

# 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 19 APRIL 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 – Absent

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:**

Harry Piles, NISD Superintendent, spoke about item number eight on the agenda regarding the Carrizo Water Well rates to the school and asked the Council to consider the same rate for the next five years and suggested he would only like a one-year contract if the rate went up.

Eric Smith, NISD School Board President, also spoke about item number eight on the agenda and echoed Mr. Piles. He said the school pays about \$7500 per year for non-potable water for the fields and said that drilling a well would be cheaper. He also asked the council not to raise rates.

#### 3. **CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Ald. Vera asked to relay to the Code Compliance Officer that there are sofas out on the yards but bulk pick up is not scheduled until the end of June. Ald. Fernandez spoke about pigs in the yard. Ald. Bluemel commented that the police department is doing a good job and the Mayor echoed his sentiments and stated that the PD is patrolling and it is appreciated.

#### 4. **PRESENTATIONS**

a. Martin Chavez was introduced to the City Council as the City's newest Reserve Officer for the Natalia Police Department and the Mayor administered the Oath of Office.

b. Stephanie Blanks of Go Medina made a presentation to the City Council, encouraged the Council to consider rejoining Go Medina in the next fiscal year and discussed the benefits of the organization. Alderman Frazier had concerns that Go Medina does not benefit the City.

#### 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.*

a) Approval of the Minutes: 15 March 2021 Regular Meeting

b) Approval of the Financial Activity Report: March 2021

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

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

e) Approval of the Police Code Enforcement Activity Report: January to April 2021

f) Approval of the Police Department Activity Report: March 2021

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. Discuss/Consider Action on a Resolution; Entering into an Inter-local Agreement with the District Attorney's Office of the 454<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court in compliance with Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Chapter 59 Civil Forfeitures, for a two-year period, beginning January 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2022. Discussion: Julie Solis from the District Attorney's office was here to answer any questions. She spoke about the 60/40 split between the City and Prosecutor for forfeiture seizures and how without an agreement, the forfeiture seizures would go to the State of Texas. She also pointed out that there had been no seizures from the City within the last few years although we used to be the highest in the county.

Action: Ald. Bluemel made a motion to accept the resolution as presented. Ald. Vera seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0.

7. Discuss/Consider Action on a resolution of the City of Natalia, Texas finding that AEP Texas Inc.'s application to amend its distribution cost recovery factors to increase distribution rates within the city should be denied; authorizing participation with the cities served by AEP Texas; authorizing hiring of legal counsel; finding that the city's reasonable rate case expenses shall be reimbursed by the company; finding that the meeting at which this resolution is passed is open to the public as required by law; requiring notice of this resolution to the company and legal counsel. Discussion: None.

Action: Ald. Bluemel made a motion accept the resolution as presented. Ald. Fernandez seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0.

8. Discuss/Consider entering into an agreement between the City of Natalia and Natalia Independent School District authorizing the City to permit NISD the use of the Carrizo Water Well. Discussion: Rates have remained unchanged for over eight years. There was discussion about how the use of the Carrizo Well saves the school over \$35,500 per year as opposed to utilizing normal municipal water. It was also mentioned that the well is not for sale and that the school can currently attempt to build their own well, but there is no guarantee that they would be successful in finding water.

Action: Ald. Fernandez made a motion to enter into an agreement with NISD no change to the terms. Ald. Bluemel seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0.

### **9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

#### **a) City Administrator/Secretary**

- i. Brush pickup starts today, April 19
- ii. Late charges and fees resume this billing cycle
- iii. Disconnects resume this billing cycle on April 27
- iv. NLL Agreement signed. Board member names and bank statement provided to City Offices which is available for inspection upon request.
- v. NMDD Market Day and Community Wide Garage sale is planned for May 22. Donations of soft drinks from Council are requested by Laura Gallagher. Soft drink sales will directly benefit the Library.
- vi. Natalia is eligible for a reported \$348,000 in funding from the ARP Act. Once more information is forthcoming, details will be provided to Council for approval.
- vii. A map of the roads to be repaved was provided to Council.

#### **b) Utility Director**

- i. Mr. Smith said they are keeping their eyes on pot holes

#### **c) Interim Chief of Police**

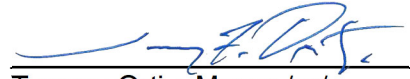
- i. Status update on cameras (body and car)
- ii. Vehicle update

- iii. Application has been filed for a grant for new computers for vehicles
- iv. No NLL game schedule has been received

10. Adjournment. Alderman Vera motioned to adjourn at 8:09 pm, and Alderman Bluemel seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously by a 4-0 vote.

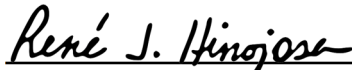
**Passed and Approved this 17<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021.**

Approval:



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

Attest:



René Hinojosa, MPA  
City Administrator/Secretary

