

CITY OF NATALIA

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SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS 2078 STATE HWY 132 NORTH, NATALIA, TEXAS 01 MARCH 2021 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:

City Administrator Hinojosa stated there would be no audio recording taken of the meeting as the winter storm must have affected the recorder or batteries and it was currently not working. Mr. Hinojosa addressed the council concerning the 100 COVID-19 Vaccinations that were recently given to the City as a special grant from the State, in coordination with County and the US Military to be administered on Thursday, March 4, 2021. Mr. Hinojosa offered a special note of thanks Ruby Vera for assisting the City offices with manning the phones when there were many people calling in to make appointments. Alderman Frazier state that this could have been better communicated to the residents and was upset that the council was not informed. Mr. Hinojosa stated that was done so that the residents would not blame the Council for knowing about it ahead of other residents.

3. CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Ald. Bluemel stated that during the storm he observed the police on patrol and kudos to all Municipal workers during the storm and for pressing AEP for answers and restoration of power. Ald. Frazier stated we had a good staff and workers; reiterated the importance of the water department and that something special should be done for them. Ald. Vera asked about a contingency plan and thanked the staff. Ald. Smith asked if the generators were up and running, and they were.

DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF ACTION ITEMS:

4. Discuss/Consider the Declaration of State of Disaster Issued by the Mayor on February 25, 2021, and Extension.

Discussion: None. Action: Ald. Frazier made a motion calling for a resolution to extend said Declaration of State of Disaster until the end of the month or until the governor rescinds the State Disaster Proclamation. Ald. Fernandez seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0.

5. Discuss and consider Adopting a Resolution of the City of Natalia approving cooperation with the cities served by AEP Texas Inc.'s Requested Final Reconciliation of Advanced Metering Costs; hiring legal and consulting services to negotiate with the Company and direct any necessary litigation and appeals; finding that the meeting at which this resolution passed is open to the public as required by law; requiring notice of this resolution to legal counsel.

Discussion: Aldermen verified that this was approved by City attorneys and that there was no cost to the city in the event that this case is not reimbursable. Action: Ald. Bluemel made a motion to accept the resolution as presented. Ald. Fernandez seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0.

6. Discuss/Consider action of a Resolution; Appointing four (4) Board of Directors: Laura Gallagher, Ruberta C. Vera, Brenda Fernandez and Mary G. Estrada, to the Natalia Municipal Development District for a term of two-years expiring February, 2023 and appointing one (1) Board of Director: Dorothy Woodson, to the Natalia Municipal Development District for a term of one year expiring February, 2022. (Ruby Vera)

Discussion: Mr. Hinojosa explained that since the appointments should be staggered, Ms. Woodson would fill the vacant position for a one-year term initially and she could have her term renewed next year for two years. Action: Ald. Smith made a motion to accept the resolution as presented; Ald. Bluemel seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

7. Discuss/Consider waiver of permit fees for the MDD office building, amounting to \$300, excluding \$200 of pass-through fees for Bureau Veritas Inspections. (Ruby Vera).

Discussion: Ald. Frazier asked two members of NMDD present if they had enough in their budget for their construction projects, to which they replied that they did. Action: Ald. Fernandez made a motion to waive permit fees for the MDD office building in the amount of \$300; Ald. Bluemel seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0.

8. Discuss/Consider a Resolution authorizing approval of the building contractor award for the HOME Program through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

Discussion: Ald. Smith asked if this was done with the previous group of HOME Programs, to which Mr. Hinojosa replied that Resolution 19-14 was signed previously in a similar manner. Action: Alderman Fernandez made a motion to approve the resolution as presented; Ald. Vera seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously by a 5-0 vote.

9. Discuss/Consider convening into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.074, Personnel Matters.

Discussion: None. Ald. Fernandez made a motion to convene into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.074, Personnel Matters. Ald. Smith seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously by a 5-0 vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

10. Executive Session: City Council adjourned into Executive Session at 7:43 pm pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.074, Personnel Matters to discuss the following:

- a. §551.074; Personnel Matters. Utility Secretary Termination
- b. §551.074; Personnel Matters: The appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee: Chief of Police, James V. Fleming II

REGULAR SESSION

11. Regular Session: City Council reconvened into regular session at 8:51 pm, and if necessary, may take action on the items discussed in executive session.:

- a) No action taken.
- b) Ald. Frazier made a motion calling for Chief Fleming's resignation immediately upon his return from training and providing for compensation equivalent to a salary as if he had worked through the end of the month if he resigns; and if he is unwilling, makes a motion to approve a resolution declaring a lack of confidence in the Chief of Police pursuant to Texas Local Government Code, Section 22.077(b) and directing the Mayor to immediately sign said resolution. Ald. Bluemel seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously by a 5-0 vote.

12. Adjournment. Alderman Fernandez motioned to adjourn at 8:52 pm, and Alderman Bluemel seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously by a 5-0 vote.

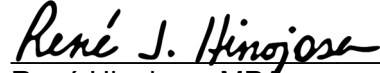
Passed and Approved this 15th day of March, 2021.

Approval:



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

Attest:



René Hinojosa, MPA
City Administrator/Secretary

