

# CITY OF NATALIA

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**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
2078 STATE HWY 132 NORTH, NATALIA, TEXAS 78059  
28 FEBRUARY 2022 at 7.00 P.M.**

## **MINUTES**

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor Samuel Bluemel – Present  
Alderman Mike Fernandez – Present  
Alderman Tommy Ortiz – Present

Mayor Pro-Tem Sam Smith – Present  
Alderman Darin Frazier - Present  
Alderman Selica Vera – Present

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Bluemel called the regular city council meeting to order at 7:00 pm; followed by the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Alderman Vera and Invocation by Mayor Bluemel.

**2. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:**

Melanie Gruber, a County Judge candidate introduced herself to the City Council. Ruby Vera announced the NMDD meeting will be on 3/3/22 at 6:15 p.m. Ruby requested that the Mayor contact the County emergency management and check the status of the emergency siren. There had been an issue in the past and we need to be sure that the siren is functioning correctly. Ruby reported that the Natalia Postmaster has retired and requested that a Thank you note be sent.

**3. CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Alderswoman Vera requested that there be an open line of communication between the Little League board, the City and the Police Department. Also a reminder about the No Parking area around the field. Alderman Ortiz thanked the employees and the Police Department for doing a good job. He believes many animals are being dumped in the City limits and we should offer rewards for help in finding the individuals responsible. Alderman Fernandez has concerns about running traffic on IH35, requiring cleanup of dilapidated homes and loose dogs. Alderman Frazier requested that we check to see if the County is willing to finish the remaining streets that were allocated for last year. Mayor Bluemel thanked the City staff and reported that he spoke to the newspaper regarding the Natalia Police Departments report not being published in the newspaper.

**4. CONSENT AGENDA:**

*All of the following items are considered to be routine by the City Council, there will be no separate discussion on these items and will be enacted with one motion; unless removed by any Council Member to discuss and consider separately by making such request prior to a motion and vote.*

- a) Approval of the Minutes: 24 January 2022 Regular Meeting
- b) Approval of the Financial Activity Report: January 2022
- c) Approval of the Utility Department Activity Report: January 2022
- d) Approval of the Municipal Court Activity Report: January 2022
- e) Approval of the Police Department/Code Enforcement Activity Report: January 2022
- f) Employee Wage Report

Action: Alderman Fernandez made the motion approving the consent agenda, and Alderman Smith seconded the motion. Alderman Fernandez asked how many of the citations issued were speeding citations. Vote: 5-0; motion carried.

**5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- a) City Administrator/Secretary
  - i. HOME Program Update
    - Turn over for new houses should be completed in the next couple of weeks.
  - ii. New phones were installed in City Hall and the Police Department.
  - iii. A new RSP HOME Program application was submitted, and we are waiting on approval.
  - iv. A doorbell was installed in front of City Hall.
  - v. TXDot is completing a study to determine how many No Parking signs will be required on IH35 access, 471 and 132 at which point our Utility crew will install.
  - vi. The Republic contract expires 9/30/2022. A letter of non-renewal was submitted.
  - vii. Clarifier project extension has not caused additional funds at this time and should not in the future.
- b) Chief of Police
  - i. Chief Naff reported the Racial profiling report has been submitted. The Department is currently working on several big cases.
- c) Utility Director – Art Smith reported the TCEQ water inspection is on 3/1/2022. The Utility department is assessing the alleys and will begin clean up.

**DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF ACTION ITEMS:**

- 6. Discuss/Consider action on a Resolution; Go Medina annual membership for the 21/22 Fiscal Year. After discussion the Council would like to see more photos and more support across the board for the City of Natalia. Action: Alderman Frazier made a motion to approve the membership, Alderman Ortiz seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.
- 7. Discuss/consider engaging into a service agreement for auditing the city's financial statements for fiscal year ending September 30, 2021. Beyer & Co. and Leal & Associates submitted agreements. Action: Alderman Ortiz made a motion to engage in an agreement with Beyer & Co., Alderman Frazier seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.
- 8. Discuss/consider waiver of water, sewer, and garbage charges to the NMDD office building at 2079 State Highway 132 N. Action: Alderman Frazier made a motion to waive water, sewer, and garbage fees; Alderman Frazier seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.
- 9. Review/Discuss/consider action on the Natalia Little League 2022 Lease Agreement. The Board President Edward Castro was in attendance and answered questions from the Council. Action: Alderman Frazier made a motion to accept the agreement as is, Alderman Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.
- 10. Discuss/consider action on bids to extend and move the dais in Council Chambers. Alderman Fernandez made a motion to accept Quality Renovations bid to extend and move the dais, Alderman Frazier seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.
- 11. At 7:54 pm, Alderman Smith made a motion to convene into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.074, Personnel Matters. Alderwoman Vera seconded the motion. Vote: Motion carried; 5-0.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- 12. Executive Session: City Council adjourned into Executive Session at 7:54 pm pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.074, Personnel Matters to discuss the following:

- a. §551.074; Personnel Matters: City Administrator employment
- b. §551.074; Personnel Matters: Chief of Police (6) Month Evaluation

**REGULAR SESSION**

13. Regular Session: City Council reconvened into regular session at 8:48 pm, and if necessary, may take action on the items discussed in executive session.

- a. §551.074; Personnel Matters: City Administrator employment. No Action.
- b. §551.074; Personnel Matters: Chief of Police Six (6) Month Evaluation; Alderman Frazier made a motion to give Chief Naff a 10% pay increase. Alderman Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0

14. Adjournment. Alderman Fernandez motioned to adjourn at 8:49 pm, and Alderman Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.

**Passed and Approved this 21<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022.**

Approval:



Samuel Bluemel, Mayor /or/  
Sam Smith, Mayor Pro-Tem

Attest:



Nichole M. Bermea  
Interim City Administrator/Secretary

