

CITY OF NATALIA

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REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS 2078 STATE HWY 132 NORTH, NATALIA, TEXAS 16 NOVEMBER 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 - Absent

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. **PRESENTATIONS/CEREMONIAL ITEMS:**

The Mayor administered the Oath of Office to two (2) unopposed officials for the City of Natalia, whose terms expire in November 2022. Sam Smith was not at the meeting, but will be sworn in on Wednesday.

- i. Mike Fernandez, Alderman
- ii. Selica Vera, Alderman

Ruby Vera explained the history of the Aldermen. Daren Frazier was on Council from 1992-1995, 2002, Mayor from 2003-2004, and served as Alderman again from 2007 to the present. Mike Fernandez was Alderman in 1996 and then served again from 2001 to the present.

4. **PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS:**

Presiding Officer opened the floor to the public for comments on the following items:

Review Ordinance № 14-0217-2 establishing a curfew for minors, as required by Texas Local Government Code Sec. 370.002.

Chief of Police Fleming gave a short speech on curfew, speaking about how a curfew prevents victimization, teaches time management, and prevents human trafficking, among other many other positive benefits. Alderman Frazier asked how this curfew could be enforced if minors do not have ID. Fleming noted that reasonable suspicion is enough to allow an officer to approach a minor. City Administrator Hinojosa noted that both children and parents are both liable and both may be fined according to the ordinance. Ruby Vera spoke of major problems years ago when this law was enacted. She said that parents do not know about the ordinance, lamented that judges do not follow through with tickets and charges, and insisted that all minors be treated equally and that the ordinance should not be applied selectively. Alderman Bluemel suggested this ordinance be coordinated with Natalia ISD so that the information could get to the parents. Alderman Frazier questioned about the daytime curfew during the current COVID-19 pandemic. Fleming reported that many municipalities have lower crime rates and better school attendance rates with a juvenile curfew ordinance. Administrator Hinojosa noted that there would be another hearing at the next regularly scheduled city council meeting in December. Alderman

Vera made a motion to close the public hearing and recess for a brief recess; Alderman Frazier seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

The recess ended at 7.28 and the Mayor called the meeting to order.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Alderman Bluemel commented about the local bank reducing services. He questioned if they were planning on remaining in the community. He suggested the Council consider drafting a letter encouraging the bank to continue their support of the Community. He mentioned that the elderly who do not have access to vehicles rely on the local bank to serve their needs. Alderman Fernandez queried Fleming about potential new hires. Fleming reported that they had several applications for the full-time position but have not had any applicants for the part time Code Enforcement/Animal Control position. Fleming noted that there is currently no weekend or evening police coverage for the City and that is taken care of by the county. Fernandez also asked about a burn ban and that the county refuses to enforce the burn ban within the City. City Administrator Hinojosa replied that burning within the City is prohibited, with limited exceptions, according to Natalia's Code of Ordinances Section 24-4, but that none of the exceptions provided for shall conflict with a county burn ban in effect for Medina County. Since there is currently a burn ban in effect for Medina County, the City de facto has a burn ban in place as well.

6. **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: 19 October 2020 Regular Meeting
- b) Approval of the Financial Activity Report: October 2020
- c) Approval of the Utility Department Activity Report: October 2020
- d) Approval of the Municipal Court Activity Report: October 2020
- e) Approval of the Police Department Activity Report: October 2020

Action: Alderman Fernandez made a motion approving all; Alderman Vera seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously with a 4-0 vote.

DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF ACTION ITEMS:

7. Discuss/Consider Electing an Alderman to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem for a one-year term ending November 2021.

Action: Alderman Bluemel made a motion to table discussion to next month; Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously by a 4-0 vote.

8. Discuss/Consider possible waiver of water, sewer, and garbage charges to the new office building for the NMDD at 2079 State Highway 132 N. (Ruby Vera).

Action: Alderman Frazier made a motion to provide for a waiver of water, sewer, and garbage charges for a one-year term via resolution; Alderman Bluemel seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously with a 4-0 vote.

9. Discuss/Consider a request of non-potable water use for grass and shrubs watering around the monument area. (Ruby Vera)

Discussion: Ruby Vera discussed the use of non-potable water and said she was looking into the possibility of planting drought resistant shrubs around the monument area to coincide with the Hazard Mitigation Plans that the City would be approving. Alderman Frazier said that grass takes up too much water and that MDD should consider putting artificial turf on the property to greatly reduce and/or eliminate maintenance costs.

Action: Alderman Vera made a motion to table discussion indefinitely; Alderman Frazier seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously with a 4-0 vote.

10. Discuss and consider adoption of the Medina County FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plan. The approved plan makes us eligible to apply for current and future mitigation grants.
Action: Alderman Fernandez made a motion to adopt the Medina County FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plan as presented and accept Resolution № 20-15 as presented; Alderman Bluemel seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously with a 4-0 vote.
11. Discuss/Consider entering into an agreement with a vendor for uniforms.
Discussion: Alderman Fernandez asked how the City selected a proposed vendor. Hinojosa stated that the workers in the Utility Department had all had a chance to feel the clothes and that they needed to feel comfortable in the clothes if they are to be working in them for 8+ hours per day.
Action: Alderman Frazier made a motion to contract with a uniform vendor as the City Administrator best sees fit based upon operational requirements; Alderman Bluemel seconded the motion. Vote: The motion passed unanimously with a 4-0 vote.
12. Discuss/Consider a Resolution; Allocating votes for the nomination for the Medina County Appraisal District Board to replace Darin "Case" McDole.
Action: Alderman Vera made a motion to recommend Cindy Cantu Segovia, who was also nominated by Natalia ISD and is a resident of the City, to be nominated by resolution. Alderman Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a 4-0 vote.
13. **STAFF REPORTS:**
a) City Administrator: 1.) City Administrator Hinojosa reported that the City is still waiting on funds from the CRF Funding and that it is a long process. 2.) He also reported that the City has implemented use of the CITI Cards. Love's Fuel Cards have been phased out. 3.) The Natalia Veterans Memorial Sportsplex is looking very nice and has been well maintained. Dana Woodson has taken charge of maintaining the property and is hosting tournaments. 4.) Medina County has extended the burn ban for another 90 days. 5.) Hinojosa reported that a public hearing is for the closeout of the Downtown Revitalization Project is scheduled for Nov. 23, 2020 at 5.05 pm. City Council attendance is not required. 6) Hinojosa reminded the Council that City Offices will be closed two days for the Thanksgiving Holiday, on November 26 and 27, 2020.
14. **ADJOURNMENT**
Alderman Vera motioned to adjourn at 8.13 pm. Alderman Bluemel seconded the motion.
Vote: Motion passed unanimously with a 4-0 vote.

Passed and Approved this 21st day of December, 2020.

Approval:



Tommy Ortiz, Mayor

Attested by:



René Hinojosa, MPA

City Secretary

