

Legal Notice



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ORDINANCE NO. 2019

AN ORDINANCE, granting to Kansas Gas Service, a Division of ONE Gas, Inc., and its successors and assigns, a natural gas franchise, prescribing the terms thereof and relating thereto, providing definitions of terms, prescribing a franchise fee, providing terms and conditions for the use of public rights-of-way, requiring advance notice of work and duty to repair, providing for indemnification and a hold harmless agreement, providing for rules and regulations, prescribing insurance requirements, reserving certain rights, providing for revocation and termination, providing for an acceptance of the terms of the franchise, providing for a reopener, providing for notice of annexations, prescribing relevant governing law, providing for transfer and assignment of the franchise, providing for points of contact and notifications, providing for an agreement to renegotiate, and repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with or in conflict with the terms hereof.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF RUSSELL, KANSAS: **SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS.**

For purposes of this Franchise Ordinance the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given herein. When not inconsistent within the context, words used in the present tense include the future tense and words in the single number include the plural number. The word "shall" is always mandatory, and not merely directory.

"City" shall mean the City of Russell Kansas, and, where appropriate by the context, each of its departments, divisions and component units, including public trusts or authorities of which the City is a beneficiary.

"Company" shall mean Kansas Gas Service, a division of ONE Gas, Inc.

"Consumer" shall mean any Entity located within the municipal corporate limits of the City and serviced by the Company through any use of the Public Ways.

"Distribution" or "Distributed" shall mean all sales, distribution, or transportation of natural gas to any Sales Consumer or Transportation Consumer for use within the City by the Company or by others through the Distribution Facilities of Company in a Public Way.

"Distribution System" or "Distribution Facilities" shall mean a pipeline or system of pipelines, including without limitation, mains, pipes, boxes, reducing and regulating stations, laterals, conduits and services extensions, together with all necessary appurtenances thereto, or any part thereof located within any Public Way, for the purpose of Distribution or supplying natural gas for light, heat, power and all other purposes.

"Effective Date" shall mean the date the Company files its written acceptance with the City following the final passage and approval of this Franchise Ordinance by the City, as set forth in Section 10 of this Franchise Ordinance.

"Entity" shall mean any individual person, governmental entity, business, corporation, partnership, firm, limited liability corporation, limited liability partnership, unincorporated association, joint venture, trust, and any form of business enterprise not specifically listed herein.

"Facility" or "Facilities" refers to the Company's Distribution System or Distribution Facilities.

"Franchise" shall mean the grant of authority, set forth in Section 2 of this Franchise Ordinance, by the City to the Company for the Distribution of natural gas to the inhabitants of the City and to operate a Distribution System or Distribution Facilities.

"Franchise Fee" shall refer to the charges as prescribed in Section 3 of this Franchise Ordinance.

"Franchise Ordinance" shall mean this Ordinance granting a natural gas Franchise to the Company.

"Gross Receipts" shall mean any and all compensation and other consideration derived directly by the Company from any Distribution of natural gas to Consumers within the City. Such term shall not include revenue from certain miscellaneous charges and accounts, including but not limited to: connection fees, disconnection and reconnection fees, temporary service charges, delayed or late payment charges, collection fees, bad debts, customer project contributions, meter test fees, revenues received by Company from Consumers as Franchise Fee reimbursement, and returned check charges. Additionally, Gross Receipts shall not include credit extended pursuant to the Cold Weather Rule

(or substitute rule) of the Kansas Corporation Commission for natural gas sold within the corporate limits of the City, nor Volumetric Rate Fees collected by Company and remitted to City in accordance with Section 3 of this Franchise Ordinance.

"MCF" shall mean a measurement of natural gas equal to one thousand cubic feet. It is assumed for purposes of this Franchise Ordinance that one MCF equals one million British Thermal Units.

"Public Improvements" means any public facilities, buildings, or capital improvements, including, without limitation, streets, alleys, sidewalks, sewer, water, drainage, right-of-way improvements, and other Public Projects.

"Public Project" means any project planned or undertaken and financed by the City or any governmental entity for construction, reconstruction, maintenance, or repair of public facilities or improvements, or any other purpose of a public nature paid for with public funds.

"Public Way" or "Public Ways" shall mean the area on, below or above the present and future public streets, avenues, alleys, bridges, boulevards, roads, highways, parks, parking places, and other public areas, and general utility easements, dedicated to or acquired by the City. The term does not include easements obtained by private entities providing utilities services or private easements in platted subdivisions or tracts. "Sales Consumer" shall mean, without limitation, any Entity that purchases natural gas within the corporate City limits from Company for delivery to such Consumer within the City through the Company's Distribution System or Distribution Facilities.

"Settlement Prices" shall mean the settlement prices for natural gas futures contracts traded on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) on the fifteenth day of each month as published in nationally recognized publications such as the CME Group (CME) or S&P Global Platts (Platts) on the following business day (or the next day in which a Settlement Price is published).

"Transport Gas" shall mean all-natural gas transported by Company pursuant to a Kansas Corporation Commission approved transportation tariff, arrangement, or by other agreement, but not sold by the Company, through Company's Distribution Facilities to any Transportation Consumer.

"Transportation Consumer" shall mean without limitation, any Entity that transports Transport Gas pursuant to a Kansas Corporation Commission approved transportation tariff, arrangement, or by other agreement, within the City's municipal corporate limits through Company's Distribution Facilities for consumption within the City's corporate limits.

"Volumetric Rate" is the rate applicable to each Mcf of Transport Gas distributed to Transportation Consumers. The Volumetric Rate shall be based on a twelve-month average of Settlement Prices as calculated from July through June. Initially, the Settlement Price shall mean \$0.2345 per MCF for Transport Gas distributed to Transportation Consumers within the City as represented in "Attachment A," which is incorporated herein and attached hereto. There shall be an annual recalculation of the Volumetric Rate which shall be effective each January 1. The recalculation shall be based on Settlement Prices for the previous twelve-month period. The average Settlement Prices for each of the twelve months shall be summed and divided by twelve and multiplied by five percent (5%) to obtain the Volumetric Rate to be effective January 1 of the next succeeding year. The Company shall calculate the Volumetric Rates in accordance with the procedures set out herein and then filed with the City Clerk by July 31 of each year for those rates to be effective on January 1 of the following year.

SECTION 2. GRANT OF NON-EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE.

A. In consideration of the benefits to be derived by the City and its inhabitants, there is hereby granted to the Company (said Company operating a Distribution System in the State of Kansas), a non-exclusive Franchise for a period of twenty (20) years from the Effective Date, to construct, maintain, extend and operate its Distribution Facilities along, across, upon or under any Public Way; for the purpose of selling and distributing natural gas for all purposes to the City, and its inhabitants, and through said City and beyond the limits thereof; to obtain said natural gas, and/or comparable blends of combustible gasses, from any source available; and to do all things necessary or proper to carry on said business.

B. The grant of this Franchise by the City shall not convey title, equitable or legal, in a Public Way and shall give only the right to occupy the Public Way for the purposes and for the period stated in this Franchise Ordinance. This Franchise Ordinance does not:

- (1) Grant the right to use facilities or any other property, natural gas-related or otherwise, owned or controlled by the City or a third party without the consent of such party;
- (2) Grant the authority to construct, maintain or operate any Facility or related appurtenance on property owned by the City outside of a Public Way;
- (3) Excuse the Company from obtaining appropriate access or attachment agreements before locating its Facilities on property owned or controlled by the City (other than a Public Way) or a third party; or
- (4) Unless explicitly set forth herein, excuse the Company from obtaining and being responsible for any necessary permit, license, certification, grant, registration, or any other authorization required by any appropriate governmental entity, including, but not limited to, the City or the Kansas Corporation Commission.

SECTION 3. FRANCHISE FEE.

A. As further consideration for the granting of this Franchise, and in lieu of city occupation, license or permit fees, or revenue taxes, except as expressly provided herein, the Company shall pay to the City during the term of this Franchise, a Franchise Fee of: (i) five percent (5%) of the actual Gross Cash Receipts collected by the Company from the Distribution of natural gas to all Sales Consumers within the corporate limits of the City; and (ii) a sum equal to the Volumetric Rate multiplied by the number of MCF of Transport Gas for the distribution of Transport Gas for Transportation Consumers, all such payments to be made monthly for the preceding monthly period.

B. The Company's obligation for payments of the Franchise Fee shall commence with the first cycle of the monthly billing cycle following the Effective Date of this Franchise Ordinance. Prior to that date, payments shall continue to be calculated and be paid in the manner previously provided in Ordinance No. 1814, and amendments thereto.

C. In the event a Consumer of Company does not pay a monthly bill from Company in full, Company shall prorate its payments of remissions to the City for sums due on that particular bill so that the amount actually paid by the Consumer to Company on the bill is distributed to Company and to the City for sums due on the bill in proportion to the percentage of the total bill actually paid by the Consumer. In the event Company actually collects any outstanding amounts due on a past due, unpaid, or partially paid monthly customer bill, the Company shall pay City its proportionate share of sums due to the City on such bill.

D. Upon written request by the City (but no more than once per quarter), the Company shall submit to the City a certified statement showing the manner in which the Franchise Fee was calculated. The City shall have the right to examine within the corporate limits of the City and during regular business hours, upon reasonable advance written notice to the Company, all books, papers and records kept by the Company in the ordinary course of business and pertaining to its business carried on by it in or through the City, necessary to verify the correctness of the Franchise Fee paid by Company.

E. No acceptance by the City of any Franchise Fee shall be construed as an accord that the amount paid is in fact the correct amount, nor shall acceptance of any Franchise Fee payment be construed as a release of any claim of the City. Any dispute concerning the amount due under this Section shall be resolved in the manner set forth in K.S.A. 12-2001, and amendments thereto.

F. The Franchise Fee required herein shall be in lieu of all taxes, charges, assessments, licenses, fees and impositions otherwise applicable that are or may be imposed by the City under K.S.A. 12-2001, K.S.A. 17-1902, and amendments thereto. From and after the date hereof, the permit fees required of the Company by any ordinance (presently in effect or hereafter adopted) for a permit to excavate in, or adjacent to, any Public Way shall be deemed a part of the compensation paid pursuant to this Franchise Ordinance and shall not be separately assessed or collected by the City; in no event, however, shall this provision be interpreted to waive the requirement of notice to the

City and the procedural requirements of such ordinance. The Franchise Fee is compensation for use of the Public Way.

G. Notwithstanding the terms set forth above, in the event any Sales Consumer or Transportation Consumer makes payment to Grantee for those fees set forth in this Section 3 and said payments in turn are paid to the City by Grantee and such payments associated with this Section 3 by any such Sales Consumers or Transportation Consumer total \$60,000 in any calendar year, then for the remainder of that calendar year, no additional fees shall be charged to such Sales or Transportation Consumer pursuant to this Section 3 and Grantee shall have no obligation to remit any further payments to the City under this Franchise Ordinance as to the volumes of gas distributed to such Sales Consumer or Transportation Consumer. The calculation of the annual \$60,000 limit shall begin with those bills rendered by Grantee to Sales Consumers or Transportation Consumers beginning with the first cycle of Grantee's January monthly billing cycle and ending with the last billing cycle of Grantee's December billing cycle, which may carry over into early January of the next calendar year.

SECTION 4. USE OF PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY.

A. Except as provided herein or as regulated by state or federal law, the use of any Public Way under this Franchise by the Company shall be subject to all laws, statutes, regulations and/or city policies (including, but not limited to those relating to the construction and use of the Public Way or other public property) now or hereafter adopted or promulgated. Unless specifically provided herein, the Company shall be subject to all rules, regulations and policies now or hereafter adopted or promulgated by the City relating to permits, sidewalk and pavement cuts, utility location, construction coordination, and other requirements on the use of a Public Way; provided however, that nothing contained herein shall constitute a waiver of or be construed as waiving the right of the Company to oppose, challenge, or seek judicial review of, in such manner as is now or may hereafter be provided by law, any such rules, regulation, or policy proposed, adopted, or promulgated by the City and, further provided other than the items enumerated in this Section 4 herein, that such rules, regulations or policies shall not require the payment of additional fees or additional costs for the use of a Public Way.

B. All mains, services, and pipe which shall be laid or installed under this Franchise shall be so located and laid as not to obstruct or interfere with any water pipes, drains, sewers, or other structures already installed. The Company shall provide, prior to commencing work, information to the City concerning work to be performed in the streets, avenues, bridges, parking areas, and public places of the City, as the City may from time to time require for purposes of record keeping. The City may require that the information be provided on its standard permit form, but without requiring approval, consent, or fees. In the event of an emergency, the Company shall have the right to commence work without having first provided such information or form(s).

C. The Company's use of any Public Way shall always be subject and subordinate to the City's use of the Public Way for any public purpose. The City may exercise its home rule powers in its administration and regulation related to the management of the Public Way; provided that any such exercise must be competitively neutral and may not be unreasonable or discriminatory, nor in conflict with state or federal law.

D. The City reserves the right to lay or permit to be laid cables, electric conduits, water, sewer, gas or other pipelines, and to do or permit to be done any underground work deemed necessary and proper by the City, along, across, over, or under any Public Way. In permitting such work to be done, the City shall not be liable to the Company for any damage to the Company's Facilities unless the City or its agents or contractors are negligent in causing said damage.

E. Whenever by reason of establishing a grade or changing in the grade of any street, or the location or manner of construction of any Public Way, the City deems it necessary to alter, change, adapt, or conform any portion of the Company's Facilities located in the Public Way, the City shall provide reasonable notice and such alterations or changes shall be made within a reasonable time by the Company, as requested in writing by the City, without claim for reimbursement or

compensation for damages against the City; provided, however, that this provision is not intended to require the Company to alter, change, adapt, or conform any portion of its Facilities without reimbursement or compensation where the right to locate the same, whether by private right-of-way grant, utility easement, or otherwise, was acquired prior to the designation of the location as a Public Way.

F. If the City shall require the Company to adapt or conform its Facilities or in any way to alter, relocate, or change its property to enable any other person, firm, corporation, or Entity (whether public or private), other than the City, to use the Public Way, the Company shall be reimbursed by the person, firm, corporation, or Entity desiring or occasioning such change for any and all loss, cost, or expense occasioned thereby. "Person," "Firm," "Corporation," and "Entity" as used in this paragraph shall not include regular departments of the City, or any trust or authority formed by or for the benefit of the City for public utility purposes, but shall include any other agency or authority of the City, whether acting in a governmental or non-governmental capacity, including, but not limited to, any urban renewal authority, or any other agency or authority, which as a part of its program clears whole tracts of land within the municipal corporate limits and relocates citizens for the purpose of urban development or similar aims.

G. The Company and the City shall participate in the Kansas One-Call utility location program. The Company shall cooperate promptly and fully with the City and take all reasonable measures necessary to provide accurate and complete information regarding the location of its Facilities located within a Public Way when requested by the City. Such location and identification shall be promptly communicated in writing to the City without cost to the City, its employees, agents or authorized contractors. The Company shall designate and maintain an agent familiar with the Facilities, who is responsible for providing timely information needed by the City for the design and replacement of Facilities in a Public Way during, and for the design of Public Improvements.

H. The Company shall be subject to the following fees and costs in connection with its use and occupancy of any Public Way: (i) in the event that the repairs or replacements set forth under Section 5 below, have not been timely completed by Company, the City may charge an excavation fee for each street or pavement cut to recover the costs associated with construction and repair activity; (ii) inspection fees to recover all reasonable costs associated with City inspection of the work of the Company in the Public Way when the Facilities are of such a scope and magnitude so as to require the City to incur such inspection costs by an outside party; and (iii) the repair and restoration costs associated with repairing and restoring the Public Way because of damage caused by the Company, its assigns, contractors, and/or subcontractors in the Public Way.

SECTION 5. NOTICE OF WORK AND DUTY TO REPAIR.

A. Prior to commencing any activities related to the construction, maintenance, or extension of its Facilities along, across, upon or under the Public Way, the Company shall submit to the City written plans detailing all such activities in the manner required by the City by Ordinance. In the event of an emergency, Company shall have the right to commence work without providing such plans, provided such plans are submitted within five business days of commencement of the work. The Company's Facilities shall be so constructed and maintained as not to obstruct or hinder the usual travel or public safety on such Public Ways or unreasonably obstruct the legal use by other utilities.

B. Prior to beginning work, the Company will inspect existing pavement within and/or adjacent to the work area and will report any existing damage or concerns. All earth, materials, sidewalks, paving, crossings, utilities, Public Improvements, or improvements of any kind located within the Public Way that are damaged, displaced, or removed by the Company shall be fully repaired or replaced to their prior condition or to existing municipal standards as are then in existence, and in a manner satisfactory to the duly authorized representative of the City, after completing such activity as is permitted under this Franchise Ordinance and without cost to the City.

SECTION 6. INDEMNITY AND HOLD HARMLESS.

The Company, its successors and assigns, in the construction, maintenance, and operation of its Facilities, shall

use all reasonable and proper precaution to avoid damage or injury to persons and property, and shall indemnify, defend, hold, and save the City harmless from any and all claims, damage, judgements, and reasonable expense, including attorney fees, caused by the negligence of the Company, its successors and assigns, or their agents or servants. The Company or the City shall promptly advise the other in writing of any known claim or demand against the Company or the City related to or arising out of the Company's activities in any Public Way.

SECTION 7. RULES AND REGULATIONS.

The Company shall have the right to make and enforce such reasonable rules and regulations as it may deem necessary for the extension of its Facilities, the sale of its gas, and the prudent conduct of its business, provided that such rules and regulations shall neither be in conflict with the laws of the State of Kansas, with the orders, rules, or regulations of the Kansas Corporation Commission or other regulatory authority having jurisdiction, nor with the ordinances and regulations of the City insofar as they are consistent with the jurisdiction of the Kansas Corporation Commission or such other regulatory authority.

SECTION 8. REVOCATION AND TERMINATION.

In case of failure on the part of the Company to comply with any of the provisions of this Franchise Ordinance, or if the Company should do or cause to be done any act or thing prohibited by or in violation of the terms of this Franchise Ordinance, the Company may be subject to forfeiture of all rights, privileges, and Franchise granted herein, and all such rights, privileges, and franchise hereunder be deemed ceased, terminated, null, and void, and this Franchise Ordinance shall be deemed revoked or terminated, provided that said revocation or termination shall not take effect until the City has completed the following procedures: Before the City proceeds to revoke and terminate this Ordinance, it shall first serve a written notice upon Company, setting forth in detail the neglect or failure complained of, and the Company shall have sixty (60) days thereafter in which to comply with the conditions and requirements of this Franchise Ordinance. If at the end of such sixty (60) day period the City determines that the neglect or failure complained of has not been cured, the City shall take action to revoke and terminate this Franchise Ordinance by an affirmative vote of the governing body present at a public meeting and voting, setting out the grounds upon which this Franchise Ordinance is to be revoked and terminated; provided, to afford the Company due process, the Company shall first be provided reasonable notice of the date, time, and location of the governing body's consideration and shall have the right to address the governing body regarding such matter; and further provided, if the nature of the default is such that it cannot be reasonably cured within the above said sixty (60) day period, and the governing body believes the Company has in good faith timely commenced its cure and is diligently pursuing the completion of the same, the Company may, in the City's sole discretion, be given a reasonable additional period of time to complete its cure. Nothing herein shall prevent either party from invoking any other remedy that may otherwise exist at law. Upon any determination by the governing body to revoke and terminate this Franchise Ordinance, the Company shall have thirty (30) days to appeal such decision to the District Court where the City is located or in the District Court of Johnson County, Kansas. This Franchise Ordinance shall be deemed revoked and terminated at the end of this thirty (30) day period, unless the Company has instituted such an appeal. If the Company does timely institute such an appeal, such revocation and termination shall remain pending and subject to the court's final judgment. Provided, however, that the failure of the Company to comply with any of the provisions of this Franchise Ordinance or the doing or causing to be done by the Company of anything prohibited by or in violation of the terms of this Franchise Ordinance shall not be a ground for the revocation or termination thereof when such act or omission on the part of the Company is due to any cause or delay beyond the control of the Company or to bona fide legal proceedings.

SECTION 9. RESERVATION OF RIGHTS.

A. In granting its consent hereunder, the City does not in any manner waive its regulatory or other rights and powers under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Kansas as the

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