



## TOWN OF NEWBURGH

1496 Route 300, Newburgh, New York 12550

**Joseph P. Pedi**  
Town Clerk

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**Lisa M. Ayers**

*First Deputy Town Clerk*  
December 23, 2020

Honorable Michelle L. Phillips -Secretary  
New York State Public Service Commission  
Three Empire State Plaza  
Albany, New York 12223-1350

RE: Resolution Opposing Delivery Rate Increases by Central  
Hudson Gas and Electric Corporation  
Case No. 17-E-0459

Dear Ms. Phillips,

Enclosed please find a Resolution approved by the Town of Newburgh  
Town Board on December 14, 2020 opposing delivery rate increases  
by Central Hudson Gas and Electric Corporation.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact  
Town of Newburgh Town Supervisor Gil Piaquadio at 845-564-4552.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Pedi  
Town Clerk – Town of Newburgh

At a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Newburgh, held at the Town Hall, 1496 Route 300 or by videoconference pursuant to the Governor's Executive Orders, in the Town of Newburgh, Orange County, New York on the 14th day of December, 2020 at 7:00 o'clock p.m.

PRESENT:

Gilbert J. Piaquadio, Supervisor

Elizabeth J. Greene, Councilwoman

Paul I. Ruggiero, Councilman

Scott Manley, Councilman

Anthony R. LoBiondo, Councilman

RESOLUTION OF TOWN BOARD  
OPPOSING DELIVERY  
RATE INCREASES BY CENTRAL  
HUDSON GAS AND ELECTRIC  
CORPORATION  
CASE NO. 17-E-0459

Councilman Greene presented the following resolution which was seconded by Councilman Ruggiero.

WHEREAS, Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp. ("Central Hudson") has applied to the New York State Public Service Commission for increases in its electricity delivery rates and its natural gas delivery rates effective July 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the rate increases sought would reportedly increase average monthly residential electric bills by about \$3.50 per month, or 2.8 percent and the increase for an average monthly residential natural gas heating customer's bill would be about \$3.30 per month, or 2.8 percent of the average monthly residential bill, but the percentage increase in the delivery charge component of those bills would be substantially more, with the net increase in Central Hudson's annual revenue being estimated to be \$47.2 million dollars; and

WHEREAS, Central Hudson has stated that the rate increases are justified in part by the accommodations it has provided to its customers during the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as infrastructure improvements, but it already obtained its last rate increases based upon the cost of infrastructure improvements, and its request is without reference to changes in its costs; and

WHEREAS, customers in a typical home as well as small businesses will be experiencing increases in their electric and natural gas delivery bills at a time when many are continuing to experience extraordinary financial hardships due to the pandemic, and also increasing their demand for electricity and natural gas due to greater time spent at home in accordance with public health recommendations and restrictions in order to curb the spread of Covid -19; and

WHEREAS, Fortis, Inc., the parent of Central Hudson recently declared a quarterly dividend of 50.5 cents per share of its Common Stock to be paid on March 1, 2021, the share price of Fortis' Common Stock has increased from \$38.65 on March 11th, 2020 when COVID-19 reached pandemic status according to the World Health Organization (WHO) to \$40.89 and it reported earnings of \$0.49 per share on October 30, 2020.; and

WHEREAS, Central Hudson's area of service includes the Town of Newburgh and the rate increases will cause unnecessary hardship for numerous residents of the Town, particularly those with fixed or limited incomes, as well as placing an additional financial burden on the Town's taxpayers as the Town's own facilities are served by Central Hudson; and

WHEREAS, the proposed rate increases will additionally place further economic strains on small businesses and employers in the Town of Newburgh and discourage economic development; and

WHEREAS, upon consideration, the Town Board finds that such rate increases place an undue financial burden on residents, businesses and local governments, including the Town of Newburgh, and discourage further industrial and commercial development in our region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Newburgh in its capacity as governing body of the Town, does hereby oppose the rate increases for delivery of electricity and natural gas for which Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp. has applied and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be delivered to the Hon. Michelle L. Phillips, Secretary, New York State Public Service Commission, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York 12223-1350, the Hon. James Skoufis, Senator for the 39<sup>TH</sup> District, and the Hon. Jonathan G. Jacobson, Assemblyman for the 104<sup>TH</sup> District, by the Town Clerk and to the chief executives of surrounding municipalities served by Central Hudson; and

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED, that the aforesaid resolutions shall take effect immediately.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

<u>Elizabeth J. Greene, Councilwoman</u>	voting	<u>AYE</u>
<u>Paul I. Ruggiero, Councilman</u>	voting	<u>AYE</u>
<u>Scott Manley, Councilman</u>	voting	<u>AYE</u>
<u>Anthony R. LoBiondo, Councilman</u>	voting	<u>AYE</u>
<u>Gilbert J. Piaquadio, Supervisor</u>	voting	<u>AYE</u>

The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

STATE OF NEW YORK )  
COUNTY OF ORANGE ) SS:  
TOWN OF NEWBURGH )

I, Joseph P. Pedi, Town Clerk of the Town of Newburgh, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that I have compared the foregoing resolution, duly adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Newburgh on the 14th day of December, 2020, and entered in the minutes of the proceedings of said Board, and that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of said resolution and the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my name and the seal of said Town on this 21 day of December, 2020.

  
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Joseph P. Pedi, Town Clerk

