

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
0
1
2
3

2
3

4
5
6

7
8

9
0
1

2
3
4
5

6
7
8

9
0
1

23

return to assist the utility “in the effort to make electricity reliable, safe, affordable, and responsible to a sustainable environment”; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Science Education Foundation (ASEF) was established in 2013 to support the AE Science Festival; and

WHEREAS, ASEF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that promotes student’s knowledge of and involvement in science, technology, engineering, and math by enabling participation in the AE Science Festival and supporting students selected to advance to the Texas Science and Engineering Fair and the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair; and

WHEREAS, ASEF assists with overall management of the AE Science Festival, annually raising approximately \$170,000 and recruiting more than 600 judges and 200 volunteers each year; and

WHEREAS, Austin Energy has been the “title sponsor,” of the AE Science Festival since 2005, providing up to \$80,000 annually in financial support, in-kind staff support totaling approximately \$150,000 annually, and assistance with event logistics and publicity; and

WHEREAS, Austin Energy highlights its role as title sponsor as “one way we stay customer driven and community focused”; and

WHEREAS, Austin Energy has announced its intention to relinquish the position of “title sponsor” as of August 21, 2023; and

WHEREAS, if this possibility comes to pass, the ASEF would need to find a replacement title sponsor, a process that likely will take longer than one year; and

46 **WHEREAS**, this situation could make it challenging for the AE Science
47 Festival to continue; and

48 **WHEREAS**, the inability to hold a regional science festival would be a
49 significant loss to our community: to the thousands of students who benefit from
50 participating, to the scientific fields that may not then attract some of these brilliant
51 young minds, and to the scientific workplaces that depend on an ongoing stream of
52 educated professionals; and

53 **WHEREAS**, the City of Austin and Austin Energy should evaluate its
54 continued support of this event; and

55 **WHEREAS**, co-sponsoring the AE Science festival would serve a
56 municipal purpose by helping to foster and promote a community and workforce in
57 the City that is prepared to participate in scientific, technical, engineering, and
58 math workplaces and can keep and attract employers in and to the City; and

59 **WHEREAS**, the City is dedicated to promoting equity and the AE Science
60 Festival helps provide an equitable opportunity for people throughout the City to
61 engage in the science, technology, engineering and math communities; **NOW,**
62 **THEREFORE,**

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

64 The Council declares the AE Science Festival, including as subsequently
65 renamed if applicable, to be a City co-sponsored event, starting fiscal year 2023-
66 2024.

68 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

69 The City Manager is directed to include the AE Science Festival, or the
70 appropriate name if the Festival is renamed, in the list of City co-sponsored events
71 for which fees are waived annually as part of the fees, fines, and other charges to
72 be set or charged by the City in the ordinance adopted with the budget starting with
73 the fiscal year 2023-2024 budget and continuing thereafter.

74 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

75 The City Manager is directed to engage the Austin Energy Utility Oversight
76 Committee in a review of all Austin Energy sponsorships and to consider the
77 merits of Austin Energy continuing to sponsor the AE Science Festival, including
78 as subsequently renamed if applicable, beyond 2023 as part of its mission to be
79 “Customer Driven. Community Focused.”

80 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

81 The City Manager is directed to engage with area school districts,
82 municipalities, and counties to encourage them to share in the financial costs
83 associated with the regional science festival.

84
85
86 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2022 **ATTEST:** _____

87 Myrna Rios
88 City Clerk
89