

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

- d) Approval of the Municipal Court Activity Report: September 2021
- e) Approval of the Police Department Activity Report: September 2021
- f) Approval of the Police Code Enforcement Activity Report: September 2021

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

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

a) City Administrator/Secretary

- i. ePay and eBill up and running—Administrator Hinojosa mentioned growing pains, but that the City was working through them to get these issues resolved.
- ii. Republic Service Curbside Brush Item Pickup begins today. All residents should have brush out and Republic would pick it up sometime this week. Hinojosa mentioned that Republic may be delayed but should get to it this week.
- iii. HOME Program Update
 - Three homes scheduled for turnover 1st week of November
 - One new house to be built.
 - Next round of houses have a move out date of 15 November 2021
- iv. Floating Holiday Policy has been formulated and will be given to employees at tomorrow's staff meeting. New full-time employees must be employed with the City for six months before being eligible for the floating holiday.
- v. Clarifier Project—The pre-construction conference was held on September 16. Rehabilitation work on the clarifier has not yet started due to long lead times on the components needed to complete work. The next threshold to meet is the submission of start of construction documents to TDA (also known as Group B). This is typically expected to be reached within the first 12 months of the project. We are pending receipt of prime construction bonds for the execution of the construction contract, and then we can make the submission of Group B to TDA. GrantWorks is working with City and engineer to prepare a request for a state contract extension for 1 year on behalf of the City – this should be submitted in November 2021 to TDA.

b) Utility Director

c) Chief of Police

- i. Chief Naff reported 9 dogs in the kennels; four dogs had been claimed. She also reported that Medina County has euthanasia medicine on back order, so the PD is unable to accept more dogs at the moment.

DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF ACTION ITEMS:

6. Introduction of Justice of the Peace for Precinct 4, Medina County, Celeste A. Brown.

Discussion: Justice of the Peace for Precinct 4, Medina County, Celeste A. Brown introduced herself to council and the public present at the meeting.

Action: None.

7. Introduction of new police officers Carrie Batusic (Full time), Jared Callahan (Reserve), Cody Presley (Reserve), and Johnny Whisenant (Reserve). (Ceremonial: Mayor Ortiz to administer Oath of Office).

Discussion: Chief Naff introduced Ms. Batusic, Mr. Callahan, and Johnny Whisenant to the Council, noting that Mr. Presley is unavailable due to his work requirements.

Action: Mayor Ortiz administered the Oath of Office to the officers present.

8. Discuss/review and consider acceptance of the City of Natalia Financial Audit for Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2019 and ending September 30, 2020; presented by Associates of Beyer & Co. Auditing Firm.

Discussion: Presentation of FY2019-2020 Audit was presented by Wayne Beyer & Co.; no significant discrepancies or misrepresentations were found.

Action: Alderman Fernandez made a motion accepted FY 2019-20 Financial Audit as presented, and Alderman Bluemel seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed by a 4-0 vote.

9. Discuss/consider a resolution nominating a candidate for the election of Medina County Appraisal Board of Directors beginning January 1, 2022.

Action: Alderwoman Vera made a motion to nominate Cindy Segovia for the Medina County Appraisal Board of Directors beginning January 1, 2022. Alderman Frazier seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

10. Discuss/consider a resolution of the City of Natalia approving an agreement between the State of Texas and the City of Natalia, for the maintenance, control, supervision, and regulation of certain state highways and/or portions of the state highways in the City of Natalia; and providing for the execution of said agreement. (TxDOT).

Discussion: Representatives from TxDOT noted that the last agreement on file was from 1969. The new agreement allows the City to maintain highway right of way in the City and TxDOT can assist if necessary. TxDOT will still continue to maintain the road itself. City Administrator noted that this was to be passed via resolution as per City Attorney and that the attorney had already reviewed the document. Action: Alderman Frazier made a motion to accept the resolution as presented. Alderman Bluemel seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0; motion carried.

Edward Castro suggested Little League be allowed to go first as items 11 and 12 are similar and related. He noted he was not aware that Little League had put in a request to be on the agenda until recently. The council accepted this.

12. Discuss/Consider terms of a Lease Agreement between the City of Natalia and the Natalia Little League for property located between State Hwy 132 & East 3rd Street off FM-471 (Natalia Veterans Sportsplex).

Discussion: Jaime Gomez noted that the January-July agreement had previously been shot down. The Mayor questioned bills being paid late. Jaime said the contract was not being followed by the City, to which City Administrator Hinojosa replied that the Little League was not being charge water and sewer the entire time until just a few months ago when it had been discovered that the previous Water Clerk had stopped billing Little League, which was before Hinojosa was employed with the City. Hinojosa and Assistant City Secretary both noted that Little League had not been charged for previous bills and that billing simply started in the month the discrepancy had been discovered. Hinojosa pointed out Little League has not been following the contract either as they had not shown good faith to let the City know about the billing discrepancy, and they have also been leasing out the ball fields to Edward Castro for profit, which is against city ordinance. Hinojosa also noted that since Mr. Gomez had refused to answer emails requesting the return of the keys and to schedule a walk through for final inspection, the City spent \$125 to rekey the doors.

Action: Alderman Frazier made a motion to postpone discussion of the item to a later date. Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0; motion carried.

11. Discuss/Consider terms of a Lease Agreement between the City of Natalia and Edward Castro for property located between State Hwy 132 & East 3rd Street off FM-471 (Natalia Veterans Sportsplex).

Discussion: Edward Castro said he has insurance listing the City. He said he will take care of the fields and thanked City Administrator Hinojosa for allowing use of the fields during daylight hours until terms of an agreement could be reached. Hinojosa noted that since he is conducting these events for profit, the City Council can, and should, require fees from him. Hinojosa also noted that due to the key situation with Mr. Gomez, a \$150 deposit should be stipulated in contract so as to encourage proper handling and prompt return of the keys.

Action: Alderman Frazier made a motion to allow Edward Castro to enter into a contract with the City for use of the ball fields with the condition he pay electricity, water over 10,000 gallons, provide proof of insurance, maintain the fields, pay a \$150 refundable deposit for the keys, and \$600 per day for use of the property for for-profit events. Alderman Frazier seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0. Motion passed.

13. Discuss/Consider an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Natalia, Texas amending the Code of Ordinances Chapter 8, Businesses of the Code of Ordinances; being section 8-55 Business Permits; providing for a late fee; providing for an effective date, a severability clause, savings clause, and repealer.

Discussion: Hinojosa explained that with this ordinance, expired permits shall be charged \$25.00 for every month, or fraction thereof, that the permit renewal is late, in addition to the annual permit fee. This is due to the fact that many businesses do not renew their permits on time. Hinojosa noted that the City Attorneys have reviewed the ordinance.

Action: Alderman Bluemel made a motion to accept the ordinance as presented. Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0. Motion carried unanimously.

14. Discuss/Consider an ordinance expanding the number of police officers.

Discussion: Chief Naff explained that she would like to increase the number of reserve officers. Alderman Frazier expressed deep reservations about such a move given that there are costs for the City which we had not budgeted for, including increased vehicle maintenance costs, wear and tear on the vehicles, and gas (including much higher than anticipated fuel costs at the pump). Naff made reference to a letter received by Interim Chief Martinez and City Administrator Hinojosa in June from Sheriff Randy Brown about how deputies will respond then hold the scene/crime until the chief or the on-call officer can arrive. It was clarified that the letter specifies that Sheriff Brown notes that there are currently more than enough officers/reserves to operate a full schedule.

Action: Alderman Fernandez made a motion to postpone discussion. Alderman Bluemel seconded the motion. Vote: Motion carried.

15. Discuss prospective community center and potential financing. (Alderman Frazier)

Discussion: Alderman Frazier discussed a prospective community center across the street at 2079 St. Hwy 132 N. He said that it has been five years and now it's time to move forward with MDD. Frazier noted that MDD cannot own property. Ruby Vera asked whether the city would be willing to partner with NMDD for a community center. She noted MDD receives between \$8,000 and 10,000 per month on a half-cent tax. Frazier stated the City can support it. He said we meet the criteria up to \$2 million dollars and stated this was the opening dialogue.

At 8.46 pm, Ald. Bluemel made a motion to convene into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.074, Personnel Matters. Ald. Fernandez seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed by a 4-0 vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

16. Executive Session: City Council adjourned into Executive Session at 8.46 pm pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.074, Personnel Matters to discuss the following:
- a. §551.074; Personnel Matters

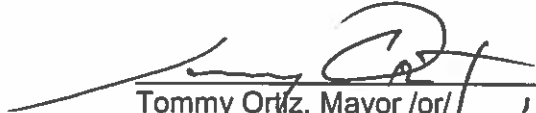
REGULAR SESSION

Regular Session: City Council reconvened into regular session at 9.06 pm, and took no action on the items discussed in executive session.

17. Adjournment. Alderman Bluemel motioned to adjourn at 9.07 pm, and Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed by a 4-0 vote.

Passed and Approved this 15th day of November, 2021.

Approval:


Tommy Ortiz, Mayor /or/
Sam Smith, Mayor Pro-Tem

Attest:


René Hinojosa, MPA
City Administrator/Secretary

