

# 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

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## REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS 2078 STATE HWY 132 NORTH, NATALIA, TEXAS 23 JANUARY 2023 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 – Present

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Bluemel called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:** No citizens to be heard.
3. **COUNCIL COMMENTS:** Alderwoman Vera said it was nice to see everyone in attendance at tonight's meeting and reminded everyone to watch the back of the utility bill for important information and to call dispatch or the police department if you see anyone doing something illegal or suspicious. Alderman Fernandez stated he believes dogs are being dumped in the city. There are still many dogs loose and it continues to be a problem. Alderman Fernandez stated the 18-wheeler parking continues to be a problem and something must be done. Alderman Fernandez asked if anything has been done about the burnt house on the corner of FM 471 and 4<sup>th</sup> street. Nichole Bermea explained that a certified letter has been sent and the fire marshal was also contacted. Alderman Frazier thanks the city employees and also thanked the community members that are in attendance at tonight's meeting. Alderman Smith stated there is a large pothole at Hwy. 132 and Kearny Street that needs to be repaired. Alderman Fernandez stated there was also a large pothole at Miller and 5<sup>th</sup> street as well. Alderman Ortiz thanked the employees for their hard work and reminded those in attendance to keep in mind that the city is short staffed and to have patience. Alderman Ortiz reminded everyone about the HOME program and to keep your eyes out for more new houses coming soon. Mayor Bluemel thanks the city staff and the MDD for their continued good work.

#### 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 November 2022 Regular Meeting
- b) Approval of the Financial Activity Report: November 2022
- c) Approval of the Utility Department Activity Report: November 2022
- d) Approval of the Municipal Court Activity Report: November 2022
- e) Approval of the Police Department Activity Report: November 2022
- f) Approval of the Police Code Enforcement Activity Report: November 2022

Alderman Fernandez made a motion approving the consent agenda. Alderman Frazier seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.

#### 5. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- a) City Administrator/Secretary



Interim City Administrator/Secretary reported updates on the HOME program. Brush/Bulk Item Pickup will be in March. The city offices will be closed for Presidents Day on February 20, 2023. A roll off container is available for community use. Residents must call city hall to make an appointment. The Bluebonnet Festival will be held on March 25, 2023. Amy has requested donations of soda and water be brought to city hall. Regina Aviles from Congressman Tony Gonzales office has reported that 2024 Community Project Funding has been approved. Applications will be available in the next couple of months.

b) Mayor updates

Mayor Bluemel reported that he spoke to Mayor Darrin Schroeder from Castroville. The City of Castroville applied for Community Funding and Mayor Schroeder is willing to help us in any way to proceed with our funding request.

c) NMDD

Ruby Vera reported the second phase of landscaping on the NMDD property will begin shortly using the same landscaping company that completed phase one. Council is invited to meet with the landscaper should they choose to. Ruby thanked Alderman Ortiz for his continued support and help with watering and maintaining the property. The NMDD approved the Library's request to hold the 2023 annual Bluebonnet Festival on the NMDD property on March 25, 2023. Ruby reported STRHS mobile unit will be parked on the NMDD property on February 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9am-4pm. Ruby reported there will be a Eclipse 2024 presentation in Hondo at the training center from 9am-11 on February 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be a census training at AACOG on January 26<sup>th</sup> from 10am-12pm. Alderman Fernandez asked Ruby if the Veterans Memorial Service would be moved to Natalia ISD. Ruby responded that it would not be moved that it is held at the school only when there is bad weather.

**DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF ACTION ITEMS:**

6. Discuss/Consider adoption of Proclamation, proclaiming January 2023 as School Board Recognition Month. Alderman Smith made a motion to adopt the proclamation making January 2023 School Board Recognition Month. Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.
7. Discuss/Consider rescheduling the date of the February 20, 2023 Regular City Council Meeting (President's Day – City Offices Closed). Alderman Fernandez made a motion to move the February 20, 2023 meeting to Tuesday February 21, 2023. Alderman Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.
8. Review/Discuss/Consider actions regarding the Natalia Little League 2023 Lease Agreement. (Item #11 was moved forward to accommodate the young children in attendance.) Little League President, Jaime Gomez introduced the new officers and board members for the upcoming 2023 season and explained membership. The board did a walk through of the property and made a one, two to four and five to ten year proposed plan for future projects and improvements. Jaime went over the plan in detail. Some of the projects are repairs to the building structure to include, painting the building, fixing a broken door and door jam, replacing the window awnings, and fixing a broken window. Other projects are metal bleachers, new shade covering, concession stand shelving, commercial refrigerators, new soap dispensers, upgraded sinks and other items. Jaime discussed parking and board member Marcos Esquibel discussed security. Alderman Frazier asked would the metal bleachers be added in addition to the ones that were repaired last season and Jaime responded they would be additional. Alderman Smith asked what decided which is the home vs. away side of the fields and stated that there needs to be more shade on the home side. Alderman Fernandez was concerned about the air condition and having a safe, cool area when a player is injured or overheated. Jaime explained that they are getting split units donated for the concession stand and the main central unit for the upstairs area needs to be serviced and likely have the capacitor replaced. This is one of the things that will be repaired for this season. Alderman Fernandez has concerns with the fields being rented for outside tournaments. Jaime explained that the little league does charge a rental fee



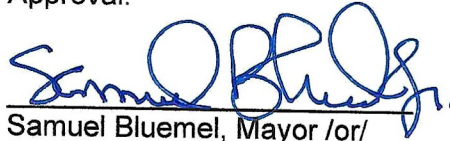
and those fees are what offset the electricity costs and allow them to make repairs and improvements to the facility when they can. Mayor Bluemel asked Jaime if he had a chance to review the contract. Jaime stated that it looked good except for the mandatory security for the little league functions, and he reminded the council that the security was taken out last season making security mandatory for non-little league functions only. Jaime also stated that they would like to go back to the annual contract beginning October 1<sup>st</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup>. Jamie stated that they plan to have a higher water usage due to watering the fields. Alderman Fernandez reminded him not water midday, and to water after 7pm and before 10am. Jaime reported NISD requested to hold a tournament on the fields on 2/25/23. Alderwoman Vera reminded Jaime to be careful with holding older aged tournaments on the softball field due to past complaints of balls hitting cars on FM 471 and to please consider the property owners that live there. Interim City Administrator Nichole Bermea reminded Jaime that there is still a large outstanding electricity balance from a past rental of the fields and this needs to be paid before the fields are rented to this individual again. Jaime agreed to make sure any individual is in good standing with the city prior to rental. Alderman Smith stated that if an individual is not in good standing with the city, then they are not getting the fields no matter who it is. Jaime reported opening day will be on March 18, 2023. Alderman Frazier made a motion to accept the 2023 Little League lease agreement. Alderman Ortiz seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.

9. Discuss/Consider consultation from Mr. Mike Qualls on future Multi-purpose Center on MDD property. Mr. Mike Qualls introduced himself and submitted an employer summary of past project history along with a statement of probable cost for a Multi-use Center. The building is a 60 L.F. x 150 L.F. on a cast in foundation with steel framing, masonry exterior walls, metal stud framing with gypsum board faced interior walls and pre-finished metal roof. Mr. Qualls has agreed to consult at no charge to the city during the pre-planning process and application for funding process. Alderman Frazier made a motion to accept Mr. Qualls consulting services at no charge to the city. Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.
10. Discuss/Consider action of a Resolution; The City of Natalia Go Medina membership for the 22-23 Fiscal Year. Alderman Fernandez asked what the cost is and what do they do for the city. Mayor Bluemel responded that Go Medina brought Project Cinco. Interim City Administrator responded the cost is \$1630. Alderman Frazier stated that we need a letter of support from Go Medina for the Multi-purpose center. That the letter would hold weight in our funding request. Mayor Bluemel responded that he is sure they will give us a letter. Mayor Bluemel stated he sits on the board and is very involved. Alderman Fernandez and Alderwoman Vera both stated they don't feel Go Medina has benefited the city and we need to see more benefits. Alderman Frazier agreed. Alderman Ortiz agreed with Alderman Frazier that Go Medina needs to give the city a letter of support. Alderman Smith stated that the NMDD is already a member for \$100 a year. Alderwoman Vera made a motion to accept the resolution for 22-23 annual Go Medina membership. Alderman Ortiz seconded the motion. Motion carried; 3-2.
11. Discuss/Consider action on the acceptance of the 2023 Medina County Basic Emergency Management Plan. Alderman Smith made a motion to accept the 2023 Medina County Basic Emergency Management Plan. Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.
12. Discuss/Consider Electricity Service Proposals and Authorizing City Administrator to enter into a Service Agreement with selected provider for the rate and terms approved. Alderman Frazier made a motion to accept the electricity proposal authorizing the city administrator to enter into a service agreement with the selected provider for the rate and terms approved. Alderman Ortiz seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.

13. **ADJOURNMENT:** Alderman Smith made a motion to adjourn at 9:29 pm. Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.

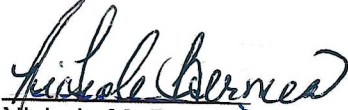
Passed and Approved this 21st day of February, 2023.

Approval:



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

Attest:



Nichole M. Bermea  
Interim City Administrator/Secretary

