

# CITY OF NATALIA

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## REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS 2078 STATE HWY 132 NORTH, NATALIA, TEXAS 19 October 2020 at 7:00 P.M.

### MINUTES

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor Tommy Ortiz – Present

Alderman Mike Fernandez – Present

Alderman Sam Bluemel – Present

Mayor Pro-Tem Sam Smith - Present

Alderman Darin Frazier - Present

Alderman Selica Vera – Present

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

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

2. **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:**

None.

3. **CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

- a) Alderman Bluemel commented on Item #8 (allowing NISD to place a scrolling sign on MDD Property) that it was merely an idea and nothing more. He reiterated that there had been no discussion with the school in any official capacity nor with the MDD. He simply wanted better communication between the city and the school. He finished by stating he intends to table the item indefinitely.
- b) Mayor Pro-Tem Smith said he had spoken with Jerry Beck, County Commissioner Precinct #4, and Beck told him that street paving should wait until summer since that would allow for better conditions and that we would be second in line for street paving, after the county.
- c) Alderman Vera spoke about brush pick up and was glad to see that people were putting brush out. Frazier mentioned he would like to see bulk pick-up. Vera asked that people be reminded that this is brush only and not for bulk pick-up items.

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: 21 September 2020 Regular Meeting
- b) Approval of the Financial Activity Report: September 2020
- c) Approval of the Utility Department Activity Report: September 2020
- d) Approval of the Municipal Court Activity Report: September 2020
- e) Approval of the Police Department Activity Report: September 2020

Action: Alderman Smith made a motion approving all; Alderman Bluemel seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

### **DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF ACTION ITEMS:**

5. Discuss/Consider action on Resolution 20-14; removing authorized signers for all depository to accounts with Security State Bank on behalf of the City of Natalia, Texas.  
Discussion: City Administrator Hinojosa explained that Security State Bank found Manuel Saldaña's name to still be on the account and required a separate resolution to remove him. In order for everything to be clear, Hinojosa explained he also specifically named Lisa Hernandez' name to be removed since the previous resolution did not state that. The only four people designated to sign and have access to all accounts with Security State Bank are:  
Tommy F. Ortiz—Mayor  
Sam Smith—Mayor Pro-Tem  
Mike Fernandez—Alderman  
René Hinojosa—City Administrator  
Action: Action: Alderman Smith made a motion to approve resolution number 20-14 as presented; Alderman Vera seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously by a 5-0 vote.
6. Discuss/Consider entering into an agreement with a vendor for uniforms.  
City Administrator René Hinojosa explained that the City will be completing an 84-month long contract with Prudential Overall Supply and he has given them a letter stating our intent that the contract not be auto-renewed. Hinojosa received bids from four separate vendors, including our current vendor. Prices ranged from \$59.03 to \$136.08 per week, with three of the four vendors having 60-month contracts and the most expensive having a 36-month contract, and with vendors charging an increase of either 5-6% or CPI per year. City Administrator recommended a contract that had a shorter term than our previous contract (60 vs 84 months) and that would save the City a total of \$20,739.69 over the course of five years, including all price increases. Alderman Frazier was concerned about the long contract length and prices. He said he did not understand why vendors force long contract lengths.  
Action: Alderman Vera made a motion to table discussion until next month; Alderman Bluemel seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote.
7. Discuss/Consider terms of a Lease Agreement between the City of Natalia and Dana Woodson for the Natalia Veterans Sportsplex, located between State Highway 132 & East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street off of FM-471.  
Discussion: As Dana Woodson was unable to attend the meeting, Mayor Ortiz spoke about the contract terms and conditions. He also noted that children cannot play on the fields due to lack of attention and care paid to the fields. He stated that Mr. Woodson would take care of the fields and get the facilities in a working order. Alderman Vera asked how many tournaments would be held. The mayor replied two or three. Alderman Vera inquired about the Comex Storage Container since it belongs to the Natalia Little League. She also suggested there may be parking security issues. She then inquired about the age range of participants, to which the mayor replied that they would range in age from around 8 or 9 to 15 or 16. Alderman Vera further suggested that property owners should be notified and that Mr. Woodson should have adequate insurance. City Administrator Hinojosa mentioned that there was a specific COVID-19 waiver in the contract presented. Alderman Frazier said that Mr. Woodson shouldn't be forced to pay out of pocket and suggested the NLL pay for materials and that Mr. Woodson do the work. Assistant Secretary Nichole Bermea mentioned that she could bill the Little League in an attempt to recover costs that the Little League should have paid for. Alderman Frazier said that the City has been burned by the Natalia Little League previously as they have not fulfilled their terms of the contract and suggested that a contract be withheld from them in the future if they do not pay since these are maintenance issues that should have been taken care of when the Natalia Little League was responsible for the property.  
Action: Alderman Bluemel made the motion to allow Dana Woodson the use of the field but that he be offered the Little League contract rather than the one presented; Alderman Frazier seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote.
8. Discuss/Consider allowing NISD to place a scrolling sign on MDD Property near to the Veterans Memorial Park. (Alderman Bluemel)

Action: Alderman Bluemel made a motion to table discussion of this item indefinitely; Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

9. **STAFF REPORTS:**

- a) City Administrator: 1.) City Administrator Hinojosa provided an update on the CRF (Coronavirus Relief Fund). He stated that cities were no longer eligible to participate if they had not already submitted paperwork. He reported that over \$17,000 in funding had been received by the City (the first 20%), and that a further \$60,000 had been requested. That would leave approximately \$13,000 that would be requested at a later date. 2.) Hinojosa notified the Council that the offices had recently closed due to the rising number of coronavirus cases in the community. Alderman Frazier commented that he would like to see the offices open. He reiterated that there are adequate facilities. He further stated that the City should explore option such as working in shifts or social distancing in order to keep the doors open to the public. Mayor Pro-Tem Smith agreed.
- b) Public Works Director delivered the Utility Activity Report for August 2020. He mentioned a fire hydrant that is leaking in front of Pepe's Molino. He reported that it has been leaking for years but is difficult to fix. Since the leak is on the shut off valve, which does not close completely, the entire city would need to be without water while the leak is fixed. The hydrant was scheduled to be replaced but never was. He suggested talking to the Volunteer Fire Department to fix it. He estimates it would take a minimum of four (4) hours in order to fix the fire hydrant. Mr. Smith discussed possibly contracting out water/sewer tap connections due to the understaffing in the Utility Department and said he would get bids for this project.
- c) Police Chief noted that there are three strong applicants and they will be screened and reviewed soon for further consideration. He also noted that there will be a strong police presence where a crime scene took place a few weeks ago because of the need to reconstruct the accident.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman Smith motioned to adjourn at 7.53 pm. Alderman Vera seconded the motion.  
Vote: Motion passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

Passed and Approved this 16<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2020.



Approval:

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

Attested by:

René Hinojosa, MPA

City Administrator/Secretary