

ORDINANCE NO. 449

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING TO MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, THE RIGHT AND NON-EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE TO ACQUIRE, CONSTRUCT, ERECT, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE IN THE CITY OF EARLHAM, IOWA, A **NATURAL GAS SYSTEM** AND TO FURNISH AND SELL NATURAL GAS TO THE CITY AND ITS INHABITANTS ~~AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO COLLECT FRANCHISE FEES FOR A PERIOD OF 25 YEARS.~~

BE IT ENACTED by the City Council of the City of Earlham, Iowa:

**Section 1.** There is hereby granted to MidAmerican Energy Company, an Iowa corporation, (hereinafter called “Company,”) and to its successors and assigns the right and non-exclusive franchise to acquire, construct, erect, maintain and operate in the City of Earlham, Iowa, (hereinafter called the “City,”) a gas distribution system, to furnish natural gas along, under and upon the right-of-way, streets, avenues, alleys and public places to serve customers within and without the City and to furnish and sell natural gas to the City and its inhabitants. For the term of this franchise, the Company is granted the right of eminent domain, the exercise of which is subject to City Council approval upon application by the Company. This franchise shall be effective for a twenty-five (25) year period from and after the effective date of this ordinance.

**Section 2.** The rights and privileges hereby granted are subject to the restrictions and limitations of Chapter 364 of the Code of Iowa 2023, or as subsequently amended or changed.

**Section 3.** Company shall have the right to excavate in any public street for the purpose of laying, relaying, repairing or extending gas pipes, mains, conduits, and other facilities provided that the same shall be so placed as not to unreasonably interfere with any above or below-ground utility services or facilities which have been or may hereafter be located by or under authority of the City.

**Section 4.** The Company shall, excluding facilities located in private easements or public utility easements (whether titled in Company exclusively or in Company and other entities), in accordance with Iowa law including Company’s tariff on file with and made effective by the Iowa Utilities Board as may subsequently be amended (“Tariff,”) at its cost and expense, locate and relocate its existing facilities or equipment in, on, over or under any public street or alley in the City in such a manner as the City may reasonably require for the purposes of facilitating the construction reconstruction, maintenance or repair of the street or alley. The Company shall not be required to pay any City permits as needed as a result of City required relocation. Relocation expenses for other hard surfaces, including pedestrian and non-motorized vehicle pathways, will be paid by the City. If the City has a reasonable alternative route for the street, alley or public improvements or an alternative construction method, which would not cause the relocation of the Company installations, the City shall select said alternative route, or construction method. The City shall be responsible for surveying and staking the right-of-way for City projects that require the Company to relocate Company facilities. If requested the City shall provide, at no cost to the Company, copies of its relocation

plan and profile and cross section drawings. If tree and vegetation removal must be completed by the City as part of the City's project and are necessary whether or not utility facilities must be relocated, the City at its own cost shall be responsible for said removals. If the timing of the tree/vegetation removal does not coincide with the Company facilities relocation schedule and Company must remove trees/vegetation that are included in the City's portion of the project, the City shall either remove the material at its cost or reimburse the Company for the expenses incurred to remove said vegetation or trees. If project funds from a source other than the City are available to pay for the relocation of utility facilities, the City shall attempt to secure said funds and provide them to the Company to compensate the Company for the costs of relocation.

**Section 5.** In making excavations in any streets, avenues, alleys and public places for the installation of gas pipes, conduits or apparatus, Company shall not unreasonably obstruct the use of the streets and shall replace the surface, restoring it to the condition as existed immediately prior to excavation. Company agrees any replacement of road surface shall conform to current City code regarding its depth and composition. The Company shall not be required to restore or modify public right of way, sidewalks or other areas in or adjacent to the Company project to a condition superior to its immediate previously existing condition or to a condition exceeding its previously existing condition to the extent any alterations are required for the City to comply with city, state or federal rules, regulations or laws.

**Section 6.** The City's vacating a street, avenue, alley, public ground or public right-of-way shall not deprive the Company of its right to operate and maintain existing facilities on, below, above, or beneath the vacated property. Prior to the City abandoning or vacating any street, avenue, alley or public ground where the Company has facilities in the vicinity, the City shall provide Company with not less than sixty (60) days advance notice of the city's proposed action and, upon request grant the Company a utility easement covering existing and future facilities and activities. If the City fails to grant the Company a utility easement for said facilities prior to abandoning or vacating a street, avenue, alley or public ground, the City shall at its cost and expense obtain easements for the existing Company facilities.

**Section 7.** The Company shall not be required to relocate, at its cost and expense, Company facilities in the public right of way that have been relocated at Company expense at the direction of the City at any time during the previous ten (10) years.

**Section 8.** Pursuant to relocation of Company facilities as may be required here under, if the City orders or requests the Company to relocate its existing facilities or equipment in order to directly or indirectly facilitate the project of a commercial or private developer or other non-public entity, City shall reimburse or the City shall require the developer or non-public entity to reimburse the Company for the cost of such relocation as a precondition to relocation. The Company shall not be required to relocate in order to facilitate such private project at its expense.

**Section 9.** The Company shall indemnify and save harmless the City from any and all claims, suits, losses,

damages, costs or expenses, on account of injury or damage to any person or property, to the extent caused or occasioned by the Company's negligence in construction, reconstruction, excavation, operation or maintenance of the natural gas facilities authorized by this franchise; provided, however, that the Company shall not be obligated to defend, indemnify and save harmless the City for any costs or damages to the extent arising from the negligence of the City, its officers, employees or agents.

**Section 10.** Upon reasonable request, the Company shall provide the City, on a project specific basis, information indicating the horizontal location, relative to boundaries of the right of way, of all equipment which it owns or over which it has control that is located in the public right of way, including documents, maps and other information in paper or electronic or other forms ("Information"). The Company and City recognize the Information may in whole or part be considered a confidential record under state or federal law or both. Upon receipt of a request from a third party for information concerning information about the Company's facilities within the City, the City will promptly submit same to Company. If the Company believes any of the information requested constitutes a trade secret which may otherwise be protected from public disclosure by state or federal law, or otherwise exempt from disclosure under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Critical Energy Infrastructure requirements pursuant to 18 CFR 388.112 and 388.113, or Chapter 22 of the Code of Iowa, as such statutes and regulations may be amended from time to time, then the Company shall provide the City with a written explanation of the basis for such assertion of confidentiality or exemption from disclosure within ten (10) days.

**Section 11.** The Company shall extend its mains and pipes and operate, and maintain the system in accordance with the applicable regulations of the Iowa Utilities Board or its successors and Iowa law.

**Section 12.** During the term of this franchise, the Company shall furnish natural gas in the quantity and quality consistent and in accordance with the applicable regulations of the Iowa Utilities Board the Company's tariff made effective by the Iowa Utilities Board or its successors and Iowa law.

**Section 13.** All reasonable and proper police regulations shall be adopted and enforced by the City for the protection of the facilities of the Company.

**Section 14.** A franchise fee of \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_) percent is imposed upon, and shall be collected from, the natural gas customers of the Company receiving service and located within the corporate limits of the City. The franchise fee shall be imposed upon the gross receipts, minus uncollectible accounts, generated from sales of natural gas and distribution service with the following conditions:

- A.** The franchise fee shall be remitted by the Company to the City on or before the last business day of the calendar quarter following the close of the calendar quarter in which the franchise fee is charged.
- B.** City agrees to modify the level of franchise fees imposed only once in any 24-month period.
- C.** The Company will use its best efforts to commence collection of franchise fees on or before the first

~~Company billing cycle of the first calendar month following ninety (90) days of receipt of information required of the City to implement the franchise fee, including the City's documentation of customer classes subject to or exempted from City imposed franchise fee.~~

~~**D.** City shall be solely responsible for identifying customer classes subject to or exempt from paying the City imposed franchise fee. The Company shall have no obligation to collect franchise fees from customers in annexed areas until and unless such ordinances have been provided to the Company by certified mail. The Company shall commence collecting franchise fees in the annexed areas no sooner than sixty (60) days after receiving annexation ordinances from the City.~~

~~**E.** Company shall not, under any circumstances be required to return or refund any franchise fees that have been collected from customers and remitted to the City. In the event the Company is required to provide data or information in defense of the City's imposition of franchise fees or the Company is required to assist the City in identifying customers or calculating any franchise fee refunds for groups of or individual customers the City shall reimburse the Company for the expenses incurred by the Company to provide such data or information.~~

~~**G.** With respect to the distribution or transportation by the Company of natural gas sold to the customer by a third party supplier of the commodity, the percentage of gross receipts shall be applied to the customer's full cost of gas delivered within the City, including all costs of acquisition, ownership, and transportation whereof, wherever incurred. In determining the amount of the fee, the Company may presume that the customer's commodity cost of gas is the same as if the gas were sold by the Company, unless a different cost is provided.~~

~~—— **Section 15.** Upon implementation of a franchise fee, the City shall not, pursuant to Chapter 480A.6 of the Code of Iowa, impose or charge Company right of way management fees for permits for Company construction, maintenance, repairs, excavation, pavement cutting or inspections of Company work sites and projects or related matters.~~

**Section 16.** Either City or Company ("party") may terminate this franchise if the other party shall be materially in breach of its provisions. Upon the occurrence of a material breach, the non-breaching party shall provide the breaching party with notification by certified mail specifying the alleged breach. The breaching party shall have sixty (60) days to cure the breach, unless it notifies the non-breaching party, and the parties agree upon a shorter or longer period for cure. If the breach is not cured within the cure period, the non-breaching party may terminate this franchise. A party shall not be considered to be in breach of this franchise if it has operated in compliance with state or federal law. A party shall not be considered to have breached this franchise if the alleged breach is the result of the actions of a third party or the other party.

**Section 17.** If any section, provision, or part of this ordinance shall be adjudged to be invalid or

unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any section, provision, or part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

**Section 18.** To the fullest extent permitted by law, each of the parties hereto waives any right it may have to a trial by jury in respect of litigation directly or indirectly arising out of, under or in connection with this Agreement. Each party further waives any right to consolidate any action in which a jury trial has been waived with any other action in which a jury trial cannot be or has not been waived.

**Section 19.** This ordinance and the rights and privileges herein granted shall become effective and binding upon its approval and passage in accordance with Iowa law and the written acceptance by the Company. The City shall provide Company with an original signed and sealed copy of this ordinance within ten (10) days of its final passage. The Company shall, within thirty (30) days after the City Council approval of this ordinance, file in the office of the clerk of the City, its acceptance in writing of all the terms and provisions of this ordinance. Following City Council approval, this ordinance shall be published in accordance with the Code of Iowa. The effective date of this ordinance shall be the date of publication. In the event that the Company does not file written acceptance of this ordinance within thirty (30) days after its approval by the City Council this ordinance shall be void and of no effect.

**Section 20.** Upon the effective date of this ordinance, all prior natural gas franchises granted to the Company to furnish natural gas to the City and its inhabitants are hereby repealed and all other ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are also hereby repealed.

PASSED AND APPROVED this \_\_\_<sup>th</sup> day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2023.

CITY OF EARLHAM, IOWA

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor/Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk  
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

I, Mary Sue Hibbs, City Clerk of the City of Earlham, Iowa, hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true copy of Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_, passed by the City Council of said City at a meeting held \_\_\_\_\_, 2023, and signed by the mayor \_\_\_\_\_, 2023, and published as provided by law on \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.