

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
18 JULY 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 – Absent

1. CALL TO ORDER:

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

2. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Natalia Municipal Development District board member, Dorothy Woodson spoke on behalf of the NMDD board to thank the city utility workers for installing the water lines on the NMDD property. The NMDD requests that Item #8 on tonight's agenda be tables to allow the NMDD Board members a chance to review the candidates. At this time there is no recommendation. Dorothy Woodson reported that the Luna circus would be in town on July 26th and July 27th. The Planning and Zoning Board held a special meeting on July 5, 2022, to discuss the Cedillo Holding property and request to re-zone from light industrial to commercial. At this time further information is needed to take this request into consideration. No action was taken until the entire application package is complete.

3. CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Alderman Ortiz questioned the status of property on 3rd & Cresson streets that has been issued multiple nuisance violations. He stated the property continues to be a health and safety concern and the fire marshal should be contacted. Alderman Smith voiced his concerns for the continued loose dogs roaming in the city. Alderman Fernandez thanked Officer Sanchez for watching houses when residents are out of town. Alderman Fernandez requested a status update on the Mendez property that had the house fire and when demolition is to occur. He stated we are still having truck parking issues along IH35 access roads and Highway 132 even after signs have been installed.

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: 23 May 2022 Regular Meeting
23 May 2022 Joint NMDD/City Council Workshop meeting
09 June 2022 Special Meeting
- b) Approval of the Financial Activity Report: May & June 2022
- c) Approval of the Utility Department Activity Report: May & June 2022
- d) Approval of the Municipal Court Activity Report: May & June 2022
- e) Approval of the Police Department/Code Enforcement Activity Report: May & June 2022

Action: Alderman Fernandez made the motion approving the consent agenda, and Alderman Smith seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0; motion carried.

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- a) City Administrator/Secretary, Nichole Bermea reported the filing deadline for applications for a place on the ballot has been posted. Applications can be filed between July 23 and August 22nd. The Auditors will be here on July 22nd. The CCR report was published. In person Municipal court proceedings are scheduled to begin in August.
- a) Chief of Police, Valerie Naff reported that two officers are scheduled to attend active shooter training. Chief is trying to schedule an active shooter training here as soon as possible. Alderman Frazier asked the status on the new vehicles. Chief stated the timeframe is 3-4 weeks out for delivery. Mayor Bluemel explained the delay is due to a mix up at the upfitters. Chief Naff introduced Reserve Officer Paul Ancira to council.
- b) Utility Director – Art Smith reported we received a fine from TCEQ from the timeframe of the snowstorm. He has 180 days submit an appeal with documentation.
 - i. Mayor Bluemel reiterated the procedure for non-emergency situations. If no one answers at the police department, call Medina County dispatch. Chief Naff plans to hand out information cards to the residents. Mayor Bluemel stated that “No Turn Around” signs need to be installed in the entrance of Mustang Estates to prevent the heavy trucks from entering and turning around. Mayor Bluemel spoke to attorney Dan Santee in regard to loitering at the Natalia Municipal Development District Office. Dan stated that a “No loitering” sign would need to be in place in plain view at the office. Mayor Bluemel will speak to NMDD Chair Ruby Vera.

DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF ACTION ITEMS:

6. Discuss/Consider action on request from AEP to remove or possibly relocate palm trees within the city limits of Natalia. Olga Maldonado from AEP stated that AEP wants to work with the city. AEP understands that the palm trees mean a lot to the city residents as they are an important part of the city's history. Alderman Frazier stated the city was founded on the palm trees. Alderman Frazier suggested that when trees need to be removed, the possibility of relocation or planting of baby palm trees in a different location would be best. A representative with the AEP forestry division stated that AEP is willing to relocate but there is a good chance the older trees will not survive the relocation and transplant process. Olga Maldonado suggested that a meeting should be held with members of the council and AEP to address a plan for future. No action.
7. Discuss/Consider a resolution of the City of Natalia, Texas declaring certain city vehicles and equipment surplus property; and authorizing the liquidation of said surplus property. Alderman Smith asked what was wrong with the golf cart. Art Smith stated it is extremely old and often breaks down when in use. Alderman Smith asked how we plan to liquidate the items, will we put them up for auction. Officer Whisenant explained the process of an online auction which he has already started the process to enable the city to post liquidation items online for auction. The items would be located at the police department and people could come and view in person should they want too. The online auction company would handle the auction and collection of fees. Alderman Sam Smith asked if everyone would be able to bid on the items. Alderman Frazier inquired about the other police vehicles that will be replaced with the new units. Nichole Bermea explained that once those units are no longer in service, they will come to the council for surplus. At that time, all the surplus items will be placed online for auction. Alderman Ortiz made a motion to pass the resolution to surplus and liquidate the property. Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.
8. Discuss/Consider Natalia Municipal Development District Director resignation, and filling vacancy thereby created, for the unexpired term ending February 2024. Alderman Smith made a motion to table item at the NMDD's request to allow the board to view the candidate applications.

Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0. Mayor Bluemel requested that in the future the NMDD be added to the agenda for each meeting in the informational items for discussion.

9. Discuss/Consider a contract with South Texas Refuse Disposal, Inc. for solid waste and disposal services. Blake Caesar, a representative with STRD, INC. stated that are currently servicing over 1,000 customers and recently were awarded the contract with the City of Hondo. Mr. Caesar went over the contract with the council. The contract stated the city would receive four (4) roll off containers per year free of charge, however, after consideration STRD, Inc. has agreed to raise the number of no charge roll off containers to six. (6). Alderman Frazier made a motion to approve the contract pending the city attorney's review and approval. Mayor Bluemel will speak to attorney Dan Santee. Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

10. Discuss/Consider action on request to allow Mayor Bluemel and Chief of Police to apply for Project Lone Star grant, through the Governors office. Mayor Bluemel explained further details of Project Lonestar grant, if approved it would allow us funding for equipment, vehicles, officer wages strictly for Project Lone Star. Alderman Fernandez asked if this was interdiction. Alderman Frazier stated there are concerns from past history and although this is not titled the same, it is basically the same type of interdiction. Alderman Fernandez agreed, as well as Alderman Smith. Alderman Frazier stated it is good program, but again not something that our police department needs to take on right now. Mayor Bluemel stated that we are being called often to assist in calls on IH35 and with the population and new businesses coming, it will increase the need. Alderman Fernandez stated he feels we have bigger issues to deal with right now. No action.

11. Discuss/ Consider action on request changing the application permit process, and application fee to \$50 per year with a current Medina County Health permit, to sell within the city limits. Nichole Bermea explained the current city fees. Mayor Bluemel stated that most already have the county health inspection. Nichole Bermea explained that this would only apply if the vendor already has the Medina County Health inspection. If they do not, they will pay for the permit and inspection. Alderman Smith made a motion to change the application fee to \$50 per year with a current Medina County Health inspection and permit. Alderman Frazier seconded the motion. Motion carried. 4-0

12. Discuss/Consider action on request to purchase materials for completion of road projects on 8th & 9th Streets, Miller & Palfrey Streets, and a portion of Del Monte Street. County Commissioner Jerry Beck stated they would be ready to begin the project in the next week or so and hope to have it completed prior to the first day of school. Commissioner Beck stated that he has the measurements for the portions of the length, however he is going to need the measurements for the widths so that he can figure out the total of materials that are needed and cost. There is also a fuel surcharge due to the cost of fuel currently. The County will not charge the city for the labor. Commissioner Beck said he will get with Mayor Bluemel and Nichole Bermea in the next couple of days with a start date and number of materials needed. Alderman Frazier made a motion to complete the road project. Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0

13. Discuss/Consider action on proposal from Quality Renovators to repair and paint the northside wall of City Hall. Greg Cargile explained his bid proposal. Alderman Frazier has some concerns on further areas of issue on the same wall. Alderman Fernandez stated there used to be windows located on the wall. Alderman Frazier suggested that the entire area be repaired at once and not in sections. Greg Cargile stated he would return a new bid to include repairing the entire area in question. No action.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

14. Aldermen Darin Frazier made a motion to convene into executive session. Alderman Fernandez seconded. Motion carried 4-0

a) City Council adjourned into Executive Session at 8:28 pm pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.087, Economic Development: Ambrose Construction Project next to Love's.

REGULAR SESSION

15. The City Council reconvened into regular session at 8.57 pm, and took no action on the items discussed in executive session

16. Adjournment. Alderman Smith motioned to adjourn at 8:59 pm, and Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried; 4-0.

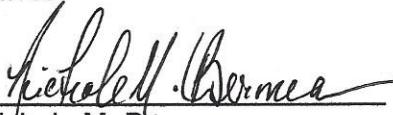
Passed and Approved this 15th day of August, 2022.

Approval:



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

Attest:



Nichole M. Bermea
Interim City Administrator/Secretary

