and severe property damage, injury, and loss of life due to prolonged freezing temperatures, heavy snow and freezing rain; and

WHEREAS, the EEA3, extreme cold, and ice and snow accumulation severely impacted the provision of City utility services, causing widespread and extended power outages, ruptured plumbing, and interrupted or reduced water service suffered by numerous residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, resulting water leaks and the need to drip faucets will cause many utility customers to incur excessive current water bills as well as inflated wastewater rates for the coming year due to the fact that the weather event occurred in the time period during which bill averaging is performed to calculate future wastewater rates; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager has begun to evaluate the effects of the recent weather event on residents' well-being and customer utility bills, and has committed to report back to Council as soon as possible with recommended actions to mitigate any resulting adverse impacts, including to utility bills.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to report back his recommended actions and bring any necessary ordinance back to the Council no later than its March 25, 2021, regular meeting.

ADOPTED: _____, 2021 **ATTEST:** _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk