

CITY OF NATALIA

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REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS 2078 STATE HWY 132 NORTH, NATALIA, TEXAS 21 DECEMBER 2020 at 7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

<u>ROLL CALL:</u> Mayor Tommy Ortiz – Present	Mayor Pro-Tem Sam Smith - Absent
Alderman Mike Fernandez – Present	Alderman Darin Frazier - Present
Alderman Sam Bluemel – Absent	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 a Silent Invocation.

2. **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:**

None.

3. **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.

As there were no comments, Alderman Vera made a motion to close the public hearing; Alderman Frazier seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

4. **CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Alderman Bluemel relayed via the Mayor Christmas and New Year's Greetings to all. Alderman Frazier wished everyone a Merry Christmas and reiterated the need to keep the public safe. Alderman Fernandez commented that the snip signs ordinance needs to be enforced and commented about looking into an ordinance against chickens. Alderman Vera questioned coverage for police officers. She noted that there have been people doing wheelies on 132 and that it is very loud. She asked if Hazel at AEP could provide the City with a list of light poles. Vera questioned the fireworks ordinance during a burn ban to which Administrator Hinojosa said that a burn ban does not affect the sale or use of fireworks that are normally allowed within the city limits, the normally prohibited fireworks being "skyrockets with sticks" and "missiles with fins".

5. **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: 16 November 2020 Regular Meeting
- Approval of the Financial Activity Report: November 2020
- Approval of the Utility Department Activity Report: November 2020
- Approval of the Municipal Court Activity Report: November 2020

e) Approval of the Police Department Activity Report: November 2020

Action: Alderman Fernandez made a motion approving all; Alderman Vera seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF ACTION ITEMS:

6. Discuss/Consider Electing an Alderman to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem for a term ending November 2021.
Action: Alderman Frazier made a motion nominate Same Smith as Mayor Pro-Tem for a term ending November 2021; Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously by a 3-0 vote.
7. Discuss/Consider rescheduling the January and February 2020 regular meeting dates to January 25, and February 22, 2021 due to Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Presidents' Day, respectively.
Action: Alderman Fernandez made a motion approving the dates as presented; Alderman Vera seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.
8. Discuss/Consider action on Ordinance, an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Natalia, Texas establishing a curfew for minors under seventeen years of age to prohibit being in any public place between certain hours, providing an enforcement procedure; establishing criminal penalties for minors and for parents of minors; and adopting certain exceptions; and establishing a penalty of a fine not less than fifty dollars nor more than five hundred dollars)
Discussion: None.
Action: Alderman Fernandez made a motion to approve the ordinance as presented; Alderman Frazier seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.
9. Discuss/Consider an Ordinance approving a rate increase for gas utility services provided by West Texas Gas, Inc., adopting tariffs reflecting this change, directing West Texas Gas, Inc. to reimburse the City for its reasonable rate case expenses, declaring an effective date, and repealing any prior resolutions or ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance.
Action: Alderman Fernandez made a motion to adopt the West Texas Gas Ordinance as presented; Alderman Frazier seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.
10. Discuss/Consider a Resolution; Approving the proposed property transaction from Medina County Appraisal District, including the purchase and renovation of a building for Medina County Appraisal District's office situated in Medina County, Texas at 3102 Avenue G, Hondo that is legally described as follows: Lot 3 Block 1 Los Terrenos Subdivision situated in Medina County, Texas in the City of Hondo, Texas.
Discussion: Alderman Frazier was concerned with Natalia being left out of this process and only informed of it at the very end. He also raised concerns about Natalia not getting any business from the County, with Alderman Fernandez agreeing. The Mayor said he had previously informed the County that Natalia must be included.
Action: Alderman Vera made a motion to not authorize a resolution; Alderman Frazier seconded the motion. Vote: The motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.
11. **STAFF REPORTS:**
 - a) City Administrator: 1.) Hinojosa noted that the Downtown Revitalization Project Final Public hearing was held but there were no public comments. 2.) Hinojosa reminded the Council that City Offices will be closed two days for the Christmas Holiday, on December 24 and 25, 2020 as well as on New Year's Day on January 1, 2021.
 - b) Chief of Police: 1.) Fleming noted that four reserves positions would be filled soon pending reference checks and noted a new appointment next week. They would soon have 14 out of the 15 total positions filled. He asked for patience with growing pains in the department and noted that November

was slow although they had a CJIS Audit. Fleming noted the department was stronger as a family. He noted he had been out a lot in November to help Ms. Hazel (widow of Officer Dale Juarez) with paperwork. He noted a need to train new police officers. Fleming noted he would be taking a Chief Development Series in March and going to chief school in May.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman Fernandez motioned to adjourn at 7.40 pm. Alderman Vera seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

Passed and Approved this 25th day of January, 2021.

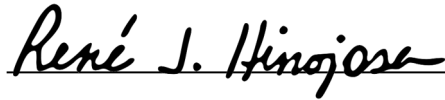
Approval:



Tommy Ortiz, Mayor /or/

Sam Smith, Mayor Pro-Tem

Attested by:



René Hinojosa, MPA

City Administrator/Secretary

