

CITY OF NATALIA

2078 State Hwy. 132 N. • P.O. Box 270 • Natalia, TX 78059-0270
(830) 663-2926 • Metro (830) 665-2206 • Fax (830) 663-3806

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS 2078 STATE HWY 132 NORTH, NATALIA, TEXAS 78059 17 APRIL 2023 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:
None

3. CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Alderman Sam Smith stated he heard the possibility of the tire warehouse having a heavy rubber odor and wanted to know if the contractors discussed this. Nikki stated that we were told there would no outside odors according to the contractors and engineer. Alderwoman Vera thanked city staff for a great job on community clean up and noted that there are still people hanging out at the car wash in the evenings doing burn outs and would like to see it addressed by the police department.

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.

Approval of the Minutes: 20 March 2023 Regular Meeting

Approval of the Financial Activity Report: March 2023

Approval of the Utility Department Activity Report: March 2023

Approval of the Municipal Court Activity Report: March 2023

Approval of the Police Department/Code Enforcement Activity Reports: March 2023

Action: Alderman Fernandez made the motion approving the consent agenda, and Alderman Frazier seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0; motion carried.

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

a) City Administrator/Secretary

Nikki reported there is a roll off container available for community use. Residents must call city hall to schedule an appointment. The HOME program has its third approved home and the fourth is being processed. Construction should begin sometime over the summer. We have no new updates on the CPF request currently. Rise Broadband will be installing service in the city. Alderman Fernandez stated to make sure to tell the contractors that there are to be no open cuts.

b) Utility Director – Art Smith nothing to report

c) NMDD – Dorothy Woodson reported there was a good turnout for the easter egg hunt. All NMDD members were present. The last meeting was held on March 27th, 2023. The next meeting will be on May 2, 2023. The loan on the property was paid in full on April 5, 2023, and Ruby requested a receipt of payment and a letter stating the bond has been paid in full. Donny Whitaker with Grow More Gardens installed several trees and perennial plants at the memorial site. Thanks to Darin and city staff for digging the holes for the plants. Also, thanks to Tommy Ortiz for watering everything. At the March meeting it was discussed for the NMDD to put together a one-page overview of what is required for commercial property development.

d) Mayor – Mayor Bluemel thanked city staff for their hard work and also thanked the Bluebonnet festival committee and NMDD board for successful events. Mayor Bluemel reported that Stephanie from Go Medina and Michael Blair will be touring cities in Medina County for possible future development sites.

DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF ACTION ITEMS:

6. Discuss/Consider purchasing and installing an electronic display sign outside of city hall. Mayor Bluemel went over the various sign sizes and costs. Alderman Frazier stated that he didn't feel we should invest in a large sign at this time because once the Multipurpose center is constructed there would be a large sign across the street serving the same purpose. Alderman Frazier made a motion authorizing the Mayor and Nikki to purchase a display sign up to \$2,500 in value. Alderman Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.

7. Discussion/Consider Action on a resolution of the City of Natalia, Texas finding that AEP Texas Inc.'s application to amend its distribution cost recovery factors to increase distribution rates within the city should be denied; authorizing participation with the cities served by AEP Texas; authorizing hiring of legal counsel; finding that the city's reasonable rate case expenses shall be reimbursed by the company; finding that the meeting at which this resolution is passed is open to the public as required by law; requiring notice of this resolution to the company and legal counsel. Alderman Smith made a motion to pass resolution. Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0. No discussion.

8. Discuss/Consider the need to request the Municipal Court Judge to consider increasing fines for nuisance ordinance violations. Alderman Ortiz stated that he sees many properties that have nuisance violations. He feels we need to continue to contact the owners and stay on top of the problem. Nikki Bermea explained what the current fines are, and the legal maximum fine allowed. If the council would like to increase fines, amounts would need to be set and taken to Judge Loza for approval and then the current ordinance would need to be amended. Alderwoman Vera made a motion for the judge to review and consider raising the fines. Alderman Ortiz seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.

9. Discuss/Consider construction permits and properties condemned by the Fire Marshall. Nikki presented the total number of permits issued in 2022 and 2023. Nikki explained that the city fire marshal resigned in early April and we are currently using Bureau Veritas Fire Inspections department. Bureau Veritas is our current building inspector as well. The former fire marshal was given a list of properties to be condemned and we were told he was working on them prior to resigning. Alderman Fernandez made a motion to contact the Medina County fire marshal to see if he is able help with the fire marshal duties in the city. Alderman Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Alderman Fernandez made a motion to convene in closed session. Alderwoman Vera seconded the motion. At 8:01 pm the city council convened into closed session.

10. The city council will meet in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 551.074, personnel, to deliberate the position of Police Chief, to include the hiring process and interim police chief designation, if necessary.

11. The city council will meet in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 551.074, personnel, to deliberate the position of City Administrator, to include the hiring process and designation, if necessary.

12. The city council will meet in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 551.072, real property, to deliberate the value and location of real property in relation to public safety.

REGULAR SESSION:

The City Council shall reconvene into Regular Session, and if necessary, may act on items discussed in Executive Session:

At 8:54 pm the city council reconvened into regular session.

13. The city council will meet in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 551.074, personnel, to deliberate the position of Police Chief, to include the hiring process and interim police chief designation, if necessary. No action.


14. The city council will meet in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 551.074, personnel, to deliberate the position of City Administrator, to include the hiring process and designation, if necessary. No action.

15. The city council will meet in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 551.072, real property, to deliberate the value and location of real property in relation to public safety. Alderwoman Vera made a motion for the Mayor or Nikki to contact the city attorney. Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.

16. Adjournment. Alderman Fernandez motioned to adjourn at 8:56 pm, and Alderwoman Vera seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.


Passed and Approved this 19th day of June, 2023.

Approval:



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

Attest:



Nichole M. Bermea
Interim City Administrator/Secretary

