

City of Natalia, Texas
Regular City Council Meeting
December 16, 2019 at 7:00 pm
Minutes

Roll Call: Mayor Tommy Ortiz ó Present Mayor Pro-Tem Sam Smith - Absent
Alderman Mike Fernandez ó Present Alderman Darin Frazier - Present
Alderman Sam Bluemel ó Present Alderman Selica Vera - Present

Call to Order:

- 1) Mayor Ortiz called the regular city council meeting to order at 7:00 pm; followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Alderman Mike Fernandez and Invocation by Alderman Bluemel.

Citizens to be Heard:

- 2) Marissa & Robert Salazar announced the opening of their business complex at 2160 State Hwy 132 N., Natalia, with the grand opening scheduled for January 4, 2020 at 10am; the complex will house two businesses: The Chandelier Rose Boutique and The Munch House. All are welcome; first 50 attendees will be given a surprise gift.

City Council Comments:

- 3) Alderman Fernandez questioned the status of the barricades at the manhole on 4th/Palfrey; open-cuts on 3rd, 4th and 5th Streets. Public Works Director, Art Smith, explained that the rings need replacing; barricade will remain until repairs are made.

Staff Reports:

- 4) (a) City Administrator: 1) Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2019 Preliminary Audit is scheduled for January 16, 2020, and would appreciate the Mayor and a few Councilmembers to make themselves available for interviews; the Final Audit is scheduled for March 23-24, 2020. 2) City Offices will be Closed for the Holidays, December 23-25, 2019 and January 1, 2020.
(b) Public Works Director: Updated City Council on the USDA Construction Improvement Projects: 1) Gravity Sewer by Barclays Premier Utility Services is complete, and final payment is being requested; 2) Wastewater Collection System by QRO Mex Construction is almost complete; however, the emergency replacement of the 8ø Water Main is complete; 3) Wells Site Improvements by MGB Construction is ongoing, Well #6 is complete and operating, Well #4 was pulled, and video inspections concluded a few upgrades in the amount of \$17,524 were necessary (change order in process); 4) Water Distribution Improvements by QRO is ongoing, however, theyøve just about finished 3rd Street, and working on issues on 6th Street, and still have 4th, 5th, Miller and Palfrey to complete as well.
(c) Chief of Police: Chief Barrows noted several animal control issues; however, newest Animal Control/Code Officer is being very proactive in investigating complaints, and impounding as necessary.

Consent Agenda:

- 5) a. Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes: November 2019
b. Approval of Financial Activity Report: November 2019
c. Approval of Utility Department Activity Report: November 2019
d. Approval of Municipal Court Activity Report: November 2019
e. Approval of Police Department Activity Report: November 2019
Action: Alderman Fernandez made the motion approving the consent agenda, and Alderman Bluemel seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0; Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Consideration of Action Items:

- 6) Introduction/Discuss and Consider employing Reserve Police Officer, Alexis Anne Spengler, to the Natalia Police Department, and Mayor to Administer Oath of Office.
Introduction of applicant was presented by Chief Glenn Barrow, and recommending her appointment.
Action: Alderman Bluemel made a motion employing Spengler as a Reserve Police Officer; and Alderwoman Vera seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously by a 4-0 vote.
Mayor Ortiz administered the Oath of Office to Alexis Anne Spengler, Reserve Police Officer.
- 7) Discuss/Consider reschedule the January and February 2020 regular meeting dates to January 27, 2020 and February 24, 2020.
Action: Alderwoman Vera made a motion to reschedule meetings as dated, and Alderman Bluemel seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously by a 4-0 vote.

- 8) Discuss/Consider adopting Resolution; Reporting and Appropriating Fiscal Year Ending September 30,2019 Unassigned Fund Balance.
Discussion: City Administrator Hernandez noted that FYE 9/30/2019 had a net income of \$45,500 in the General Fund, and recommending allocation to Grant Oversight Fees for projected expenses in the amount of \$10,000; having the remaining \$35,500 be transferred to General Fund Reserves; and a net income of \$60,100 in the Utility Fund, and recommending allocation of \$30,00 to make necessary fence repairs at WWTP; the remaining funds are restricted costs paid for plan review/inspection costs for the NISD Bond Project.
Action: Alderman Frazier made a motion adopting the Resolution; and Alderwoman Vera second the motion.
Vote: Motion passed unanimously by a 4-0 vote.
- 9) Discuss/Consider enrolling/engaging into agreement through ASR or VISPRO Program for the lease of permitted water rights.
Discussion: City Administrator Hernandez noted that the city purchased 60-acre feet of water in result to drought and reduction restrictions, and since, for two-consecutive years the city has had over 100 acre feet of unused permitted water. Councilmembers Frazier and Fernandez expressed their concerns for leasing water through these programs, especially for the leasing term-lengths as we may need our water in the future. Under current conditions, it seems appropriate, but climate-weather changes too drastically to know what to expect one-year to ten-years. City Administrator Hernandez explained it was worth mentioning, to know whether to proceed with looking into these programs or not, and understands the Council's concerns.
Action: None.
- 10) Adjournment. Alderman Bluemel motioned to adjourn at 7:30pm, and Alderman Fernandez second the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously by a 4-0 vote.

Passed and Approved this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Approval:

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

Attest:

Lisa S. Hernandez, City Administrator/Secretary