

# CITY OF NATALIA

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## REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS 2078 STATE HWY 132 NORTH, NATALIA, TEXAS 15 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:**

None.

**3. CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Ald. Frazier expressed concerns about emergency management and future preparations. Alderman Vera questioned if there would be a Bluebonnet Festival this year. It has been cancelled.

**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: 25 January 2021 Regular Meeting; 01 March 2021 Special Meeting

b) Approval of the Financial Activity Report: February 2021

c) Approval of the Utility Department Activity Report: February 2021

d) Approval of the Municipal Court Activity Report: February 2021

e) Approval of the Police Department Activity Report: February 2021

Action: Alderman Fernandez made the motion approving the consent agenda, and Mayor Pro-Tem Smith seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0; Motion carried unanimously.

### **DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF ACTION ITEMS:**

**5. Discuss/Consider for Council to give direction to Administration on Water Bills on the following:**

a. \$35 and 10% late charges and fees

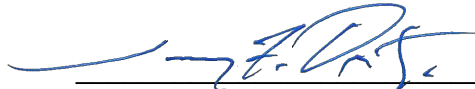
b. Cut-off and disconnections

Discussion: City Administrator Hinojosa explained that a waiver of late charges and fees for two billing cycles would put us in line with neighboring communities. Ald. Fernandez stated that the Texas Rural Water Association did not prohibit disconnections in response to the extreme weather that occurred last month. Action: Ald. Fernandez made a motion to waive \$35 and 10% late charges and fees for February and March billing cycles and to follow guidance from PUCT, if any, with regards to cut-offs and disconnections. Ald. Frazier seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0.


6. Review/Discuss/Consider actions regarding the Natalia Little League 2021 Lease Agreement.  
Discussion: Bobby Contreras was present to represent the Little League. Ald. Vera stated that the council was interested in three things: 1. Monthly financial statements as the contract requires; 2. To know who the board members are, 3. For the City to be notified in advance when games are held. The Mayor expressed several concerns about liabilities for the upkeep of the fields. Frazier suggested a deposit for the contract. Bobby replied that the NLL had put in \$7,000 worth of capital improvements in the fields last year despite not holding games. Ald. Fernandez wanted to draw attention to the following paragraphs that are in the contract: 2.5, 6.8, 6.9, 9.1, 10.2, and 13.2, to which Mr. Contreras said the NLL would do so. Action: Ald. Frazier made a motion to offer the NLL the contract as presented. Ald. Vera seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0.
7. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**  
a) City Administrator/Secretary  
i. Six pallets of food and water delivered to the community due to the winter snowstorm  
ii. A staff luncheon was organized last Friday in recognition for the City staff's efforts during the snowstorm  
iii. 103 COVID-19 vaccines were given to the community; they will be back for a second shot  
iv. SRO Officer Martin Martinez has accepted the Interim Chief of Police position and has been excused from City Council meetings due to prior commitments.  
v. Officers Louis Casals and Larry Day were introduced to the Natalia City Council as new officers working for the City.  
vi. The search for a new Chief of Police has begun  
vii. The City hired a new Utility Clerk as of today, 03.15.2021  
b) Utility Director  
c) Interim Chief of Police
8. 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 19<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021.**

Approval:

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

Attest:

  
René Hinojosa, MPA  
City Administrator/Secretary

